



**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (reoi)
AND THE
TERMS OF REFERENCE (tor)
[CONSULTANCY SERVICES by FIRM]**

COUNTRY:	Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
IMPLEMENTING AGENCY:	Ministry of Communications and IT (MCIT)
NAME OF THE PROJECT:	Digital CASA Afghanistan
SECTOR:	Information and Communications Technology (ICT)
CONSULTING SERVICES:	Assessment of current status of Afghanistan Cyber Emergency Response Team (CERT)
CONTRACT TYPE:	Consultancy by a Firm Contract-QCBS-Lump sum
DURATION OF ASSIGNMENT:	Four (4) Months
DUTY STATION:	Kabul, Afghanistan
CONTRACT REFERENCE NO:	PPG/EGOV//C-3
WORLD BANK GRANT NO:	IDA-D2820
PROJECT ID NO:	P156894

Background:

The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT), Islamic Republic of Afghanistan has received Project Preparatory Grant/Fund from the World Bank to prepare for implementation of Digital CASA Afghanistan Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds to hire a qualified Consultancy Firm to provide Advisory Services to MCIT, to carry out assessment of current status of Afghanistan Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) of Cyber Security Directorate.

This Consultancy Support will be provided to MCIT/government at Kabul, under the Project Preparatory Fund of Digital CASA Afghanistan Project.

The aim of the Digital CASA Afghanistan Project is: (i) to expand and strengthen the Regional and National level broadband connectivity based on Optical Fiber Networks; (ii) to boost up digital

society and economy through e-Governance initiatives and (iii) to prepare an enabling environment and Regulations for the growth of ICT Sector in Afghanistan. The project will do so by: (a) expansion and strengthening of broadband connectivity in Central Asia and South Asia Regions; (b) expansion and strengthening of national broadband connectivity in Afghanistan; (c) Commissioning of a Network called “Govnet” to connect most of the Government Offices at Central and Provincial Government levels in Afghanistan; (d) Automation of citizen-centric services through e-Governance initiatives of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan; (e) framing up of Regulations, Policies, Strategies and Procedures for growth of ICT Sector of Afghanistan.

To contribute towards achievement of some of the above-mentioned objectives of Digital CASA Afghanistan Project, MCIT has decided to avail the consultancy services of a Consultancy Firm to provide Advisory Services to MCIT, to carry out assessment of status of Afghanistan CERT.

Objectives of the Consultancy Assignment by Consultancy Organization/Firm (also called Firm or Consultant):

Assessment of cyber emergency response team in Afghanistan (AF-CERT) objective is to provide comprehensive report on current AF-CERT maturity level and areas of improvement, including actionable plan with estimated budgets. Consultant must assess AF-CERT maturity level as per SIM3 or alternative internationally recognized CSIRT assessment model. Assessment of the current Afghan Cyber Space should lead with recommendations to the next stages: a) rebuilding AF-CERT core (operational framework, essential incident handling service as per international best practices); b) support of AF-CERT operational capabilities development.

Scope of Work and Activities:

Assessment of cyber emergency response team in Afghanistan (AF-CERT) must include:

Consultant must assess AF-CERT maturity level as per SIM3 or selected alternative internationally recognized CSIRT assessment model. The model must cover Processes, Organization, People, and Tools dimensions.

Assessment interviews with relevant stakeholders must be performed and suggested improvement plan must be aligned as per stakeholders’ expectations.

The Activities:

- Project management, encompassing all communication and project planning activities, and summed up in “R-1 Inception Report”;
- Preparation for the assessment mission, encompassing relevant mission planning preparation activities (Mission meetings plans, templates of Mission report), summed up in “R2 Mission Preparation Report”;

- Onsite mission of CSIRT assessment in Kabul, Afghanistan for at least 5 working days of two experts, summed up in “R3 Assessment and Recommendation Report”; Report must be a comprehensive report on current AF-CERT maturity level and areas of improvement, including actionable plan with estimated budgets. The Consultancy Firm shall provide detailed analysis and recommendations to mitigate shortfalls for each parameters under SIM3 or from an alternative internationally recognized assessment model. The Consultancy Firm shall aid the Client in prioritizing the recommendations.; Mission must involve briefing of top officials in the Government about findings, including session on action plan validation.
- Post-mission support, follow-up, and ad-hock activities as per Client’s request, summed up in “R4 Project Closure report”.

Payment Structure and the Deliverables:

Payments will be made as per the following schedules:

- 10% of the Contract Value will be paid after submission of “R-1 Inception Report” and “R2 Mission Preparation Report”, to be submitted by the Consultant within 1 month of Contract Effective Date.
- 30% of the Contract Value will be paid after submission of preliminary “R3 Assessment and Recommendation Report”.
- 40% of the Contract Value will be paid after submission and approval of finalized “R3 Assessment and Recommendation Report”
- 20% of the Contract Value will be paid after submission and approval of “R4 Project Closure report”, to be submitted within four months of Contract Effective Date.

All the reports as outlined above shall:

- be written such that they stand alone, without the reader needing to refer to other documents;
- shall include a dated cover letter with the distribution list and shall note key issues of interest in the report for management’s attention;
- All the Reports should be submitted electronically in pdf and original (hard-copies) format, to the Cyber Security Department of MCIT, and to the Project Director of Digital CASA Afghanistan Project.

All payments will be made to the Consultant, within 30 days from date of formal approval by the Chairman of PICU of the Invoice, Activity Sheet and brief Report with each Invoice, all to be submitted in English language. Formats will be provided by the Digital CASA Project of MCIT.

Qualification and Experience Requirements and the Short-listing Criteria:

- The International Consultancy Firm must have at least 5 (five) years of experience in assisting Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRT) development; Description must be provided.
- Firm must have experience of recent and successful CSIRT buildouts at least in 2 (two) countries; customer references must be provided.
- Firm must be member of international or regional CSIRT network. Proof must be provided.
- Firm must have an Annual Turn Over of 500 (Five Hundred) Thousand USD (in any of the last 5 years); Documents must be provided.
- Firm must have at least 3 (three) Cyber Security Experts with extensive experience in CSIRT building activities.
- Firm must provide proof of at least 2 (two) similar scope assignment experience conducted in the past 5 years.
- Knowledge and experience in cyber security with practical experience of advising governments on designing and implementing large scale cyber security initiatives.

The above skills and experience need to be demonstrated by the core members of the consulting team assigned to this project, not simply by the broader experience of the consulting firm.

• **Key Professionals on Field**

The key professionals required for the assignment are as following;

S. No.	Positions	Reqd. Nos	Minimum Time on Field	Duration of Involvement in Project
1	AF-CERT Assessment Team Leader	01	10 Working Days	4 months
2	CIRT Specialist	01	10 Working Days	3 months

(International experts are preferred)

Key Professionals Off-Site

S. No.	Positions	Reqd. Nos	Time on Field	Duration of Involvement in Project
3	Cyber Security Expert	01	0 Working Days	3 months

1. Team Leader:

- University Bachelor's degree in computer science, IT, engineering, or related field;
- Demonstrated application of international best practices in CSIRT maturity establishment for at least 2 (two) organizations;
- Demonstrated application of CSIRT technologies and tools available in the market;

Demonstrated at least 2 (two) years of international experience in transfer of knowledge on cyber security;

Demonstrated at least 5 (five) years of overall experience in managing national/government/industry CSIRT(s);

Demonstrated at least 5 (five) years of overall experience in providing incident handling, vulnerability assessment and penetration testing, security consulting and awareness raising services;

Possession of internationally recognized vulnerability management certification.

2. CIRT Specialist:

University Bachelor's or Master's degree in computer science, IT, engineering or related field;

Possession of internationally recognized cyber security or system engineering certification will be an advantage;

Demonstrated practical experience of at least 2 (two) years in automating CSIRT activities and processes;

Demonstrated application of international best practices in CSIRT maturity establishment

Demonstrated application of CSIRT technologies and tools available in the market in at least 2 (two) organizations and 5 (five) incident response cases;

Demonstrated at least 5 (five) years of overall experience in technical leadership role in information/ IT/ cyber security;

Demonstrated at least 2 (two) years of working experience in designing and deploying government, sector, or national cyber security policies.

3. Security Expert:

University Bachelor's or Master's degree;

Demonstrated at least 2 (two) years of experience in information security governance;

Demonstrated at least 5 (five) years of overall experience in public sector mandates and processes related to security;

Demonstrated at least 5 (five) years of overall experience analysis of state and non-state threats to government or national security;

Demonstrated at least 5 (five) years of overall working experience in government agencies with high data sensitivity;

Demonstrated at least 5 (five) years of overall experience in information security, IT security or related field;

Demonstrated experience in setting government or national policies for protection of sensitive/ classified information;

Demonstrated experience in identification, assessment, forecasting and prevention of threats to government or national security;

Demonstrated international working experience (at least two projects in two different countries).

Organizational resources and Facilities to be given by MCIT:

The following organizational resources and facilities and support will be provided to the Consultant by the client (MCIT) during the Mission:

- Meeting room of at least 10 people meeting space, with internet connectivity, inside MCIT's Main Building at Kabul,
- Facilitation and arrangement for meetings with relevant stakeholders and partners;
- Focal point for project management, execution, issues management, inter-institutional coordination activities;
- Focal point for issues escalation;
- Relevant background documents;
- Facilitation of entry visa, if required.

The Project Cost shall be inclusive of all government taxes applicable in Afghanistan. All other expenses shall be the responsibility of the contractor.

The consultancy work including submission of reports, documents etc. shall be completed within four months from the commencement date.

Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI) by MCIT:

The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) now invites eligible Consultancy Firms to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested Consultancy Firms must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (Brochures, CVs, giving description of their Qualifications, Experience, similar assignments done earlier, experience in similar conditions and availability of appropriate skills etc.).

A Consultancy Firm will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's [*Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers*](#) (January, 2011 edition).

To ensure impartiality, the consultant (including his home office, if any) must not, in any way, be affiliated with business entities that are currently providing or are seeking to provide goods or services to the project.

For further details, Interested Consultants are requested to obtain further information (if required) at the address given below, during office hours from 0800 to 1600 hours Afghanistan time:

Procurement Directorate
14th floor, MCIT Main Building
Ministry of Communications and IT (MCIT)
Mohammad Jan Khan Watt; Kabul, Afghanistan
Phone: Office: +93202105632;
Email: procurement@digitalcasa.gov.af
Web site: www.mcit.gov.af

Any queries on the consultancy may also be addressed to the above mentioned email address procurement@digitalcasa.gov.af , with CC to: zahoor.zewary@digitalcasa.gov.af ; fawad.anwarzai@digitalcasa.gov.af ; zahid.stanikzai@mcit.gov.af - latest one week before the deadline for submission of expression of interest.

Expressions of interest (02 (two) Sets of all the Documents) including detailed Brochures, Resumes and other related Documents must be delivered as signed and printed documents to the following Address by March,26, 2019—before 2.00 PM Kabul time:

Procurement Directorate
14th floor, MCIT Main Building
Ministry of Communications and IT (MCIT)
Mohammad Jan Khan Watt; Kabul, Afghanistan
Phone: Office: +93202105632;
Email: procurement@digitalcasa.gov.af
Web site: www.mcit.gov.af

EOIs and other related Documents of EOI from International Consultancy Firms shall be submitted through email in PDF format, and the Original Copies of all such Documents must be delivered to MCIT via post by March, 26, 2019.

All E-Mails must be addressed to: moh.seddiqi@gmail.com and ghulam@gmail.com