



LICENSING ROUNDS 2025

BIDDERS CLARIFICATION QUESTIONS

May 2025

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Questions & Answers

- 1. Can a prospective bidder be part of more than one consortium in the bidding process? (For example, prospective bidder + Company A in Licensing Round 9 and prospective bidder + Company B in Licensing Round 10)**

Prospective bidders can be part of different consortiums participating in the various Licensing Round (i.e. prospective bidder can participate in a consortium with Company A for Licensing Round 9, and with Company B for Licensing Round 10). It should be noted that bidders who qualify as solo applicants can benefit from the automatic qualification in subsequent licensing rounds as determined by the Ministry if their participation will be as a solo applicant. If the qualified solo applicant wishes to participate as a consortium in a subsequent licensing round (i.e. consortium member is not a qualified entity), it must either submit a joint PQQ with the consortium member or the respective consortium member should submit a PQQ and if qualified, the consortium can be formed during proposal stage in accordance with the rules issued by the Ministry.

- 2. Can a prospective bidder be part of multiple consortiums in a single round?**

This results in a potential conflict of interest and is not permitted particularly if the consortiums will be bidding for the same sites. If a prospective bidder intends to form multiple consortiums in a single licensing round and the intention is for each consortium to bid for a separate site, the Ministry may at its sole discretion allow for such bidder to be part of multiple consortiums subject to satisfying certain requirements and providing undertakings to the Ministry. This will be determined by the Ministry on a case-by-case basis and the Ministry reserves absolute rights to reject any request.

- 3. We understand that the 3-year rule was part of the old mining law (where an entity cannot apply until 3 years pass by from the time of relinquishment/expiry), does it still apply, even though it does not specifically mentions it?**

Article 14.1.5 of the Implementing Regulations to the Mining Investment Law states that one of the conditions of applying for exploration or exploitation licenses is that the applicant should not have a license terminated in the 3-year period preceding application submission. This regulation is still valid and applies as set out in the Implementing Regulations to the Mining Investment Law.

- 4. Is it acceptable to the MIM for a bidding consortium to be established between two or more successful PQQ applicants AFTER the PQQ deadline of June 15th 2025? And if so, is there a date by which the MIM requires the Consortium details to be documented and provided to the MIM?**

Yes it is permitted for qualified bidders to form consortiums after the PQQ deadline (so long as all consortium members are qualified bidders). Details relating to forming consortiums between qualified bidders post PQQ stage will be set out in the proposal submission rules for the respective rounds.

5. Where prospective bidders intend to form a consortium, should they submit separate PQQs or joint PQQs.

Prospective bidders may establish a consortium at the qualification stage and submit a PQQ as a consortium. Where a prospective bidder submits a PQQ as a solo applicant and qualifies, it may only form a consortium during the proposal stage with other qualified bidders. We leave it to the prospective bidders to determine whether they submit separate PQQs then form a consortium once qualified, or a submit a joint PQQ as a consortium as this is a commercial decision.

6. Where the constitutional documents of a prospective bidder are not in Arabic or English languages, would it be sufficient to provide certified translated copies or does it need to be attested by the Saudi Consulate in the respective jurisdiction?

For the purposes of the PQQ submission, certified English translations of the incorporation documents of the prospective bidder would suffice and prospective bidders are not required to have the documents attested by the Saudi Consulate. It is worth noting that should the prospective bidder want to proceed with the incorporation of a licensee entity in KSA, the relevant government agencies to whom you will file the incorporation application will require legalized/ apostilled copies of the constitutional documents.

7. The PQQ states that previously qualified bidders will automatically qualify for the 2025 Licensing Rounds upon submitting an Expression of Interest (EOI). Could you please confirm whether this automatic qualification applies to consortiums formed between an automatically qualified bidder and new prospective bidders, or if all consortium members must individually complete and submit the PQQ?

The automatic qualification applies to qualified bidders from the Jabal Sayid and Al Hajjar Belts Licensing Rounds in 2024 in the same form they have qualified. As such if a bidder has qualified in these licensing rounds as a solo applicant, and intends to participate in the 2025 Licensing Rounds as a consortium, then (i) such qualified bidder must submit a new PQQ jointly with the new consortium members, or (ii) the new consortium members must individually complete and submit PQQs and if they qualify, they may proceed with forming a consortium with the automatically qualified bidder during the proposal stage in accordance with the relevant requirements issued by the Ministry in due course.

8. Is a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) sufficient for submission as a consortium, or is a more formal agreement required?

There are no specific requirements relating to the form or nature of arrangements entered into between consortium members as long as they contain the minimum information required by the Ministry in respect of submissions by consortiums. For ease of reference, the Ministry has a template consortium agreement that prospective bidders may use noting that this template is for reference only and should not be deemed as legal or any form of advice by the Ministry. Parties to the consortium agreement should seek independent advice on the drafting and content of the agreement.

9. What is the allowed timeframe for establishing and registering the consortium company in case of winning the bid?

The Ministry typically grants bidders a period of 90 days to establish the licensee entity, calculated from the date of issuance of the Provisional Award Letter.

10. Under which company's name should the Expression of Interest (EOI) be submitted?

The name of the qualified bidder, noting that automatic qualification status will apply to the previously qualified bidders only and not new consortium members added.

11. What is the deadline for submitting the PQQ qualification (as a consortium) for the Al Nuqrah Belt Round 9 bidding?

The deadline has been extended until 16 June 2025.

12. Can the previous licenses holder apply through a consortium?

Prospective bidders who have previously held an exploration license within any of the areas covered in the 2025 Licensing Rounds may participate in that particular round if they form a consortium with other prospective bidders, or if they participate indirectly through a joint venture entity have incorporated in Saudi Arabia with other shareholders and in which such bidders own a certain percentage. For the avoidance of doubt, bidders who previously held an exploration license within any area covered in the 2025 Licensing Rounds may not participate through a wholly owned subsidiary.

Note: Guidelines for the Bidding Stage will be shared with the Qualified Bidders by 18th of June and the Ministry will invite the Qualified Bidders to Round 9 Webinar to go through the guidelines and answer all questions.