

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)

Country: Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

Name of Project: Eastern Africa Regional Digital Integration Project (EARDIP)

Project ID: P180931

Assignment Title: Selecting a consulting firm that Assess the national broadband and mobile network infrastructure and service access gaps, develop initiatives to address the gaps, prepare procurement documents, and implement the Universal Access Fund.

Reference No.: ET-MINT-458265-CS-QCBS

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Eastern Africa Regional Digital Integration Project (EARDIP) and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services (“the Services”) include **Selecting a consulting firm that Assess the national broadband and mobile network infrastructure and service access gaps, develop initiatives to address the gaps, prepare procurement documents, and implement the Universal Access Fund.**

1. Introduction

The importance of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and telecommunications for sustainable development is recognized worldwide, and they are considered essential for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The three pillars of sustainable development - economic development, social inclusion, and environmental protection - require ICT and telecommunications as key catalysts (ITU).

2. Objectives

This initiative aims to ensure that all citizens, especially those in rural and remote areas with insufficient coverage, have equal access to telecommunications services. These efforts are crucial for promoting social inclusion, stimulating economic development, and enhancing overall quality of life. Although the consulting firm will take on extra tasks and responsibilities, these objectives are still top priorities.

3. Specific objectives

The specific objectives of this assignment include, but are not limited to, the following activities:

- 1. Review and Conduct a Nationwide Detailed Network Access Gap Analysis.**
- 2. Identifying Network Access Gaps**
- 3. Creating initiatives to fill recognized Connectivity gaps**
- 4. Creating procurement documents**
- 5. Awarding the development projects for mobile network infrastructure.**
- 6. Develop Project Implementation Plan**
- 7. Operationalize the Universal Access Fund (UAF)**
- 8. Capacity building and on-time assistance.**
- 9. Documentations and Reporting**

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment *can be found on the following website: www.dfp.gov.et or can be obtained at the address given below.*

Ministry of Innovation and Technology- Eastern Africa Regional Digital Integration Project now invites eligible Consulting firms 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 core business and years in business, relevant experience in the field of assignment, technical and managerial capability of the firm.**

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers dated September 2023 ("Procurement Regulation"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub-consultancy. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected.

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

Interested and qualified consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours 08:30 to 12:00 & 14:30 to 17:00, Mondays to Thursdays; and 08:30 to 11:00 & 14:30 to 17:00 on Fridays.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by e-mail) on or before October 8th, 2025.

Ministry of Innovation and Technology (MInT)
Eastern Africa Regional Digital Integration Project
Attn: Focal Person, Project Implementation Unit (PIU)
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