

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (REOI)

CONSULTANCY SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION

Framework Agreement to Conduct External Financial Audit of AUDA-NEPAD Programmes and Projects over a period of three years

PROCUREMENT NUMBER: 88/AUDA/DOO/LCS/2023

1. INTRODUCTION

The African Union Development Agency-New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD) is the development agency of the African Union, focusing on promoting sustainable socio-economic growth and development throughout the continent. The organization's vision is to transform Africa into “The Africa We Want” as articulated in Agenda 2063: Africa that is globally competitive and socio-economically integrated, driven by good governance, inclusiveness, and self-reliance.

The African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) is critical in coordinating and executing priority continental and regional development programmes and projects funded by our international development partners.

The Agency receives funds from the African Union through Member States contribution and partner grants from development partners such as KFW, GIZ, World Bank, AfDB, BMGF, SIDA, NORAD, EU, Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation etc.

The Agency currently has about 58 projects funded by development partners for which we are required to conduct annual financial audits. The grants value ranges from US\$300,000 to US\$96,000,000. Most of these funds are used to support various thematic areas such as Health, infrastructure, Agriculture, Science and innovation, and women empowerment and Youth entrepreneurial development.

AUDA-NEPAD is undertaking the Primary Procurement with a view to concluding Framework Agreements. The AUDA-NEPAD is the sole Purchaser under the Framework Agreement[s]. The AUDA-NEPAD now invites proposals from eligible Bidders for Framework Agreement to Conduct External Financial Audit of AUDA-NEPAD Programmes and Projects over a period of three years.

2. OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of the assignment is to establish a framework agreement that will govern the provision of external audit services to the AUDA-NEPAD for a period of three years. The selected audit firm will be responsible for conducting financial statement audits and assessing the effectiveness of internal controls in accordance with applicable auditing standards and regulatory requirements.

3. SCOPE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The audit will be conducted in accordance with international audit standards (ISA) issued by IAASB. In addition, and in some instances, the assignment will require services to be carried out according to International Standards on Related Services (ISRS) 4400. This additional assignment according

to agreed-upon procedures ISRS 4400 under section II, shall be reported separately in an “Agreed-upon procedures report”. Performed procedures will be described and the findings should be reported in accordance with the requirements in the International Standard on Related Services 4400.

4. **EXPECTED OUTPUTS:**

The AUDA-NEPAD management expects to receive audit opinion in full financial audits of the financial statements and an assurance report in assurance Engagements other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information as per ISAE 3000 (Revised). In assignments that require services to be carried out according to International Standards on Related Services (ISRS) 4400, a separate Agreed-upon procedures report will be requested.

In all audit engagements management expects to receive the management letter that identified internal controls weakness and recommendations.

5. The African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) 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.
6. Interested firms must provide information indicating that they are qualified and experienced to perform the services. The shortlisting criteria are:
 - a. An Official signed Letter from an authorized official, expressing interest of the firm to participate in the Consultancy.
 - b. Signed declaration of undertaking.
 - c. General profile and background of the firm which should elaborate the following:
 - i. Core Business of the firms
 - ii. Names of authorized representatives of the firms (Power of Attorney).
 - iii. In the cases of Consortiums/Partnerships/Associations shall be required to submit Joint venture Agreements/Joint Association letters stating the lead firm.
 - iv. Commercial Registration of the firms attaching Registrations certificates.
 - d. Experience of the Firm in handling consultancy services of a similar nature. Firm to include written references from at least 3 institutional clients with contact details;
 - e. The Audit Firm must be a member of a national accounting or auditing body or institution which in turn is a member of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC). Proof of Membership must be attached; and
 - f. Availability of Professional Key Staff with Suitable Qualifications and experience in the field of assignment.
7. AUDA-NEPAD will shortlist 3-8 best qualified and experienced firms to submit detailed technical and financial proposals.
8. The Framework Agreements to be concluded will be with multi-supplier (2-3 suppliers).
9. The Framework Agreements shall be concluded for a Term of three (3) years from the commencement date stated in the Framework Agreement and the Auditor shall be engaged on an ad-hoc bases at the agreed daily rates and number of days to be determined before each audit by an engagement letter.
10. The Framework Agreement(s) to be concluded may be Multi-User for all the African Union Organs and specialised institutions.
11. The selection of a FA Supplier to be awarded a Call-off Contract will be done through rotation and availability. However, the conclusion of a Framework Agreement shall not impose any obligation on the Procuring Agency, including participating Purchasers, to purchase services under a Call-off Contract. The conclusion Framework Agreement does not guarantee that a FA Supplier will be awarded a Call-off Contract.
12. The Primary Procurement shall establish a Closed Framework Agreement(s).
13. Reporting and Time Schedules: The duration of assignment is expected to last for three (3) years. The Consultant will report directly to the Head of Finance.

14. Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub-consultancy to enhance their qualifications. Firms from African Union Members States and/or joint ventures will have an added advantage.
15. A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the **Least Cost Based Selection (LCS)** method set out in the AU Procurement Guidelines. **This is an Expression of Interest (EOI) only; submission of Financial Proposals is not applicable at this stage.**
16. AUDA-NEPAD reserves the right to verify any information provided by prospective entities/individuals and false information will lead to disqualification. The AUDA-NEPAD Agency reserves the right to cancel or reject any or all EOIs without stating any reason.
17. Only Consulting Firms are eligible for this assignment if they fulfil the following eligibility criteria:
 - a) Have no conflict of interest in relationship to performance of this assignment.
 - b) Are not subject to, and not controlled by any entity or individual that is subject to, a temporary suspension or a debarment imposed by the Africa Union, World Bank or any other multilateral development bank and being listed on the website <http://www.worldbank.org/debarr> or respectively on the relevant list of any other multilateral development bank. Further, we are not ineligible under pursuant to a decision of the United Nations Security Council along with any of these sub-consultants, subcontractors, suppliers, or service providers for any part of the contract.
 - c) Have not been convicted by a final judgement or a final administrative decision or subject to financial sanctions by the United Nations or Country for involvement in a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorist-related offences, child labour or trafficking in human beings; this criterion of exclusion is also applicable to legal Persons, whose majority of shares are held or factually controlled by natural or legal Persons which themselves are subject to such convictions or sanctions;
 - d) Are not a shell company nor has their company been created specifically for this bid and are legally registered to operate a business under the Laws of their country; and
 - e) Are not being bankrupt, wound up or ceasing our activities, having their activities administered by courts, having entered receivership, reorganisation or being in any analogous situation.
 - f) Are not involved in corruption: offering, giving, receiving or soliciting, directly or indirectly, anything of value to influence improperly the actions of another party.
 - g) Comply with their national tax and social security laws.
18. Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by the **21st September 2023 14:30hrs (South African Time)**, and should be clearly marked as **“Framework Agreement to Conduct External Financial Audit of AUDA-NEPAD Programmes and Projects over a period of three years. REF 88/AUDA/DOO/LCS/2023”**
19. EOIs can also be sent by email, addressed to the address below. Interested Consultants may also obtain further information at the address below during office hours (09:00 - 17:00 South Africa time):

The Chairperson, Internal Procurement Committee (IPC)
African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD)
230, 15th Road, P. O. Box 218 Midrand,
1685 Johannesburg, South Africa
Email: procurement@nepad.org ; and copy bathom@nepad.org

Attention of: Procurement Division

Privacy Policy: AUDA-NEPAD Procurement office collects and uses your personal information for “Procurement Process” when you intend to compete and deliver any service or goods for the organization either individually or as a firm based on your consent. Your personal data is our highest security and kept for a period strictly necessary for the purpose set out. This privacy notice supplements

the AUDA-NEPAD standard privacy notice and should be read in conjunction with the same available on AUDA-NEPAD website.