REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR CONSULTING SERVICES-

SELECTION OF A CONSULTING FIRM

**Country:** Republic of Tajikistan

**Project:** Additional financing of the Public Finance Management Modernization Project – II

**Grant:** D 750- TJ

**Assignment title:** Hiring of consulting firm for conducting of a third-party auditof the E-GP system

**Link no.:** AF/PFMMPII/CQS-7/2024

The Government of Tajikistan (GoT) has developed a concept for the formation of an electronic government procurement system by the Government Resolution dated December 30, 2011, No. 643. Considering that, the government spends on average 6.5% of its budget through public procurement, procurements have been identified as one of the key functions of government that should be transformed through the introduction of an electronic public procurement system (eprocurement.gov.tj). The e-Public procurement system is part of public financial management (PFM) reforms, aimed at increasing efficiency, transparency and accountability in the procurement process as well as reducing costs. The benefits of the system include improving good governance, achieving better value for money in the public procurement sector and supporting the country's socio-economic development.

The e-procurement system also facilitates the following aspects of procurement:

1. Enhances the decision-making capabilities of procurement officials by providing meaningful and comprehensive procurement information;
2. Improves financial planning and budgeting;
3. Increases transparency and accountability of procurement procedures and practices;
4. Provides efficiency of the entire procurement process and minimizes procurement cycle time;
5. Promotes and encourages participation and promotes competition among suppliers;
6. Provides economies of scale through demand aggregation and maximizes value for money in public procurement;
7. Enhances citizen and business confidence in the public procurement process and the use of public funds;
8. Ensures the confidentiality, integrity and authenticity of all transactions and data between and among procurement entities and suppliers;
9. Improves the management of procurement records and information; and
10. Ensures control and financial discipline in public procurement, saving money through administrative efficiency. The introduction of electronic public procurement was initiated by the Public Procurement Agency (PPA) under the supervision of the Ministry of Finance with funding from the Public Finance Management Modernization Project II (P150381).

**TEAM MEMBER AND QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR KEY PERSONNEL**

**Qualification requirements for a consulting firm.**

1. A consulting firm must meet the following requirements:

1. Demonstrate completion of two similar assignments of a similar nature within the last five years;
2. Demonstrated experience in planning and executing similar assignment within the framework of systems audits or demonstrated experience in performing equivalent engagements.
3. If the consulting firm is foreign, it should establish a joint venture with local firms to improve efficiency and management of the assignment.
4. The systems auditor/audit team should have experience in conducting procurement audits/similar audits to international standards.
5. A member of the audit team with knowledge and/or experience in the procurement field will be an advantage.
6. It is necessary to be able to form a team of key experts to carry out this assignment. The consultant should carefully study the scope of work and propose a team of well-organized competent personnel, properly equipped with the necessary skills/facilities to carry out the assignment.

**The team must include the following persons:**

1. **Team Leader - Systems Auditor**

Must have the following qualifications and experience:

* 1. *Degree in accounting, supply chain, computer science, engineering or other related field Master's degree or higher in any of these fields or in business administration or any related field*
  2. *At least 5 years of work experience after obtaining a master's degree and 7 years for a bachelor's degree*
  3. *At least 2 years of experience with e-GP or similar system*
  4. *Experience in conducting a system audit of at least one information system*
  5. *Good communication skills.*
  6. *Experience as a team leader on at least 2 projects.*
  7. *Experience in public procurement and proven experience in large IT projects will be an additional advantage.*

1. **Systems Analysis Expert**

Must have the following qualifications and experience:

* 1. *Bachelor's degree in Computer Science or Information Systems or related field, and Master's degree or higher in the same field*
  2. *At least 3 years of work experience after obtaining a Master's degree and 5 years for a Bachelor of Science degree*
  3. *Have traceable experience in software development and implementation of projects of similar nature on 2 projects*
  4. *Experience in working with the e-GP system or similar system for at least one year*
  5. *Experience in conducting a system audit of at least one information system*
  6. *Sufficient knowledge in assessing systems with external system integration in at least 1 project*
  7. *Good communication skills.*
  8. *Knowledge of public procurement procedures will be an advantage.*
     1. **Procurement Expert**

Must have the following qualifications and experience:

1. *Minimum Master’s degree or equivalent in Procurement and Supply Chain Management, Business Administration, Public Administration, Commerce, Law, Engineering or related field.*
2. *Not less than five (05) years of post-qualification work experience.*
3. *Professional training in procurement and/or contracting.*
4. *Minimum five (05) years of relevant and progressive experience in public procurement, contract management and administration.*
5. *Minimum two (2) years of work experience in procurement and/or contract management in a government organization.*
   * 1. **Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH)**

Must have the following qualifications and experience:

1. *Bachelor's degree in Computer Science or Information Systems or related field. Master's degree or higher in the same field.*
2. *At least 5 years of post-qualification experience for a Master's degree and 7 years for a Bachelor's degree.*
3. *Proven experience in vulnerability assessment and penetration testing of software systems, data center penetration, system auditing and other network security related issues.*
4. *At least three years of experience as an ethical hacker.*
5. *Experience in auditing software systems and networks in the public sector*.

The detailed Terms of References (TOR) can be studied at the address below.

Hereby the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Tajikistan invites eligible consulting firms to express their interest in providing the services. The interested consulting firms must provide information demonstrating that they have the necessary qualifications and relevant experience to perform the services.

It is assumed that a contract will be signed with the bidder with the lower bid price who meets all requirements set out in the Terms of Reference. The quotes should include all costs of the consulting firm, including taxes, international and local travel, meals, lodging, support staff, printing costs, etc.

Additional information can be obtained at the address below during office hours from 08:00 to 17:00 local time.

Expression of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person or by e-mail) by October 22, 2024 until 17:00 hours.

Attention:

Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Tajikistan

Public Finance Management Modernization Project II

To: Nozimzoda Ilkhomjon

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