

Dressmakers bring touch of old Afghanistan to Pakistan



Afghan national of Tajik origin, Raza Sakhi checks the quality of a bridal dress at his shop in Islamabad.

AFP, Islamabad

With ballgowns, Western-style bridal wear and cocktail dresses, Afghan tailors driven out of their homeland by the Taliban are carving a niche for themselves in Pakistan's capital city.

Their stores stand between rows of animal carcasses and car workshops in Islamabad's grubby Peshawar Mor neighbourhood -- known more as a haven for refugees than a home for glamour. In Pakistan, dresses are normally the preserve of a tiny liberal elite, with most women more likely to be seen in public wearing the traditional baggy shalwar kameez.

Raza Sakhi, a portly 43-year-old of ethnic Tajik heritage who fled Afghanistan when it came under control of the hardline Taliban, said those trends are now slowly changing in Pakistan. "I shifted to Pakistan in 1996. I have been here now 19 years. I sell bridal dresses and maxi dresses," he says, sitting behind a row of mannequins.

"Earlier, more of our customers were Afghan, Iranian, Egyptians and

so on. Now Pakistani sisters are buying our dresses too, around 30 percent of our customers are Pakistani and we're very proud of that."

For Afghans who grew up under the rule of King Zahir Shah, the attire he creates represents a way of life that is now a distant memory. "I became a dressmaker after leaving school, because I was always interested in this," explained Shir Rahim Salimi.

He added that his pieces followed the old 'Afghan style' -- a mix of traditional and Western-styles favoured in the 1960s and 1970s.

Pre-Taliban Afghanistan was starkly different to the deeply conservative, conflict-torn country of today -- bright blouses and even mini-skirts were the order of the day among fashion-conscious citizens of Kabul.

The country saw a period of upheaval starting in 1979 when the Soviet Union invaded and violent resistance by the mujahideen, religiously indoctrinated fighters backed by the United States, began.

After the Soviets left, Afghanistan

was plunged into bitter civil war, with the Taliban finally emerging to take control in 1996 and impose a harsh interpretation of Islamic sharia law that forced women to remain at home and beheaded criminals in public.

Sakhi said he kept a small shop in Kabul's posh Wazir Akbar Khan district until 1996, and tried to keep it going even under Taliban rule. "I was forced to keep a beard down to here," he laughs, pointing towards his chest.

"We worked under the Taliban in Afghanistan for one year. They saw our catalogue one day and then arrested me for a day. Then they let me go and told me to stop making these designs."

It was then that he decided to heed their warnings and move to Islamabad. Others like Morid Khawas, 55, have had a less straightforward route to the business.

The former Dari literature lecturer took a series of manual labour jobs after leaving Afghanistan for Pakistan, before finally deciding to make dresses.

"I had no choice because there is no market for Dari lecturers here," he said.

Infosys buys US firm for enterprise value of \$200m

REUTERS

Infosys Ltd said on Monday it would buy Panaya Inc, a New Jersey-based provider of automation technology, for an enterprise value of \$200 million as India's second-biggest IT outsourcing company bets on new technology to boost growth.

Under Chief Executive Vishal Sikka, Infosys has been making big bets on automation and other new technology like artificial intelligence and cloud-based services as the company tries to regain some lost ground from rivals like Tata Consultancy Services.

"The acquisition of Panaya is a key step in renewing and differentiating our service lines," Sikka said in a statement.

"This will help amplify the potential of our people, freeing us from the drudgery of many repetitive tasks."



Emranul Huq, deputy managing director of Dhaka Bank, and Shaheen Khan, chief operating officer of Meena Bazar, exchange documents of a deal at the bank's head office in Dhaka yesterday. The bank's credit and debit cardholders will enjoy 5 percent cash back on every purchase at Meena Bazar's outlets.

UK watchdog working closely with HSBC

REUTERS, London

Britain's financial watchdog said it was working closely with HSBC and other agencies to make sure the bank was meeting conduct standards after allegations its Swiss unit helped hundreds of people to dodge tax.

In its first statement on the matter, the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) said

on Monday the allegations had served to reinforce the importance of firms operating with the right culture across all of their operations.

"The FCA is working closely with the firm and other agencies which have an interest in this matter to ensure that any questions this may raise in relation to any current practices and culture of HSBC are addressed," the FCA said.



Eastern Refinery Limited

(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation)

Date: 15/02/2015

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI)

for

Rendering Consultancy Services as Project Management Consultant

(PMC) for Installation of ERL Unit-2 Project

1. INTRODUCTION:

Eastern Refinery Limited (ERL), a subsidiary of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) under the Energy & Mineral Resources Division of Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources intends to increase the present petroleum crude oil processing capacity of Eastern Refinery Limited from 1.5 million to 4.5 million MTPA through Installation of ERL Unit-2 within existing premises of ERL. The proposed Unit-2 will be designed to process 3 million MTPA medium and light crude oil. The processing scheme is selected in such a way that it will produce the highest quantities of middle distillates. The scheme (HC-VB) involves ultimate cracking of the bottom product (VR) to produce large quantities of distillates and Furnace oil. From Unit-2, ERL wants to produce LPG, Gasoline (95 RON), Naphtha, Kerosene, Jet Propellant A-1, High Speed Diesel, Fuel Oil, Sulphur, Asphalt, Residue etc. A feasibility study was conducted by ENAR Petro-Tech Services Pvt. Ltd in June 2009 based on three types of crude oils: (1) Arabian Light, (2) 50% Arabian Light & 50% Murban and (3) Gulf Medium.

Main Process Plants: Crude Distillation, Vacuum Distillation Unit, Vis-Breaker Unit, Hydrocracker Unit, Naphtha Hydrotreating Unit, Reforming Unit, Diesel Hydrodesulfurization Unit, Gas Concentration Unit, Light Naphtha Treating Unit, Heavy Naphtha Treating Unit, Kerosene Treating Unit, LPG Treating Unit, Asphaltic Bitumen Unit, Hydrogen Generation Unit, Amine Treating Unit, Sulfur Recovery Unit, Sour Water Stripping Unit etc.

Utility Plants: Power Generation unit, Steam Generation unit, Cooling water system, Instrument Air Package, Plant air system, Fuel oil/fuel gas system, Desalination plant, Flare system, ETP etc.

2. EXPRESSION OF INTEREST:

ERL now invites reputed international engineering consulting firms to indicate their interest in providing consultancy services as project management consultant (PMC) for construction of 3 million MTPA capacity Petroleum Refinery at North Potenga, Chittagong, Bangladesh (owner's premises).

3. PURPOSE OF EO:

Through this EOI, ERL intends to prepare a short-list of PMC Firms having requisite eligibility and experience in executing works of similar nature in line with scope of work. A separate Request for Proposal (RFP) shall be issued to the short-listed Consulting Firms.

4. SCOPE OF SERVICES IN BRIEF:

The MPC will provide the skills, experience and capable manpower, that will undertake the overall project management of the engineering, procurement, construction, commissioning, start-up, testing, handing over and general (HSSE, Contract Management and Project Services) phases of the EPC Contract for the facility to be performed by the selected Contractor.

The scope of services of PMC has been structured in line with the EPC Contract being executed in the following phases but not limited to:

A. PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING PHASE

The selected PMC will review the feasibility study report, configure refinery scheme, select licensor, prepare Basic Design & Engineering Package (BDEP) for both licensed and non-licensed units. Prepare BID document for selecting engineering procurement and construction (EPC) contractor, Evaluate and recommend for selection of EPC.

b. ENGINEERING PHASE

The PMC will examine, supervise and monitor FEED & Detail Engineering Works performed by the EPC contractor to ensure that the facility is satisfactorily designed and engineered in accordance with the requirements of the EPC Contract.

c. PROCUREMENT PHASE

The PMC will examine, supervise and monitor all procurement and fabrication works to be performed by the EPC Contractor to ensure that all Equipment and materials for the facility are purchased, inspected and transported to the site in accordance with the requirements of the EPC contract.

D. CONSTRUCTION PHASE

The PMC will monitor, observe and supervise all construction, erection and pre-commissioning works to be performed by the EPC Contractor to ensure that the facility is satisfactorily constructed and pre-commissioned in accordance with the requirements of the EPC Contract.

E. COMMISSIONING, START-UP, TESTING AND HANDOVER PHASE

The PMC will monitor, observe and supervise all commissioning/Start-up, Testing and Handover Works to be performed by the EPC Contractor to ensure that the facility is satisfactorily commissioned, started-up, tested and handed over in accordance with the requirements of the EPC Contract.

F. GENERAL PHASE

The PMC will observe and supervise the compliance of the Contractor during the execution of the EPC Contract in all the activities related to HSSE, Contract Management and Project Services.

G. CONTRACT MANAGEMENT/PROJECT SERVICES

The PMC will prepare contract, observe, supervise, monitor and report on the overall progress of the performance of the EPC Contractor to ensure that there is full compliance with the terms and conditions of the EPC Contract and Contract Programme for the execution of the Works.

However detailed scope of work will be described in the Request for Proposal (RFP).

5. ELIGIBILITY:

Interested applicant shall have experience in providing similar consultancy services as PMC for at least three (03) Refinery projects, each having capacity minimum 3.0 million MTPA, of which two (02) projects must be outside Applicant's own country within last 20 years. Applicant should also have sound financial strength and competent/qualified manpower required to execute the works. The applicant shall have the FEED preparation experience for similar project.

Consultants (firms) may associate to enhance their qualification, but should mention whether the association is in the form of a "Joint Venture" or "Sub-Consultancy" in the case of an association, all members of such "association" should have real and well-defined inputs to the assignment and total number of firms including the associates should not be more than three. In case of joint venture, it should be clearly mentioned whether they will all be "jointly and severally" responsible or whether one firm will be "solely" responsible and shall state which firm will act on behalf of the joint venture. No firm should form association/joint venture with more than one group. Any consulting firm's home country having no diplomatic relation with Bangladesh will not be considered for evaluation.

6. REQUIRED INFORMATION:

Interested Applicants are required to submit the following documents complete in all respects for each of the following.

Sl. No.	Description of document to be submitted
1	Application for Expression of Interest.
2	Brochures, Company Profile and Organisation Chart within position experienced staff for each area.
3	*Details of all "similar works" executed in the past 20 years.
4	*Details of all ongoing "similar works" & time period for completion of each work.
5	*Details of any new "similar works" being finalized/under process.
6	Audited Financial statements for last 05 years viz. balance Sheet, P&L account etc.
7	Association/Joint Venture Agreement on a non judicial stamp of value Bangladesh Taka 300 or Letter of intent to enter into such agreement along with the proposed agreement duly signed by all partners of the intended Association/Joint Venture and must be authenticated. Otherwise EOI from an Association/Joint Venture will not be considered for short-listing.
8	Any other Information/Additional Information relevant to the work/assignment.

*Details to Cover: (1) Project Owner (2) Location (3) Name of Project (4) Number of Units (5) Unit size (6) Technology details (7) Project Cost (8) Consultancy Contract Value (9) Project start and completion date (10) Consultancy Scope of works (11) Project present status (12) Project work order and completion certificate from the owner for consultancy service to be submitted with EOI.

6.1 Each page of the documents submitted shall be duly sealed and signed by authorized representative of the firm.

6.2 The language of submission of applications shall be in English.

6.3 Project Costs, Value of works shall be given in US Dollars only.

7. EVALUATION OF EOI:

Main Evaluation criteria of EOI (for short listing of Consulting Firms) will be done on the basis of followings:

- (a) brochures submitted by the Applicants summarizing their facilities and areas of expertise;
- (b) descriptions of similar assignments;
- (c) availability of appropriate experience and professional qualifications among Applicant's staff and adequate resources to carry out the assignment; and
- (d) managerial strength and financial capacity.

ERL reserves the right to accept any or reject any/all EOIs without assigning any reason thereof.

'Expression of Interest' shall be submitted within 15/03/2015, 16:00hrs (BST) in four (4) hard copies (1 Original+3 Photocopies) in a sealed envelop mentioning Expression of Interest (EOI) for "CONSULTANCY SERVICES AS PMC FOR INSTALLATION OF ERL UNIT-2 PROJECT" at the address given below:

Managing Director

Eastern Refinery Limited

Address

YMC Bhaban (2nd Floor), 1/1, Pioneer Road

Kakrail, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.

Reg. Office: 88-031-2501260 (Ctg.)

DLO: 88-02-8391990, Mob.: 01730445178

Fax: 88-031-2501269, Fax (DLO): 88-02-8391990

E-mail: md-office@erl.com.bd Website: www.erl.gov.bd

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