

REQUEST FOR EXPRESS OF INTEREST
NATIONAL PROCUREMENT CONSULTANT TO SUPPORT DPF - MPWT
REFERENCE No. CRRCIP-IC-05

The Government of Lao Peoples Democratic Republic (GoL) has received financing support from the World Bank's (WB) International Development Association (IDA) to implement the Lao PDR Climate Resilient Road Connectivity Improvement Project (CRRCIP), and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The proposed of Climate Resilient Road Connectivity Improvement Project (CRRCIP) seeks to build about 300 km of District Roads and Rural Roads in the poor districts of Khammouan, Savannakhet, and Saravan provinces. The MPWT in consultation with the DPWT of these three provinces had identified a long list of proposed roads. About 100 km of roads in each of the provinces will be selected from the roads in this longlist through a prioritization exercise based on aspects which include: (i) passing through a poor district – based on poverty headcount, (ii) criticality of the link for climate resiliency of the network, (iii) connectivity to agricultural areas; (iv) population served by the road, (v) traffic level, (vi) not passing through environmentally sensitive areas, and (vii) no resettlement of more than 200 people (or 40 households) and/or more than 40 households severely affected with 10 percent of productive assets owned by individual household lost in all three target provinces. The proposed project provides connectivity to National Roads and access to the east-west economic corridor between Vietnam and Thailand thus increasing market linkages and contributing towards greater economic gains to the local communities.

The CRRCIP now intends to recruit an individual consultant (the Consultant) at central level for assisting DPF and DOR-MPWT in procurement process as per the procurement plan of CRRCIP as requested by MPWT. The Consultant will also provide on the job training and other types of capacity building directly related to procurement guidelines, procurement process and actual experience on procurement.

This assignment is intended as a full-time contract with an individual consultant, with a total estimated time-input of 24 months and with a possibility of annual renewal based on satisfactory performance review and the Project's needs.

The CRRCIP now invites eligible individual consultants to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultant should provide information (CV, Expression of Interest, other supporting information, if any) demonstrating that s/he has the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. In order to qualify for this position, the candidates shall meet the following experience and competence requirements:

- At least a bachelor's degree in procurement, business administration, finance, engineering or any related field.
- At least 8 years of relevant working experience in public procurement and 5 years of experience in a similar position; experience in Output-Based Road Contract will be an asset;
- Experience working with major donor funded projects, particularly with World Bank or ADB funded projects, will be an advantage
- Proficiency in English – speaking and writing in both English and Lao languages.

The attention of interested consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" 4th edition of November 2020 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest. A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Competitive Selection of Individual Consultants method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person or by e-mail) on or before 19 May 2025, 16:00 o'clock Lao time (submissions via email are also acceptable). Only the shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Department Planning and Finance, Ministry of Public Works and Transport
Lanexang Avenue, Phonxai Village, Saysettha District, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR.

Attention : Mr. Vannasone K. Thepvongsa
Deputy Director General, Department Planning and Finance (DPF - MPWT)
Email : proc.dpf.mpwt@gmail.com with Cc : pphonh.plv@gmail.com, inthapada@hotmail.com and maxmahaxay11@hotmail.com

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Phitsaphonh Philavong

Deputy Director General, Department of Roads (DOR - MPWT)
Head of Project Procurement Committee

TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

NATIONAL PROCUREMENT CONSULTANT TO SUPPORT DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND FINANCE REFERENCE No. CRRCIP-IC-05

1. Background

The Climate Resilient Road Connectivity Improvement Project (CRRCIP) seeks to build about 300 km of District Roads and Rural Roads in the poor districts of Khammouan, Savannakhet, and Saravan provinces. The MPWT in consultation with the DPWT of these three provinces had identified a long list of proposed roads. About 100 km of roads in each of the provinces will be selected from the roads in this longlist through a prioritization exercise based on aspects which include: (i) passing through a poor district – based on poverty headcount, (ii) criticality of the link for climate resiliency of the network, (iii) connectivity to agricultural areas, (iv) population served by the road, (v) traffic level, (vi) not passing through environmentally sensitive areas, and (vii) no resettlement of more than 200 people (or 40 households) and/or more than 40 households severely affected with 10 percent of productive assets owned by individual household lost in all three target provinces. The proposed project provides connectivity to National Roads and access to the east-west economic corridor between Vietnam and Thailand thus increasing market linkages and contributing towards greater economic gains to the local communities. The proposed project will benefit about 600,000 people (approximately 8 percent of the country's population) in poor districts of Khammouan, Savannakhet, and Saravan provinces.

2. Project Development Objectives

Achievement of the Project Development Objective (PDO) will be measured by the following indicators : (a). proportion of inhabitants connected to climate resilient all-weather roads in the targeted provinces; (b). access disruption along the project roads due to climate hazards (number of days multiplied by section length per year); and (c). number of new road projects implemented by the Ministry of Public Works and Transport that include climate resilient designs.

Achievement of the PDO will also be demonstrated through improvements by the end of the project with respect to Core Sector Indicators and other intermediate indicators including: (i) travel time along the project roads, (ii) kilometers of project roads constructed with road safety infrastructure, (iii) use of climate resilient road network planning and prioritization for infrastructure investments, (iv) Increase in road user satisfaction on the project roads - dis-aggregated by gender, and (v) 50 Female last-year university students and graduates recruited for 6-month paid internship program at MPWT in the areas of engineering/similar male-dominated fields.

3. Components of Project

The CRRCIP will have the following components as detailed below:

Component 1 : Climate Resilient Road Access (Total : US\$48.7 million; IDA : US\$47.9 million, Government of Lao PDR : US\$0.8 million) : The project will support (i) improvement of about 300 km of District Roads and Rural Roads in the provinces of Khammouan, Savannakhet, and Saravan to the standards of Class V/VI roads as per MPWT's Road Design Manual and addressing climate and disaster resilience aspects, (ii) construction supervision of the project road improvement works, (iii) financial audit, (iv) technical audit of the project road improvement works during construction, (v) environmental and social monitoring, (vi) road safety audit of the project road designs, (vii) road user satisfaction surveys carried out at the start of implementation, at mid-term, and at the close of the project, (viii) incremental operating costs, and (ix) land acquisition, resettlement, and rehabilitation which will be fully funded by the Government of Lao PDR.

Component 2 : Project Management (Total : US\$3.3 million; IDA : US\$3.1 million, Government of Lao PDR : US\$0.2 million) : This component will support (i) financial audit, (ii) technical audit of the project road improvement works during construction, (iii) environmental and social monitoring, (iv) road safety audit of the project road designs and awareness campaigns, (v) road user satisfaction surveys carried out at the start of

implementation of works, at mid-term, and at the close of the project, (vi) incremental operating costs, (vii) technical and operational assistance for the day-to-day management, monitoring and evaluation of the Project, and (viii) land acquisition, resettlement, and rehabilitation.

Component 3 : Institutional Development (Total : US\$2 million; IDA : US\$2 million) : This component will support MPWT in (i) capacity building of local contractors in the areas of Output and Performance-based Road Contracts, climate resilience, road safety, and environmental and social risk management, (ii) capacity building of MPWT and DPWTs in road inventory data collection, and climate resilient road network planning and prioritization, (iii) preparation of a gender action plan, and (iv) training of MPWT and DPWT staff on cross-cutting issues including road safety, gender, citizen engagement, and climate disaster risk.

Component 4 : Contingent Emergency Response Component (Total : US\$0 million; IDA : US\$0 million) : This component will support MPWT in case of an Eligible Crisis or Emergency in responding promptly and effectively to it as per the Contingent Emergency Response Manual.

The CRRCIP Project now intends to recruit an individual consultant (the Consultant) at central level for assisting DOR and DPF-MPWT in procurement process as per the procurement plan of CRRCIP as requested by MPWT. The Consultant will also provide on the job training and other types of capacity building directly related to procurement guidelines, procurement process and actual experience on procurement. The Consultant will be selected in accordance with the 'World Bank Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers : Procurement in Investment Project Financing', (hereinafter referred to as 'Procurement Regulations') dated September 2023.

4. Objective of the Assignment

The objectives of this assignment are to support the DOR, DPF and Procurement Secretariat Committee (PSC) by ensuring that all procurement is conducted in accordance with the procurement procedures and the procurement plan of CRRCIP as agreed between the World Bank and the Government of Lao PDR in a manner of economy, efficiency and transparency. The National Procurement Consultant (NPC) will be responsible for leading, supporting and assisting a procurement team comprising of procurement officer in potential procurement staff and/or the focal point in relevant Department within MPWT to successfully implement all procurement activities of the CRRCIP.

5. Scope of Work and Main Tasks

The tasks of the NPC will support Procurement Secretariat Committee (PSC), Project Management Unit (PMU) and work closely, under supervision of DDG of DOR and DPF and PSC, with line departments and ministries concerned in preparing ToRs, bidding Documents and specification and with the staff of the project Bid Evaluation Committee (BEC) and will be reporting to the respective Project Coordination Committee (PCC) and Director General (DG) of each component. The tasks of Procurement Consultant will include, but not limited to the following:

- 1) Procurement planning and management: Procurement consultants play a key role in the planning and management of the procurement process. This includes:
 - a. developing a work plan and timeline for the procurement activities,
 - b. identifying potential risks and mitigation measures and ensuring compliance with procurement regulations and guidelines.
 - c. Entering procurement plans into STEP and carrying out the procurement as timeline specified in STEP for each stage, and ensuring that only packages that are approved in the system are conducted
 - d. Updating the Procurement Plan on a regular basis to reflect any changes to deadlines for contracting procurement of goods, works and consulting services;

- 2) Preparation of bidding documents: Procurement consultants are often responsible for preparing documents in compliance with the Bank Procurement Regulations, Project Appraisal Document, Financing Agreement, and the Project Operational Manual the bidding documents for the project. This includes developing:
 - a. TOR and Request for Proposals for the selection of consulting services, as well as Technical Specifications invitation for bids (IFB) and bidding documents for the procurement of goods, works and non-consulting services. The bidding documents should clearly outline the requirements and evaluation criteria for potential bidders;
 - b. Preparing and submitting to the Bank draft bidding documents/Request for Proposals (RFPs) for packages subject to prior review for review and no objection.

- 3) Evaluation of bids or proposals: Procurement consultants are involved in the evaluation of bids or proposals submitted by potential suppliers or contractors. This task includes:
 - a. Participating in bids/proposals opening procedure and drafts minutes of bids/proposals opening and share the record with all bidders;
 - b. assessing the technical and financial aspects of the bids, conducting a thorough evaluation process, and making recommendations for the selection of the most suitable bidder, and clarifying the evaluation procedure for the bidding committee;
 - c. Preparing reports on the evaluation of bids or proposals based on the scores provided by the Evaluation Committee;
 - d. Submitting draft negotiated contracts for approval and signature by authorized representatives of line Ministries and the Project Director and then submitting them to the World Bank for prior approval;
 - e. Preparing and submitting to the Bank Bids/Proposals Evaluation reports, Minutes of contract negotiation as well as draft contracts for packages subject to prior review for review and no objection;
 - f. Sending notice of intention to award the contract to all bidders, and monitoring the standstill period;

- 4) Contract management: Once the procurement process is complete and a contract has been awarded, procurement consultants may be responsible for contract management. This involves:
 - a. Ensuring that the signed contracts are sent to the Bank promptly, to provide for funds withdrawal;
 - b. monitoring the performance of the contractor/consultants, ensuring that the terms and conditions of the contract are being met, and addressing any issues or disputes that may arise during the implementation of the contract.
 - c. Cooperating with Finance Staff regarding Project disbursements;
 - d. Preparing draft contract amendments if deemed appropriate for the Bank's review and no objection for contracts subject to prior review;
 - e. Keeping all procurement documents on file per package as listed in the procurement plan, including copies of RFQ, RFP, bids, proposals, bid evaluation report, EOI evaluation report, TER and contract;
 - f. Performing another task required by DOR and DPF-MPWT.

6. Term of Engagement

The NPC will work with line Departments/ line Ministries (as Client) and report to the PSC, as well as to the PMU. The total estimated inputs for this assignment are 24 months with renewal based on satisfactory performance review, this assignment expected to be start between May 2025.

7. Output Reporting Requirements

The NPC will report on a monthly and quarterly basis to the Department of Planning and Finance with copies and documentation to the project manager, component managers. The NPC will work under Department of Planning and Finance.

8. Experience and Qualifications

The following experience and qualifications of the NPC are desirable:

- At least a bachelor's degree in procurement, business administration, finance, engineering or any related field.
- At least 8 years of relevant working experience in public procurement and 5 years of experience in a similar position; experience in Output-Based Road Contract will be an asset;
- Experience working with major donor funded projects, particularly with World Bank or ADB funded projects, will be an advantage
- Proficiency in English – speaking and writing in both English and Lao languages.