

# MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE ACCOUNT NEPAL (MCA-NEPAL)

## REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

### **Request for Information about prospective Consulting Services for Embedded (Resident) Regulatory Advisors for Electricity Regulatory Commission (ERC) under Electricity Transmission Project (Power Sector Technical Assistance Activity) in Nepal**

#### **Background**

The Millennium Challenge Corporation (“MCC”) and the Government of Nepal (the “Government” or “GoN”) have entered into a Millennium Challenge Compact for Millennium Challenge Account assistance to help facilitate poverty reduction through economic growth in Nepal (the “Compact”) in the amount of approximately USD 500 million “MCC Funding” and 130 million GoN Funding. The Government is acting through the Millennium Challenge Account-Nepal (the “MCA-Nepal”) for the implementation of the projects funded under the Compact.

The goal of the Compact is to reduce poverty through economic growth. The Compact program includes two projects: (i) construction of about 300 kilometers of 400kV electricity transmission lines, three substations, and technical assistance for the power sector (the “Electricity Transmission Project” (ETP)); and (ii) technical assistance to improve the road maintenance regime and road maintenance works on about 300 kilometers of the strategic road network (the “Road Maintenance Project” (RMP)). The technical assistance activity for the power sector will support activities designed to strengthen the performance of Nepal’s power sector institutions, including the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) and the Electricity Regulatory Commission (ERC) in support of the overall project objective. The Compact can be accessed at:

[http://mcanp.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Millennium\\_Challenge\\_Compact.pdf](http://mcanp.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Millennium_Challenge_Compact.pdf).

The Millennium Challenge Account Nepal (MCA-Nepal) is in the process of gathering information to support the development of anticipated consultancy assignments to support the newly established Nepal Electricity Regulatory Commission (ERC). MCA-Nepal expects to hire long-term (the assignment would include a base period of one to two (1-2) years for each position and an additional two to three (2-3) years option period based on their performance (if exercised and at the sole discretion of MCA-Nepal) embedded advisors for the ERC, who can perform a diverse set of activities to establish a sound regulatory framework, working in partnership with direct-hire staff at ERC on an embedded (resident) basis with location in Kathmandu, Nepal. The objectives of this support are to build the capacity of ERC staff in core regulatory skills and principles; help ERC permanent staff and commissioners to put in place effective organizational practices; deliver on early regulatory priorities such as implementing a consistent tariff process, a monitoring framework, and effective oversight of development of the sector; and to strengthen the awareness and commitment of the public and other stakeholders to the new regulatory framework.

This is a **Request for Information (RFI)**, which offers the opportunity for interested organizations/ consulting firms to provide recommendations on approaches to contracting the expected technical assistance for the ERC. In responding to this RFI, significant emphasis should

be placed on reflecting capacity to respond to different contracting scenarios and risks or constraints that may help inform MCA-Nepal's decision-making.

MCA-Nepal is seeking responses to the questions in this RFI outlined below. MCA-Nepal is not seeking proposals at this time. Responses to this RFI are voluntary. Responders are free to address any or all questions, as well as provide additional information they think is relevant. MCA-Nepal will not compensate respondents for any information provided in response to this RFI. Any future solicitations related to the MCA-Nepal initiative will be announced at <https://mcanp.org/>, [www.mcc.gov](http://www.mcc.gov), [www.mcc.dgmarket.com](http://www.mcc.dgmarket.com) and [www.devbusiness.com](http://www.devbusiness.com) at a later date.

### **Information Requested**

The prospective consulting firms are requested to provide information that will help MCA-Nepal to develop an effective approach to support the ERC through the Compact with embedded advisors playing a critical role. The information requested are as follows:

1. Name of the Organization/firm/Consultant, Address, Contact Person, E-mail ID of Contact Person.
2. What is your firm's capability and interest in mobilizing resources in, including but not limited to, these primary areas of Economic/Financial Regulatory Advisory, Technical Regulatory Advisory, Legal Regulatory Advisory and Policy Regulatory Advisory for full-time, long-term support? The assignment is for a base period of one to two (1-2) years and an additional two to three (2-3) years option period based on their performance (if exercised and at the sole discretion of MCA-Nepal) based in Kathmandu. What timeframe do you feel would be appropriate for this type of assignment?
3. In addition to technical skills, there is also a need to support the ERC in establishing basic operational practices and procedures (such as staff on-boarding and performance management, decision-making processes, etc.). How would you select a member of your team to play this role, among the pool of the embedded advisors? The experiences of the team leader need to be at least 20 years.
4. Have your firm provided experts in the field for similar size and complexity advisory in past, if yes, which experts/advisors have you provided and on which assignment. Does your firm have access to adequate personnel with South Asia regional experience to fully staff this assignment?
5. What other methods of staffing this assignment to achieve the expected goals could be applied instead of or complementary to the long-term advisory support? This could include, for example, part-time or intermittent support instead of embedded advisors.
6. What are the benefits to the assignment could your firm provide in contrast to the use of individual consultants?
7. What are key challenges or obstacles to providing support to the new regulator would you anticipate given experience on similar projects in other locations?
8. If your firm has advisors in your List of Principle Consultant that matches our requirement, please provide short CVs.

9. What arrangements would you expect to be in place in order for you to effectively mobilize for this type of assignment?
10. What are key factors that will determine the success of an assignment to support the new regulator? Based on the draft terms of reference, what period would you consider necessary to extend this support?
11. MCA-Nepal anticipates mobilizing resources around August 2020 for this support. Please describe your ability to mobilize to Nepal for carrying out the works, if located outside Nepal according to this timeline and the amount of time required to mobilize for mentioned scope of works.
12. Any additional relevant comment for the assignment

## **RESPONSES SUBMISSION GUIDELINE**

We have provided draft Terms of Reference (ToR) and forms for submitting response for consulting services for embedded advisors at the link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/wragrcm1tobhzzj/AACGR6qsHE8svy-VD5OCxdUSa?dl=0>

Going through the information provided, please send us response to questions mentioned above to our email id [MCANepalPA@cardno.com](mailto:MCANepalPA@cardno.com) with a copy to [MCANepalPA@mcanp.org](mailto:MCANepalPA@mcanp.org) by **03 February 2020**

### **Important:**

This is not a request for offers/proposal/expression of interest. MCA-Nepal is not hereby requesting the submission of proposals in response to this Request for Information notice. This is also not intended to be a shortlisting process. The purpose of this Request for Information notice are as follows:

- (a) Request Information from prospective Consultants to inform preparation of upcoming procurement for assignment in Nepal.
- (b) Identify interested and qualified Consultants.

MCA-Nepal intends to publish a Specific Procurement Notice for Request for Expression of Interest or directly release the Request for Proposal Document with final Request for Proposal by March 2020.

This Request for Information notice does not obligate MCA-Nepal to release a Procurement Document or award a contract, nor does it commit MCA-Nepal to pay for costs incurred in response to this Request for Information notice.

Consultants interested in receiving the Procurement Document should register their interest by sending an e-mail, giving full contact details of the Consultant to the below mentioned address. This will ensure that the prospective consulting services (Organization/firm/consultant as applicable) receive a copy of the Procurement Document and updates regarding the Procurement Document.

### **Millennium Challenge Account - Nepal**

**Hotel Yak & Yeti Convention Center, second floor, Durbar Marg**

**Katmandu, Nepal.**

**Attention: Procurement Agent**

**Email: [MCANepalPA@cardno.com](mailto:MCANepalPA@cardno.com) with a copy to [MCANepalPA@mcanp.org](mailto:MCANepalPA@mcanp.org)**

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