



**LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC**  
**PEACE INDEPENDENCE DEMOCRACY UNITY PROSPERITY**

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Ministry of Planning and Investment  
Lao Statistics Bureau  
LAOSTAT-II Project

Ref. No. 112 / LSB.LAII  
Date: 6 February 2025

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESS OF INTEREST**  
**DATA SECURITY ENHANCEMENT AND IT INFRASTRUCTURE AUDIT SERVICES**  
**(REF. No. CS-09)**

The Lao Statistics Bureau (LSB) is implementing the "Lao PDR Strengthening the National Statistical Project (LAOSTAT II)" from 2023 to 2028. This project is closely aligned with Vision 2030 and the Strategy for the Development of the National Statistical System (SDNSS - 2016-2025), which outlines key strategies for the sustained development of the national statistical system, known as the Lao PDR Statistical System (LSS). LSS includes LSB, statistical centers of line ministries, and those at the provincial and district levels. The project aims to modernize LSS by enhancing the capacity of both LSB and LSS to produce and disseminate high-quality statistics in a timely manner to enhance the use of key statistics, and in case of an Eligible Crisis or Emergency, respond promptly and effectively.

Specifically, LSB is planning to enhance its IT system and data security within on-premises data center, ICT infrastructure and cloud service. The aim is to implement a Hybrid Data Center Environment to manage and support the integrated/load-balancing data platform, the new centralized data portal, and the Population and Housing Census (PHC) 2025. To address the challenges of the LSB's IT infrastructure, there is an increasing demand for system security and data protection. Those critical issues need to be analyzed/audited technically and professionally by an advanced/ experienced IT consulting firm with special tools/software and skilled experts, and based on the best IT practices and international standard.

This REOI is issued for Consulting Service for Data Security Enhancement and IT Infrastructure Audit Services. The objective of this consultancy is to support LSB's IT infrastructure for data security enhancement in line with the current expected needs of LSB and its stakeholders and for transformation and modernization of LSB's IT Infrastructure, mainly focusing on LSB's on-premises data center, cloud service system/data security, access management and secure operations, as well as on recommendations for action. An IT consulting firm will also have to recover data and solve critical issues found during this assignment and verify how the systems meet the above-mentioned needs of support and will recommend measures to ensure that LSB's IT infrastructure meets the best international IT practices and IT system security standard as mentioned in the scope of work. More details on the assignment are provided in the Terms of Reference (TOR), which can be obtained at the address given below.

The LAOSTAT-II Project 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. The Consultants is expected to be a firm or an association of consulting firms or association of independent consultants with the appropriate capabilities and experience to execute the services. The shortlisting criteria are:

- At least 10 years of practical experience in IT system and network auditing and IT security management in local and regional areas;
- Minimum 7 years of such demonstrated experiences should be in IT audit process of line ministries, inter-government, or nonprofit organizations; and
- The firm also should have an expert-level knowledge and practical experience in IT system, security, risk management analysis in large-scale IT projects.

Key Experts and staff qualifications in general will not be evaluated at this stage.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraphs 3.14, 3.16 and 3.17 of the World Bank's Regulations - Procurement in Investment Project Financing - Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services (July 2016, revised November 2020 edition), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

A consulting firm will be selected in accordance with the Consultants Qualification-based Selection (CQS) method set out in the Procurement Regulations. A shortlist of firms will be established based on the submitted expressions of interest and in line with the criteria as outlined above.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours from 8.00 to 16.00, Monday to Friday. Expression of interest must be delivered to the address below by 17:00 (Local time of Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR, GMT+7) of 23 February 2025 as the deadline for the submission (electronic submission is acceptable).

Cabinet, Lao Statistics Bureau, Ministry of Planning and Investment  
Dongnasok Village, Sikhottabong District, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR.

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