



Notice to the Trade, July 14, 2009

Subject: Request For Information on the proposed USAID use of the Universal Service Contract Pilot through Ethiopia

You are cordially invited to attend a meeting with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Maritime Administration (MARAD), and the United States Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM) to receive a briefing on an upcoming pilot project using USTRANSCOM's Universal Services Contract (USC-6) for shipping. The question and answer session will focus on the specifics of the pilot for an upcoming food aid shipment-Invitation 089 under Title II P.L. 480.

The meeting will take place on **July 16, 2009** from **1-3 pm EDT** at the **1429 N. Quincy St, Arlington, Virginia 22207**. Please arrive by 12:30 for processing through security.

Background:

USAID, with support from MARAD, is in discussions with USTRANSCOM regarding a possible partnership permitting USAID to send their commodities through the Defense Transportation System (DTS). These discussions were held jointly between USAID, USTRANSCOM, Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC), USDA and MARAD. We would like to share information with the carrier community regarding a pilot program under the USC-6 contract.

Topics to be presented and discussed:

- Brief on the actions and decisions made to this point regarding the pilot
- Presentation of the draft solicitation*
- How the pilot will work if the USC06 is used
- Future considerations for Title II food aid under a USC arrangement

* Please note: the entire invitation will not be part of this pilot; only one Request for Proposal (RFP) will be affected by this pilot. The draft solicitation should not be construed as a final and binding RFP. See attached for added information for the draft solicitation.

Please RSVP your attendance by sending an email to Steve Shira, sshira@usaid.gov. In your email please include your name and the other people in the party with job titles, email addresses and telephone numbers for all attending. The point of contact for this notice is Steve Shira, he may be reached at 202-712-1754.

Attached: Special Section "D".

SPECIAL NOTE "D":

USAID RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MAKE ONE, SEVERAL, OR NO AWARDS AS A RESULT OF THIS SOLICITATION. THIS SOLICITATION MAY BE CANCELLED BEFORE OR AFTER THE EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS. FACTORING INTO THIS DECISION WILL BE WHETHER THE LOW RESPONSIVE OFFER IS EXCESSIVE AS DETERMINED BY MARKET RESEARCH, TO INCLUDE COMPARISON TO THE LINER BILLING RATES ON DOD'S UNIVERSAL SERVICE CONTRACT(USC)-6. [\[LINK\]](#) [\[.XLS\]](#) NO COSTS WILL BE PAID FOR BID OR PROPOSAL PREPARATION OF A CANCELLED SOLICITATION. IF THE SOLICITATION IS CANCELLED USAID RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MEET ITS NEEDS THROUGH OTHER SOURCES, INCLUDING THROUGH AN EXISTING CONTRACT OF ANOTHER AGENCY WHEN SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE GOVERNMENT AND WHEN USAID DETERMINES IT CANNOT OBTAIN THE SUPPLIES OR SERVICES AS CONVENIENTLY OR ECONOMICALLY BY CONTRACTING DIRECTLY WITH A PRIVATE SOURCE.