



27 December 2024

ASTI – BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE  
BAC Resolution No. 24-12-306-EPA

DECLARATION OF THE BIDDER WITH LOWEST CALCULATED RESPONSIVE BID  
AND RECOMMENDING AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF  
COMMODITY INTERNET (PHILIPPINES) – PRIMARY LINK (EARLY PROCUREMENT ACTIVITY)

Purchase Request No.	:	INNOVATE-24-09-19858
Date of Purchase Request	:	06 September 2024
Invitation to Bid No.	:	24-10-5049
Solicitation No.	:	24-10-5049
PhilGEPS Reference No.	:	11418913
Approved Budget for the Contract	:	₱18,000,000.00

**WHEREAS**, the Republic Act (RA) No. 9184, otherwise known as the “Government Procurement Reform Act”, provides that all procurement of the national government, its departments, bureaus, offices, and agencies, including state universities and colleges, government-owned and/or controlled corporations, government financial institutions and local government units, shall, in all cases be conducted in accordance therewith and its 2016 revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR);

**WHEREAS**, on **29 August 2024**, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) - Advanced Science and Technology Institute (ASTI) Head of Procuring Entity (HoPE), approved the **Indicative Annual Procurement Plan (APP) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025**;

**WHEREAS**, one of the purposes of the approval of said Indicative APP for FY 2025 is to ensure the timely delivery of goods, implementation of infrastructure projects, and rendition of consultancy services of the DOST-ASTI, through Early Procurement Activities (EPA) consistent with the Government Procurement Policy Board Resolution No. 14-2019 dated 17 July 2019 where Procuring Entities are encouraged to start procurement activity short of award;

**WHEREAS**, EPA is the conduct of procurement activities, from posting of the procurement opportunity, if required, until the recommendation of the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) to the HoPE as to the award of the contract, for goods to be delivered, infrastructure projects to be implemented and consulting services to be rendered in the following fiscal year, pending approval of the respective funding sources;

**WHEREAS**, the DOST-ASTI BAC received **Purchase Request No. INNOVATE-24-09-19858** dated **06 September 2024**, with a total Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) amounting to **Eighteen Million Pesos Only (₱18,000,000.00)**, together with a market study, for the procurement of the following:

LOT NO.	DESCRIPTION	QTY.	UNIT	UNIT COST	TOTAL AMOUNT / ABC
1	Commodity Internet - Philippines Primary 10Gbps	9	Month	₱1,000,000.00	₱9,000,000.00
2	Commodity Internet - Philippines Secondary 10Gbps	9	Month	₱1,000,000.00	₱9,000,000.00
GRAND TOTAL					₱18,000,000.00

**WHEREAS**, on **21 October 2024, 09:00 AM**, a Pre-procurement Conference was held online via Microsoft Teams Application with the DOST-ATI BAC, Secretariat, and end-user representatives in attendance, to determine the readiness of the procurement project;

**WHEREAS**, on **31 October 2024**, the Invitation to Bid and the Philippine Bidding Documents (PBD) for subject procurement were published on the websites of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System and DOST-ASTI, as well as in the latter's conspicuous place reserved for the purpose, consistent with Section 21, Rule VII of the 2016 revised IRR of RA No. 9184;

**WHEREAS**, on **07 November 2024, 09:00 AM**, a Pre-bidding Conference for said procurement was conducted by the DOST-ASTI BAC through videoconferencing via MS Teams, which was opened to prospective bidders, in compliance with Section 22.1, Rule VII of the 2016 revised IRR of RA No. 9184;

**WHEREAS**, as a result of the discussion and clarifications made during the Pre-bidding Conference, the DOST-ASTI BAC issued **Supplemental Bid Bulletin No. BAC-2024-11-037** on **12 November 2024**, answering the queries of the prospective bidders;

**WHEREAS**, two (2) prospective bidders purchased and submitted PBDs prior to the deadline of submission on **19 November 2024, 09:00 AM**, particularly **Converge ICT Solutions, Inc.** and **Eastern Telecommunication Philippines, Inc.**;

**WHEREAS**, during the scheduled Opening of Bids for subject procurement on **19 November 2024, 09:30 AM**, the DOST-ASTI BAC opened the bids of **Converge ICT Solutions, Inc.** and **Eastern Telecommunication Philippines, Inc.** in public and in the presence of the bidders' representatives to determine their compliance with the eligibility, technical, and financial requirements specified in the DOST-ASTI PBD. Said Opening of Bids was conducted by the DOST-ASTI BAC through a blended meeting arrangement;

**WHEREAS**, during the preliminary examination of bids, the DOST-ASTI BAC examined the submitted documents of the above prospective bidders versus a checklist to ascertain if the required documents were all submitted, using a non-discretionary "pass or fail" criterion;

**WHEREAS**, after the opening of the first envelope (technical component of the bid) submitted by **Converge ICT Solutions, Inc.** and **Eastern Telecommunication Philippines, Inc.**, the DOST-ASTI BAC declared that said bidders were able to submit the required legal, technical, and financial documents. Thus, the DOST-ASTI BAC rated the legal, technical, and financial documents comprising the technical component of the bids of **Converge ICT Solutions, Inc.** and **Eastern Telecommunication Philippines, Inc.** bids as **"passed"**;

**WHEREAS**, the DOST-ASTI BAC proceeded to open the second envelope (financial component of the bid) of **Converge ICT Solutions, Inc.** and **Eastern Telecommunication Philippines, Inc.** The bids submitted by the two (2) bidders were as follows:

LOT NO.	DESCRIPTION	ABC (₱)	BID AMOUNT (₱)	
			CONVERGE ICT SOLUTIONS, INC.	EASTERN TELECOMMUNICATIONS PHILIPPINES, INC.
1	Commodity Internet – Philippines Primary 10Gbps	₱9,000,000.00	₱8,888,888.00	₱7,560,000.00
2	Commodity Internet – Philippines Secondary 10Gbps	₱9,000,000.00	₱8,888,888.00	₱5,544,000.00
TOTAL BID AMOUNT (₱)			₱17,777,776.00	₱13,104,000.00

**WHEREAS**, the DOST-ASTI BAC conducted a detailed evaluation of the bid of **Converge ICT Solutions, Inc.** and **Eastern Telecommunication Philippines, Inc.** pursuant to Section 32 of the 2016 revised IRR of RA No. 9184, with the following result:

**(1) Lot No. 1 - Commodity Internet - Philippines Primary 10Gbps**

BIDDER	BID AMOUNT	RESULT
Eastern Telecommunications Philippines, Inc.	₱7,560,000.00	Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB)
Converge ICT Solutions, Inc.	₱8,888,888.00	Second LCB

**(2) Lot No. 2 - Commodity Internet - Philippines Secondary 10Gbps**

BIDDER	BID AMOUNT	RESULT
Eastern Telecommunications Philippines, Inc.	₱5,544,000.00	LCB
Converge ICT Solutions, Inc.	₱8,888,888.00	Second LCB

**WHEREAS**, the DOST-ASTI BAC declared **Eastern Telecommunication Philippines, Inc.**, as the bidder with LCB, through BAC Resolution No. 24-11-260-EPA dated 19 November 2024. Likewise, in the same resolution, the DOST-ASTI BAC Secretariat was instructed by the DOST-ASTI BAC to assist them in conducting post-qualification of said bidder;

**WHEREAS**, having declared **Eastern Telecommunication Philippines, Inc.**, as LCB, the BAC issued a Notice of Post Qualification on 22 November 2024 and, accordingly, conducted the necessary post-qualification proceedings;

**WHEREAS**, on **02 December 2024, 9:00 AM**, the DOST-ASTI BAC conducted a post-qualification meeting to discuss the submissions and findings of the DOST-ASTI BAC with the assistance of the DOST-ASTI BAC Secretariat;

**WHEREAS**, the submission of latest income tax return is required pursuant to Section 34.2 of the 2016 revised IRR of RA No. 9184. The bidder only submitted its business tax returns filed and paid through the BIR Electronic Filing and Payments System within six (6) months prior to the bid submission date;

**WHEREAS**, the DOST-ASTI BAC likewise reiterated said requirement in Section III, Clause 20.1 of the DOST-ASTI PBD, specifically:

*“20.1 Latest Income and Business Tax Returns, which are filed and paid through the BIR Electronic Filing and Payment System, specifically Income Tax Return and VAT or Percentage Tax Returns. These must be submitted within a non-extendible period of five (5) calendar days from receipt of the bidder of a notice from the DOST-ASTI BAC that it submitted the Single/Lowest Calculated Bid.”*

**WHEREAS**, during the post-qualification meeting, it was found by the DOST-ASTI BAC that **Eastern Telecommunication Philippines, Inc.** failed to submit its Income Tax Return for Fiscal Year 2023 taxable period;

**WHEREAS**, the majority of the members of the DOST-ASTI BAC voted to fail Eastern Telecommunication Philippines, Inc. for said requirement, thereby making the bidder **“post-disqualified”** which was declared through **BAC Resolution No. 24-12-279-EPA** dated **02 December 2024**;

**WHEREAS**, on **27 December 2024, 9:00 AM**, the DOST-ASTI BAC proceeded to conduct another post-qualification of **Converge ICT Solutions, Inc.** for the procurement project as the second LCB;

**WHEREAS**, after verification, validation, and ascertainment of all statements made and documents submitted by **Converge ICT Solutions, Inc.** the DOST-ASTI BAC determined that the submission of said bidder passed all the criteria for post-qualification;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, for and in consideration of the foregoing, WE, the members of the DOST-ASTI BAC hereby RESOLVE, as it is hereby RESOLVED to recommend to the HoPE, the following:

- (1) Declare **Converge ICT Solutions, Inc.** for the procurement project titled, **“Supply, Delivery, and Installation of Commodity Internet (Philippine) - Primary Link (Early Procurement Activity)”** as the **Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid (LCRB)**, with a total bid price amounting to **Seventeen Million Seven Hundred Seventy-Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy-Six Pesos Only (₱17,777,776.00)**;

LOT NO.	DESCRIPTION	QTY.	UNIT	UNIT COST	TOTAL AMOUNT / ABC
1	Commodity Internet - Philippines Primary 10Gbps	9	Month	₱987,654.22	₱8,888,888.00
2	Commodity Internet - Philippines Secondary 10Gbps	9	Month	₱987,654.22	₱8,888,888.00
TOTAL BID AMOUNT					₱17,777,776.00

- (2) Award the contract to **Converge ICT Solutions, Inc.** in the above-mentioned amount upon approval and effectivity of DOST-ASTI funding source/s; and
- (3) Notify all other bidders, in writing, of the DOST-ASTI BAC’s recommendation within three (3) calendar days from the issuance of the resolution recommending the award of the contract, pursuant to Section 37.1.1 of the 2016 revised IRR of RA No. 9184.

**DONE** in Quezon City this 27<sup>th</sup> day of December 2024.

**ALVIN E. RETAMAR**  
End-user

**NARCISA JUVILYN C. CASTAÑEDA**  
BAC Member

**HAROLD BRYAN S. PALER**  
BAC Member

**MERYL REGINE L. ALGODON, Ph.D.**  
BAC Member

**PHILIP A. MARTINEZ**  
BAC Member

**JEFFREY A. ABOROT**  
BAC Vice Chairperson

**BAYANI BENJAMIN R. LARA**  
BAC Chairperson

APPROVED/DISAPPROVED

**FRANZ A. DE LEON, Ph.D.**  
Director, DOST-ASTI