



**Islamic Republic of Afghanistan**  
**Ministry of Communication and IT (MCIT)**  
**Digital CASA**

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (REOI)**  
**(Consulting Services – Firms Selection)**

**Country:** Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan  
**Project:** Digital CASA  
**Project ID:** P156894  
**Grant No:** IDA-D2820  
**PP Ref. No.:** Component 2  
**Assignment Title:** Assessment of Current Status of Afghanistan Cyber Emergency Response Team (CERT)  
**Reference No.:** PPG/EGOV/C-3  
**Date of Issuance:** March 06, 2019  
**Date of Closing:** March 26, 2019

- **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 Assignment**

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 Service:**

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.

For further information on the scope of the services, you can access the full ToR with a request to Mr. Zahoor Zewary by [zahoor.zewary@digitalcasa.gov.af](mailto:zahoor.zewary@digitalcasa.gov.af) cc: [walid.noori@digitalcasa.gov.af](mailto:walid.noori@digitalcasa.gov.af).

**Ministry of Communication and IT** now invites eligible consulting firms (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

- **The shortlisting criteria are:**

- 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.
- A consultant firm will be selected through **Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)** method as defined in World Bank Regulation for selection and employment of consultants July, **2016**, Revised November **2017** and August **2018**. Any further information required, can be obtained at the address below from Saturday to Wednesday during office hours, [i.e. **0900** to **1500** hours]. Electronic queries will also be entertained.
- Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, by mail, or by e-mail) by **March 26, 2019, 14:00 Hrs (Kabul Local Time)**.
- **Attention:**

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