NOTICE FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

MULTINATIONAL: BENIN, COTE D'IVOIRE, GHANA, NIGERIA AND TOGO AND THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES (ECOWAS)

STUDY ON THE ABIDJAN – LAGOS CORRIDOR HIGHWAY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

RECRUITMENT OF A CONSULTANT TO CONDUCT FINANCIAL AUDIT SERVICES FOR FISCAL YEARS 2017-2019

1. The ECOWAS Commission has received Grants from the African Development Fund (ADF) and the European Development Fund (through the African Investment Facility –AfIF) to cover the cost of studies on the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor Highway Development Project, and intends to use part of grant amount to finance the service contracts of consultants responsible for conducting the financial audit for fiscal years 2017-2019 for the Study.

2. The services under this contract mainly consist of: (i) collecting texts and standards by each Participating Member Country or as recommended by ECOWAS; (ii) supporting ECOWAS and the Participating Member Countries in harmonizing, identifying, selecting and validating standards to be applied to the Highway; (iii) undertaking road safety audit in the feasibility study phase; (iii) undertaking road safety audit in the preliminary design phase; (iv) undertaking road safety audit in the detailed design phase.

3. The main objective of the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor Highway Study is to undertake all the necessary studies on the hard and soft aspects necessary for the effective implementation, operations, and economic development of the corridor, primarily between the two (2) nodes. The new highway will be a six-lane (3-lane dual) carriageway highway and the study to be undertaken will be based on one main principle. It shall primarily follow a new alignment, incorporating sections of the existing alignment, where necessary to ensure route optimization.

The Project includes eight (8) components: (i) Feasibility Study and Environmental, Social Impacts Assessment (ESIA) and Detailed Engineering Design; (ii) PPP Structuring and Transaction Advisory; (iii) Corridor Economic Development Study; (iv) Trade and Transport Facilitation; (v) Corridor Management - Establishment and Operations; (vi) Project Management including Technical Assistance Service to ECOWAS and Member States; (vii) Road Safety Audits and (viii) Financial Audits. The Project will be executed under the authority of the ECOWAS Commission through the Project Implementation Unit located in Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire).

The technical studies will be conducted per the following lots to cover the entire corridor: (i) Lot 1: Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)- Takoradi (Ghana), 295.3 km; (ii) Lot 2: Takoradi (Ghana) – Accra (Ghana) –Akanu (Ghana), 389 km; and (iii) Lot 3: Akanu (Ghana)-Noope (Togo)- Lome (Togo)-Agnomey Glozoun (Togo)-Athieme (Benin) - Cotonou (Benin)-Seme-Krate (Benin/Nigeria)-Lagos (Nigeria), 300.12 km. All distances provided are indicative and could be more depending on the eventual confirmation of alignments by Member States.

4. The overall duration of the financial audit assignment is estimated at two (2) months by each exercise (fiscal years 2017-2019) with the possibility of extending the audit to cover Project activities at the ECOWAS Commission in Abuja. The assignment is expected to start in February 2018.

5. The ECOWAS Commission invites Consultants (firms specialising in financial audits) to apply in order to provide the services described above. Interested, eligible and qualified consultants shall provide information on their ability and experience, showing their qualification for services of similar magnitude. The short-listing criteria are: a) general experience in the field of financial audits over the past five (5) years; (b) specific experience in the field of infrastructure projects over the past five (5) years. Experience on donor-funded projects in sub-Saharan Africa would be an asset; (c) availability of key personnel (list, qualification, experience) (d) logistical and material resources; e) computer resources (specialized software, etc.); (f) ability to produce reports and other relevant documents in English and French.
NB: Each reference will be summarized on a project sheet, and will be considered only if the candidate attaches supporting documents indicating the contact information of the contracting authorities so as to facilitate verification of the information provided: Excerpts of contract (inner cover page and page with the signatures) plus Attestation of good performance.

Consultants may form groups to increase their chances of qualification.

6. The eligibility criteria, the preparation of shortlist, and the selection procedure shall comply with the African Development Bank’s Rules and Procedures for the Use of Consultants” (May 2008 edition – revised in July 2012), available on the Bank’s website: http://www.afdb.org. The selection procedure will be based on Least Cost Selection Method (LCS), and a shortlist of six (6) firms which present the best profiles shall be drawn up after the expression of interest. Also the firms that are part of an international network are to submit one expression of interest.

7. Interested consultants can obtain further information at the e-mail addresses mentioned below during working hours: 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon (local time) on working days: procurement@ecowas.int with copy to aweeks@ecowas.int; snartey@ecowas.int; cappiah@ecowas.int; sbangoura@ecowas.int

8. Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form (one (1) signed original plus four (4) copies) in (person, or by registered mail) to the address below, not later than 24th July, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. (GMT+1), and must be clearly marked: “Studies on the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor Highway Development Project/Expression of Interest in consulting services for the conduct of financial audit”.

For delivery in person or by registered mail to:

Office of the Commissioner,
General Administration & Conference,
Fifth (5th) Floor of the ECOWAS Commission Headquarters,
Plot 101, Yakubu Gowon Crescent,
Asokoro District, Abuja,
NIGERIA.

Requests for further information or clarification could be sent by e-mail:

Attention : Commissioner General Administration &Conference
Email : snartey@ecowas.int
with copies to : sbangoura@ecowas.int
procurement@ecowas.int
 cappiah@ecowas.int
 aweeks@ecowas.int

9. The working languages shall be English and French. The Expression of Interest will be submitted in French.

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