REQUEST 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

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION UNIT

RECRUITMENT OF TWO (2) ROAD ENGINEERS (ONE FRANCOPHONE AND ONE ANGLOPHONE)

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 the study on the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor Highway Development Project, and intends to use part of the Grant amount to finance the service contract of two international Road Engineers (one Francophone and the other Anglophone) for the Project Implementation Unit.

2. The services under this contract mainly consist of the day-to-day management of the project. The services include: (i) ensuring the management and administration of studies; (ii) preparing terms of reference/technical specifications and procurement files; (iii) managing supplies contracts; (iv) reviewing technical reports; (v) preparing an opinion on the quality and adequacy of reports; (vi) supervising the conduct of studies; (vii) organizing and planning study validation meetings and sessions; (viii) supporting and participating in the donors/investors roundtable; and (ix) conducting all other engineering services required for efficient project implementation. The contract period shall be one (1) year, renewable based on the results of the performance contract signed with the Project. The working languages will be English and French. The Road Engineers should therefore be fluent in either English or French and have working knowledge in the other.

3. The ECOWAS Commission invites all interested eligible and qualified individual Consultants to submit their candidacy for the services described above. The Consultants must produce a letter of expression of interest and their curriculum vitae, providing clear information on their experience and qualifications for the assignment (CV, references of similar services demonstrating that they are qualified, description of their experiences and tasks in similar assignments, availability, etc.).


5. Interested Consultants can obtain further information from the address mentioned below during hours: of 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon (GMT+1) on working days. The TORs can also be consulted on the ECOWAS (http://www.ecowas.int/doing-business-in-ecowas/ecowas-procurement/ ) and AfDB (see below) Websites.

6. The expressions of interest should be submitted or sent to the address (physical or electronic) below not later than 22\textsuperscript{nd} June, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. (GMT+1), and must be clearly marked: “Study on the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor Highway Development Project/Expression of Interest in the services of a Francophone Road Engineer or Anglophone Road Engineer (as appropriate) for the Project Implementation Unit”.

For delivery in person or by Mail:

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

For delivery by e-mail:
Attention Commissioner General Administration & Conference
 TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE RECRUITMENT
OF AN INTERNATIONAL EXPERT FOR THE POSITION OF ROAD ENGINEER IN THE PROJECT
IMPLEMENTATION UNIT

I- Context and Rationale

The ECOWAS Regional Integration vision involves the enhancement of infrastructure development which is recognized as a catalyst for economic growth and integration of peoples. In this regard, the ECOWAS Commission, which prioritizes transport infrastructure in its 2020 Vision Strategy Paper: “Towards an ECOWAS of Peoples”, obtained from the Heads of State during the 42nd Ordinary Summit held in February 2013, formal approval for the construction of a homogenous six-lane (2x3 lanes) highway corridor to link five ECOWAS Member States namely Nigeria, Benin, Togo, Ghana and Côte d’Ivoire.

This 1,028-km “Abidjan-Lagos Highway” links major cities, and crosses a high economic potential zone with about 75% of West Africa’s volume of trade. To the extent possible, the highway will follow a new route different from the existing corridor.

To implement this major project, technical and financial partners (including ADF and the European Union’s AFIF), as well as participating Member States have undertaken to finance several technical preparatory studies on the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor Highway Development Project to the tune of UA 16.28 million or USD 22.32 million.

This project, which seeks to conduct feasibility, final design and complementary studies so as to transform the corridor into a competitive structure in terms trade and transport development, comprises eight (8) components and will be implemented under the authority of the ECOWAS Commission.

The implementation arrangements provide for a Steering Committee as the oversight body, a Study Delivery Team (SDT) for supervising project activities, and a Project Implementation Unit. The PIU will: (i) ensure the day-to-day administration and efficient management of the project; (ii) conduct procurement activities under the project; (iii) review the various study reports and decide on their quality and adequacy; (iv) make logistical and financial arrangements for various stakeholder meetings, as well as the donor and potential private investors’ roundtable; and lastly (v) ensure the administrative and financial management of project activities.

The Unit, which will be based in the Office of the ECOWAS Permanent Representative to Cote d’Ivoire in Abidjan, will comprise: (i) independent experts namely: a project coordinator, two (2) road engineers with procurement skills (a Francophone and an Anglophone), support staff (accounting officer, administrative assistant, driver), and (ii) five (5) experienced representatives (civil engineers or any other disciplines related to the conduct of the study) from sector Ministries of each country who will be deployed periodically as may be required. The Project Implementation Unit will work in close collaboration with ECOWAS and benefit from the expertise of a mobilized Technical Assistance Team.

II. Assignment and Tasks of Road Engineers

2.1 Assignment of the Road Engineer

There shall be two Road Engineer positions, one Francophone and one Anglophone. They shall be responsible for: (i) preparing procurement files; (ii) conducting procurement activities in accordance with African Development Bank Rules and Procedures; (iii) ensuring proper performance of Contracts; (iv) ensuring proper conduct of engineering studies in accordance with the Terms of Reference; (v) reviewing
technical reports; and (vi) giving an opinion on the quality and adequacy of reports. In this respect, they must take appropriate measures to ensure proper project implementation within the prescribed time frames and approved budget in accordance with African Development Bank procedures.

They will perform their duties under the supervision of the Project Coordinator and the ECOWAS Commissioner for Infrastructure.

2.2 Tasks of the Road Engineer
The following tasks shall be undertaken by the Road Engineer:

- Assist in the preparation of the implementation schedule of project activities and the procurement plan with the Coordinator;
- Draft Terms of Reference, Expressions of Interest and Request for Bids; undertake pre-qualification, evaluate Bids, select Firms, Negotiate Contracts for award;
- Review technical study reports and decide on their quality and adequacy;
- Organize technical sessions to validate progress reports and technical reports submitted by service providers;
- Guide firms tasked with studies on ECOWAS Commission and Steering Committee recommendations.
- Assist in the preparation of the PIU Annual Work Plans, as well as monthly, quarterly and annual disbursement plans with the coordinator and accountant
- Prepare progress reports on the implementation status of project components, and ensure their timely submission to the coordinator;
- Organize and participate in PIU coordination meetings, as well as sessions for the review of technical reports;
- Inform the Project Coordinator of any deviations in the conduct of studies;
- Identify and manage risks in order to maximize benefits for the project, partners and stakeholders;
- Review invoices submitted by Consultants or Suppliers and recommend for approval;
- Strictly apply the administrative and financial management procedures of the project;
- Evaluate the firms charged with studies;
- Carry out other tasks specifically defined by the Coordinator;
- Support institutions involved in project implementation;
- Assist in draft meeting reports;
- Maintain constant and transparent communication and dialogue on the project with the various stakeholders and partners;

2.3 Expected Performance
The Engineer will be expected to organize and conduct activities on schedule and in accordance with the work plan approved by the ECOWAS Commission. He/she will also be responsible for the quality of approved reports and for ensuring their consistency with the Terms of Reference. Since satisfactory performance contributes to the direct impact of project outcomes, he/she will enhance the visibility and reputation of ECOWAS Commission as an efficient executing agency of infrastructure project support services, and thereby consolidate its competitive position as a partner of choice in the implementation of regional projects.

2.4 Required Profile
This high-level specialist in road engineering with a good knowledge of Road and Pavement Design and Geotechnical investigations. In addition, he/she must possess procurement skills in line with the procedures of multilateral donors, particularly AfDB, and have the following profile.

- Qualification: Hold a Civil Engineering Degree;
- Have ten (10) years’ Civil Engineering practice including five (5) years in a developing country, preferably in Africa, in the transport infrastructure sector (road and highways studies/control/works);
• Have been involved in a similar position, in the implementation two (2) similar transport infrastructure projects (preparation of terms of reference, procurement practice, and project management);
• Having been at least Team Leader or Confirmed Key Expert in the position of road/pavement engineer for similar road study projects will be an advantage;
• Having proven experience in implementing a transport infrastructure project financed by multilateral donors;
• Be highly proficient in the use computer packages (especially Word, Excel, MS Project, etc.);
• Speak and write English or French very well with a working knowledge of the other;
• Be physically fit and able to undertake frequent trips to the field.

2.5 Reporting

The Engineer will produce a quarterly progress report on the implementation status of project activities and submit it to the Coordinator for consolidation.

II- Selection Criteria

1. General qualifications and number of years of experience 20%
2. Experience in the task described in the terms of reference 40%
3. Experience as Road Engineer and procurement skills in donor financed projects 25%
4. Language skills 10%
5. Knowledge of the West African Region (3 Similar Projects/Experiences) 5%

III- Duration of the Contract

One (1) year, renewable during the project life cycle based on the results of the performance contract signed with the project.

V- Place of Work

The position will be based in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.