

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (Consultant Services for Technical and DLI Audit – FIRMS SELECTION)

ALBANIA

Results – Based Road Maintenance and Safety Project (RRMSP)

Loan No: 8489 – AL

Project ID No.: P 132982

Assignment Title: Consultant Services for Technical and DLI Audit of Four Contracts of Output and Performance – based Maintenance Contracts for Albania National Road Network

Reference No. (as per Procurement Plan): CS 10

The Government of the Republic of Albania has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Results – Based Road Maintenance and Safety Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for the related Independent Annual Technical and DLI Audit services.

This assignment has two core components, the objectives of which are :

- a. Consultant Services for Technical – to verify that the processes and physical works related to the performance – based maintenance activities, are being carried out in accordance with contractual requirements and intents of the Project Documents; and
- b. Consultant Services for DLI Audit – to verify progress and the level of achievement against the Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLIs).

In order to achieve these objectives, the Consultant will:

- a. Prepare the methodology for the technical assessment and audit of the performance – based maintenance activities, i.e.: OPBRM Contracts and Monitoring Consultant, against the indicators specified in their contracts.
- b. Verify the availability of loan – financed funding for the performance – based maintenance activities on a given calendar year, and ARA's planning/budgeting for the consecutive year.
- c. Understand the DLI mechanism and prepare the methodology of assessing them, based on the intent of the Project Documents.
- d. Audit, verify and confirm the level of actual achievement against the annual DLI targets.
- e. In relation to the DLI achievement (annual and end – project targets), confirm how they impact the flow of disbursements from WB loan proceeds, as well as the counterpart budgeting that should be provide to respect contractual obligations.

The Albanian Roads Authority now invites eligible consulting firms and consortiums of 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 short listing criteria are:

- Previous and similar experience (successful).
- Firms organization and staffing.
- Core business and years in business.

The Consultant firm must be able to demonstrate previous successful experience in similar assignments in the past 15 years. The firm must be fully independent and must not be related in any way to (i) any of the contractors working on RRMSP, or (ii) the Monitoring consultant who have been retained by ARA for the RRMSP. Additionally, the Consultant shall provide evidence as to how it proposes to retain the same staff for the duration of the assignment, and if possible, the key professional staff should be existing international staff of the Consultant.

The consultant firm is expected conduct the services for the duration of 5 years offering a level efforts of 34 months. The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank's *Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants [under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants] by World Bank Borrowers* dated January 2011 and revised in July 2014 ("Consultant Guidelines"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub – consultancy to enhance their qualifications.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method set out in the Consultant Guidelines.

The ARA now invites eligible consultants to express their interest in providing the services by submitting the requested information at the address given below.

Further information can be obtained at the ARA in the address below, during office hours 08.00 to 16.00.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the ARA address (in person, or by mail, or by fax, or by e – mail) **not later than 25 January 2017**.

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