

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

Immeuble CCIA, Plateau, 01 Boite Postale 1387 Abidjan 01, Côte d'Ivoire

The African Development Bank (the Bank) has secured funding from the Africa Trade Fund for undertaking a study on implementation of a Regional Electronic Cargo Tracking System and its use for Corridor Performance Monitoring on the Northern Corridor. The Bank invites suitably qualified Consultancy firms to express their interests in the following assignment: **A study on the implementation of Regional Cargo Tracking System and its use for Performance Monitoring on the Northern Corridor.** The Northern Corridor consists of six countries, namely; Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan and Uganda. The corridor also services Northern region of Tanzania and Southern region of Ethiopia.

The NCTTCA was established with a primary objective of facilitating trade and transport in the Region. One of the key objectives of the revised Northern Corridor Agreement, the NCTTA-2007 is to transform the Northern Corridor into a Development Corridor. This transformation is highly dependent on an efficient trade and transport system, which includes the regulatory agencies adopting measures for improved controls while at the same time facilitating trade and contributing to the reduction of the cost of doing business along the Northern Corridor.

The East African Customs Management Act (EAC-CMA 2005) established a Customs Union for the East African Community Partner States, part of which (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda) are signatory to the NCTTA. In line with the Customs Union Protocol, the Northern Corridor Member States started a roll out of the Single Customs Territory (SCT) where payment of taxes for goods entering the Territory is done at the first port of entry into the Territory. The SCT is currently being rolled out along the Northern Corridor and use of the ECTS has been chosen as one of the primary controls for goods cleared under the SCT regime.

However the standalone ECTS adopted by the Member States are proving costly to the transporters and traders alike since they are confined within the borders of each country of transit. In trying to find more efficient and effective ways of fighting pilferage and diversion of goods in transit, the Customs authorities and other public and private sector stakeholders have recommended the use of a Regional Electronic Cargo Tracking System.

The aim objective of the study is to assist the Northern Corridor Member Countries to determine the technicalities to establish and operationalize a regional ECTS. Therefore, objective of the consultancy is to:

- i) Identify the requirements and actions needed to be taken by all stakeholders interested in transit to implement the regional electronic cargo tracking system along the Corridor.
- ii) Develop functional specifications for a regional Cargo Tracking System in the Northern Corridor region, data exchange mechanism and requirements for interfacing with other customs management systems.
- iii) Develop a mechanism for the Northern Corridor Transport Observatory to use data from the R-ECTS to generate performance indicators.
- iv) Propose a roadmap with cost estimates for the implementation of an R-ECTS.
- v) Propose a sustainable operational cost sharing mechanism for the system.

This is an integrated assignment and the consultancy firm is required to have a team with considerable experience in cross-country research and extensive knowledge in international trade economics; information technology; global cross border trade processes and practices; and regional integration issues.

Interested firms must provide information on their capacity and experience indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, familiarity with the region etc.).

Eligibility criteria, establishment of the short-list and the selection procedure shall be in accordance with the African Development Bank's **procedures for the acquisition of consulting services funded by the administrative or capital expenditure budget**. The Bank is under no obligation to shortlist any consulting firm that expresses interest in the assignment.

The duration of the assignment is estimated at four months and commencement date is planned for September 2016.

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours: 09:00hrs to 17:00hrs, local time (Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire).

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by 12:00 noon Local Abidjan time on 12 August 2016 under the heading "**Study on implementation of the Northern Corridor Regional Cargo Tracking System**".

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