

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
**Ministry of Finance**  
**Economic Relations Division (ERD)**  
**Support Implementation of the Revenue Mobilization Program for Results**  
**Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207**

Memo No. 09.240.024.00.00.038.2015-860

Date: 12.05.2015

**Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI)**  
**For**  
**Independent Verification Consultant**  
**(International Professional Services Firm)**

The Government of Bangladesh has approved a Development Project – the VAT Online Project in 2013 to ensure that a modern tax administration is in place to implement the new VAT Law when it comes into effect. The VAT Online Project 2014-2019 is being led by the VAT wing in the NBR and is critical component of the government's broader tax reform agenda as articulated in the Tax Modernization Plan. The Government's program is supported by financial assistance from the World Bank (WB). The WB financing is under a Program for Results (PfR) operation. In order to support the VAT Online Project, the Bank's financing focuses on the actual results, both in terms of successful completion of project milestones, and in terms of outputs. The program will disburse against achievement of the DLIs as described in the Financing Agreement and the Project Appraisal Document, which have been independently verified as having been achieved. The NBR will be responsible for ensuring that the DLIs are achieved and for preparing the monitoring reports and evidence twice a year on progress against DLIs, and sending these monitoring reports to the Economic Relations Division (ERD) of the Ministry of Finance.

Given the emphasis on disbursing against DLIs, there is a need for a verification protocol for determining whether or not DLIs have been achieved. The verification protocol requires the services of a professional firm to undertake an independent verification of the DLIs and prepare a report for the Government of Bangladesh and the World Bank. ERD is responsible for overall reporting to the World Bank on the program results and performance of the results framework and DLIs. Hence, ERD is seeking to contract an independent third party consultant firm for the verification of all DLIs, selected Program Action Plan items and Project Development Objective of Proactive Disclosure.

**The consultancy services ("The Services") include:**

- a) To review monitoring reports from NBR and to independently measure the Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLIs) of the VAT Improvement Program/VAT Online Project;
- b) To provide an independent assessment and verification of the DLIs and determine whether they have been achieved;
- c) To propose and agree with the World Bank and ERD the methodology and timing for conducting the independent verification of each DLIs, and Program Action Plan (PAP) actions outlined in the ToR;
- d) To assess whether certain Program Action Plan items have been complied with;
- e) To provide a half-yearly report with the measurement and verification assessment of the DLIs and assessment of the PAP actions to ERD, NBR, and the WB;
- f) To measure the PDO indicator of Proactive Disclosure.

The duration of the services will be 52 (Fifty Two) months, or earlier depending on the completion of all DLIs. The firm shall provide a team of suitably qualified and experienced 'key personnel' to undertake the assignment.



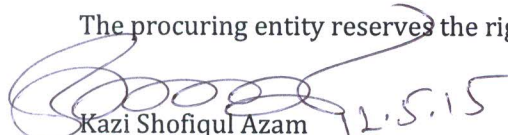
The Economic Relations Division now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the said Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experiences to perform the Services. The short listing criteria are:

- a) Number of years of experience as a professional services consultancy firm (minimum 5 years; Consultants will submit registration papers to demonstrate this experience).
- b) The financial resources of the consultant (turnover of last three years; Consultants will submit audited financial reports to demonstrate its turnover.)
- c) The experiences of the firm in similar tasks/assignments (minimum two examples of past experience in similar nature and/or complexity including cost and duration of the assignment).
- d) Qualifications of team members (technical expertise of the key personnel both international and local).

Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications and if associated, should mention whether the association is in the form of "joint venture" or "sub-consultancy". The firm will be selected in accordance with the selection procedures based on *Quality and Cost-Based Selection (QCBS)* method set out in Public Procurement Rules-2008 of Bangladesh and the contract will be Lump-Sum based. The Terms of Reference of the above consultancy services is available in the office of undersigned along with Economic Relations Division's website ([www.erd.gov.bd](http://www.erd.gov.bd)) which will provide detailed scope of works and required qualifications and experiences.

Expressions of Interest (EOI) must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by fax, or by e-mail). The last date for submission of EOI is **11 June 2015 by 02:00PM (BST)**. EOI shall be in a sealed envelope and be clearly marked '**EOI for Independent Verification Consultant**'. International applicants may send their EOI by e-mail at [pcvatonline.tech@gmail.com](mailto:pcvatonline.tech@gmail.com) mentioning '**EOI for Independent Verification Consultant**' as subject. Any application received after the deadline will not be considered for further proceedings.

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all the EOI's.

  
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