



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Ministry of Communication & Information Technology
Technical Trainings & Certifications

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

(CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Ministry of Communication & Information Technology
Contract Type: Lump Sum
Project ID: AFG / 340015
Assignment Title: Consulting Services for Technical Training Programs & Certifications
Reference No: MCIT/98ICB/C-09

1. Background:

Ministry of Communications and IT (MCIT) aims to provide high quality Communications, IT, Postal Services for the Afghan people at reasonable prices and is continually striving towards transforming the existing traditional practices and procedures into a more advanced e-governance system. The ministry has been actively advocating for a positive change in the society by connecting the Afghan people to the knowledge resources, to enable them to improve the quality of their lives. The vision of the Ministry of Communications and IT (MCIT) is to transform Afghanistan into an Information Society.

2. Priorities of MCIT for the next five years are:

- To deliver the Telecom and IT services to remote areas throughout the country;
- To supply high-speed internet to the people in Afghanistan;
- To design, develop and deploy the technical platform of the National Identity Card (NID) and provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Interior (MoI) on the successful implementation of the e-ID Card Project;
- To expand the fiber optic networks in the country;
- To replace the existing analogue television (TV) broadcasting systems by digital TV broadcasting systems in the country and strengthen the regulations for broadcasting companies;

- To enhance the capacity of the Afghan government by introducing the concept of e-Government and encourage all the ministries to integrate ICT within their main work;
- EGRC-II: EGRC is USAID ‘on budget funded project based on Milestone in the premises of MCIT. This center’ became a source of technical expertise and skills, advice and guidance for development and deployment of E-Government in the ministries and provides timely, high- quality advice, training, consulting and audit services in the area of e- government to various ministries of GoA on August 21, 2015;
- The objective of EGRC Project is to introduce streamlined, modern and effective monitoring and evaluation and enhance the capacity of Government Employees.

3. Objective of the Assignment:

The Plan and Policy Directorate of Ministry of Communication and Information Technology has planned to outsource and implement several technical training programs and certifications including different courses identified based on a need assessment conducted throughout Ministry of Communication and Information Technology.

It has been identified that the MCIT staff, who are striving at different levels to achieve MCIT’s mandates require undergoing specific technical training programs and certifications considering their working areas, in order to polish their current knowledge, skills and abilities or perhaps take them to the next level. The aim is to enhance the existing performance level and productivity by acquiring and implementing the new lessons and practices back in their units and day-to-day business operations at MCIT.

4. Scope of Services:

The successful firm will be responsible to arrange, facilitate, conduct and implement the following list of training programs and certifications in coordination and consultation with MCIT. The Ministry will introduce its deserving nominees identified through a conducted Training Need Assessment (TNA).

Training / Certification Title	Type	Number of Staff Initial	Remarks
1. Project Management			
Project Management Professional (PMP)® Certification		5	+ 1 ISSD
PMI Agile Certified Practitioner (PMI-ACP)®		2	
Certified Associate in Project Management (CAPM)® Certification Prep	Training + Preparation	3	
ITIL and PMI Agile Certified Practitioner (PMI-ACP)® Training & Certification Courses	Training + Preparation	3	+1 ISSD
PRINCE2® Agile	Training + Preparation	2	
Combo of (Scrum Product Owner & Agile Expert Certified) Training & Certification	Training + Preparation	3	
2. Public Procurement			
Introductory Certificate in Public Procurement – CIPS Level 2	Training + Preparati	2	
3. Software Engineering			

MCSA: Web Application	Training + Preparation	3	
MCSA: App Builder (Microsoft Certified Solutions Develop)	Training + Preparation	3	
Developing ASP.NET MVC 5 Web Applications	Training + Preparation	3	
ASP.Net MVC Core	Training + Preparation	3	Certification NA
4. Database Administration			
MCSA: SQL 2016 Database Administration	Training + Preparation	3	
MCSA: SQL 2016 Database Development	Training + Preparation	4	
MCSE: Data Management and Analytics	Training + Preparation	4	
Developing SQL 2016 Data Models (SSAS)	Training + Preparation	2	
Administering a SQL Database Infrastructure	Training + Preparation	2	
5. Networking			
(CCNA) Cisco Certified Network Associate “Routing and Switching”	Training + Preparation	3	+1 ISSD
(CCNP) Cisco Certified Network Professional “Routing and Switching”	Training + Preparation	3	+2 ISSD
Implementing Cisco Collaboration Devices (CICD)	Training + Preparation	2	
Total Number of Participants		55	

5. Description of Engagement:

The targeted country for conduct of these training programs and certifications would be India and the planned number of program/certification participants will be introduced by MCIT based on the prior conducted Training Need Assessment (TNA).

The program or certification duration will depend on the courses and their standard contents to be covered for a particular program. However, the entire duration for implementation of the aforementioned list of technical certification programs shall not exceed a maximum duration of 60 calendar days. In addition, several groups of participants for relevant certification programs could be dealt with on simultaneous basis, in order to ensure timely implementation of the project.

The winning firm will be responsible to take care of the program invitation letters, Indian visas, air-tickets and conduct of the entire arrangements, including; local transportation, airport pick-up and drop-off in India, accommodation, meals, program refreshments, program trainer’s fee, curriculum cost, required stationary items and other miscellanies expenses.

6. Staffing and Skill Mix Needed

The successful team shall be comprised of both local and international experts with the specific experience and background, in order to conduct the assignment in a professional manner to ensure the required level of quality throughout these technical programs for MCIT staff.

7. Key Staff and Other Professionals

a) KEY PROFESSIONALS

The key professionals required for the assignment are as following;

S. No.	Positions	Reqd. Nos
1	Training and Certification Manager	1
2	Public Procurement Certification (CIPS)	1
3	Project Management Certification (PMP) Instructors / Trainers	3
4	Software Engineering Instructors / Trainers	2
5	Database Administration and Development Instructors / Trainers	2
6	Networking Instructors / Trainers	3
7	Lab / Practical Assistants	3

(International experts are preferred)

b) OTHER STAFF

Other staff required for the assignment:

S.No.	Positions	Reqd. Nos
8	Project Assistants	02

c) MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

The minimum qualifications of these Key Professionals for the Core Team of the Consultant shall be, but not limited to as given bellow:

Position	Profile
1. Training and Certification Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Holder of a master's degree in relevant fields; ▪ Minimum 5 years of experience in academic training and certification provision and management; ▪ Fluency in written and spoken English language.
2. Project Management Certification (PMP) Instructors / Trainers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Holder of a master's degree in relevant fields; ▪ PMP, PMI-ACP, CAPM certifications; ▪ PRINCE2 Certified; ▪ Minimum of 5 years' experience in project management certification training; ▪ Experience in industrial project management; ▪ Fluency in written and spoken English language.

3. Public Procurement t Certification (CIPS) Instructors / Trainers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Holder of a master’s degree in relevant fields; ▪ CIPS Certified Trainer or CIPS Mater’s Holder; ▪ Minimum of 5 years’ experience in public procurement administration and certification training; ▪ Experience in government procurement administration; ▪ Fluency in written and spoken English language.
4. Software Engineering Instructors / Trainers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Holder of a master’s degree in relevant fields; ▪ Minimum of 5 years of experience in lectureship, training of web-development courses; ▪ MCSA: Web Application, MCSD: App Builder certified ▪ 3 years of industrial level experience of web-development projects; ▪ Fluency in written and spoken English language.
5. Database Administration and Development Instructors / Trainers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Holder of a master’s degree in relevant fields; ▪ Minimum of 5 years of experience in lectureship, training of Database administration and development; ▪ MCSA: SQL 2016 Database Administration, SQL 2016 Database development, MCSE: Data Management and Analytics certifications required; ▪ Minimum of 3 years of experience in database administration And development; ▪ Fluency in written and spoken English language.
6. Networking Instructors / Trainers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Holder of a master’s degree in relevant fields; ▪ Minimum of 5 years of experience in lectureship, training of networking modules; ▪ CCNA, CCNP, CICD, CCIE certified; ▪ Minimum of 3 years of experience in network infrastructure development and deployment; ▪ Fluency in written and spoken English language.
7. Lab / Practical Assistants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Holder of a bachelor’s degree in relevant fields; ▪ Minimum of 3 years of experience in lab training; ▪ At least one certification in the relevant field; ▪ Experience of project implementation in relevant field is Preferred; ▪ Fluency in written and spoken English language.
8. Project Assistants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minimum of a bachelor’s degree in relevant fields; ▪ Minimum of 3 years of experience in training and certification projects; ▪ Ability to work in challenging circumstances; ▪ Ability to solve problems; ▪ Fluency in written and spoken English language.

The Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (MCIT) 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.

8. The short listing criteria are:

- The firms should have been in the business for the last 5 years and shall provide a copy of the certification of incorporation/business license with its EoI;
- The consultant shall demonstrate having sound financial situation by submitting audited financial reports or any other credible financial documents in which the consultant annual turnover for any of the last Five (5) years (**2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018**) shall be **240,000 (Two Hundred and Forty Thousand USD)**.
- The firms should have completed at least 1 similar contract experience worth of **100,000 (One Hundred Thousand USD)** in conduct of technical trainings and certification programs/related subjects. The consultants are required to provide copy of the contract along with clients’ certificate towards completion of such assignments with their EoI;
- In case of association between the firms or in the form of JV, the following requirements will also apply: (A) The lead partner shall meet the short listing criteria of being legal entity as under criterial (1) above. (B) Having sound financial situation as under criterion (2) and substantially meet the experience criteria under (3) above (having executed the similar assignment with contract value indicated there in). The JV partner should also meet the short listing criteria of having similar experience under (3) above (having executed the assignment with contract value as 50% of the value indicated there in). The lead partner needs to be identified in JV agreement or intention of forming JV agreement to be submitted with the EoI.
- The firm should be able to present a brief credentials and experience history of their key program experts delivering programs in relevant context;

In addition the consultant shall furnish a declaration with their EoI confirming the following;

- a) The consultant is not black listed by any agency of government of Afghanistan;
- b) Declaration by the consultant that the consultant does not have any conflict of interest of taking any assistance/support from individual/firm/consultants who have been part of the project or the procurement process;
- c) Declaration by the consultant that the information furnished in EoI is correct and for any misrepresentation detected at any stage of selection process or during execution of the resultant contract if successful, the consultant to be taken up under the laws of Afghanistan.

9. Payment terms and conditions:

- 30% will be paid upon the receipt of inception report from the consultant;
- 40% will be paid upon start of the arrangements for program and participants’ departure;
- 30% will be paid upon successful completion of the program and receipt of certificates.

The consultant will be selected in accordance with the Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) procedures set out in Afghanistan Public Procurement Manual. Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub consultancy to enhance their qualifications.

Expressions of interest should be no more than Fifteen (15) pages in length and must be delivered in a written form either personally or through any track able courier service on or before (**April 25, 2019**), **1400 hrs (Kabul Local Time)** in a sealed envelope.

Please mark the envelope with the superscription “Expression of Interest for Consulting Services on Technical Training Programs & Certifications for MCIT (AFG)”**Ref. No: (MCIT/98/ICB/C-09)** QCBS and send to the following address:

Technical Focal Point from Plan & Policy Directorate

Mr. Manzoor Shaheed

Position: Policy and Program Support Unit Coordinator

Office: PPD

Organization: MCIT

Email: shaheed.azad@gmail.com