



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (Consulting Services - Selection of a Consulting Firm)

Selection of a consultant (firm) to conduct a study for the update of the Ecowas Regional Infrastructure Masterplan.

Reference Number: PPDU/AECID-PPM2024-QCBS-0154

1. Introduction

To address the growing infrastructure deficit of the ECOWAS region, the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State endorsed the ECOWAS Regional Infrastructure Master Plan at its 60th Summit in December 2021. This plan comprises 201 projects, including 146 regional investment projects and 55 soft projects, collectively estimated at \$131 billion USD. The key sectors of the plan are transport, energy, telecommunications, and water which are essential to regional economic development and integration.

To ensure that the plan evolves according to the needs of the region, a five-year periodic review was envisaged to incorporate priority changes and account for completed or advanced projects. This approach ensures alignment with current regional needs, allowing only critical priorities to come to the fore and maintain synergy among infrastructure stakeholders. Since the adoption of the plan, recent policy initiatives, such as the ECOWAS 4x4 strategic objective, Vision 2050, the FODETE study, updates to the PPDU's Business Strategy, and the evolution of the project landscape in Member States further underscores the need for a review at this time.

The update of the plan will seek to emphasize the role of innovative financing mechanisms, particularly in green and climate-change financing, as well as bolster private-sector participation through public-private partnerships (PPPs). The recently completed update of the FODETE study emphasizes the role of the private sector in diversifying financial resources and enhancing investment efficiency. In the same vein, updating the financial models of the existing plan is essential given the changing economic landscapes across ECOWAS Member States.

Feedback on the existing plan suggests that there is deep interest by stakeholders to sustain efforts to improve multimodal transport connectivity among ECOWAS Member States. To do this, there is a need to have an increased role for river transport infrastructure to complement existing and planned rail and highway networks. Similarly, energy infrastructure, driven by population growth and climate concerns, has been highlighted as critical to economic stability. The new Master Plan update must consider recent and existing projects in renewable energy, to emphasize ECOWAS's commitment to sustainable energy solutions. ICT connectivity and internet access in underserved areas also require focus, with ongoing projects such as Amilcar Cabral submarine cable project aiming to boost digital connectivity. In the water sector, stakeholders have advocated for hard infrastructure projects to be included such as dams and irrigation systems to improve food security through agricultural productivity. In contrast to the current plan where water sector projects were only classified as soft projects.

Cross-cutting issues such as climate resilience, gender balance, and sustainability have gained prominence since the validation of the existing plan. Financial and technical partners are increasingly supportive of projects aimed at these objectives. Integrating these themes into the updated Master Plan will ensure alignment with regional efforts to mitigate climate impacts, promote gender equity, and enhance sustainability.

In view of the foregoing, the planned periodic review of the plan presents a good opportunity to refine the regional infrastructure priorities by making it more responsive to current and future needs of ECOWAS Member States.

The key objective of the proposed study therefore is to conduct a systematic update of the approved Regional Infrastructure Master Plan (RIMP). This planned periodic review ensures that the document remains relevant, effective, and aligned with regional priorities and continues to guide the planning and implementation of regional infrastructure projects/programs across the transport, energy, water and ICT sectors

2. Scope of services

The Consulting services ("the Services") include, but are not necessarily limited to, the tasks and responsibilities described below:

- Update the status on the state of implementation of current Masterplan projects;



- Re-align sector plans for the transport, ICT, energy, and water sectors to conform to current regional, and national priorities;
- Revise the financing requirements and financing strategies to be able to implement the Plan;
- Refine the action plan and timeline for the implementation of the Infrastructure Master Plan;
- Develop a new GIS Map for the Plan using the latest GIS applications;
- Produce communication materials for the visibility of the plan; and
- Provide detailed analysis of innovative financing methods for financing the plan;

The ECOWAS Commission therefore invites eligible Consulting firms 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 shortlisting criteria are as follow:*

3. Experience

- This mission requires the expertise of firms or consultants with robust experience in strategic infrastructure planning, program/project preparation and development in the transport, energy, ICT and water resources sectors within the last 10 years (2015 - 2025).
- The firm must demonstrate that it has performed at least four (4) similar assignments related to strategic infrastructure planning, program/project preparation and development in the transport, energy, ICT and water resources sectors in the last ten (10) years (2015 - 2025).
- Experience in similar missions within the ECOWAS region is an advantage and will account for 5% of the total scoring.
- The consulting firm must provide an experienced multidisciplinary team, including the listed personnel.

The Consultant may propose additional experts (not listed here) fitting their methodology:

- o A Team Leader/Project Coordinator – An Infrastructure Development Specialist;
 - o One Expert in each for the following sectors: Transportation Engineering, ICT, Energy, and Water Resources Engineering; and
 - o One (1) GIS Specialist.
 - **The Team Leader / Project Coordinator:** The team leader will be an Infrastructure development expert and project manager. He will be responsible for coordinating team activities and liaising with stakeholders.
- Qualifications and skills:**
- An advanced University degree in public policy, engineering, social sciences, management or equivalent;
 - Fluency in one of the ECOWAS languages (English, French and Portuguese) and working knowledge of one of the other languages;
 - A solid analytical background with emphasis on strategic analysis;
 - Strong writing and presentation skills.
 - He / She must possess at least 10 years of cumulative professional experience and competence in planning, preparing and developing large scale regional infrastructure across 2 or more countries with a budget exceeding \$5 million USD;
 - He / She must possess at least 10 years' experience in project management;
 - Have a good understanding of the unique issues in developing regional infrastructure projects;
 - Possess at least 10 years of previous experience in regional infrastructure master plan development;
 - have knowledge of the infrastructure planning eco-system in West Africa;
 - Have 10 years of experience in leading project or consultancy teams.
 - **The Sector Experts (4 Experts, 1 per sector):** All Experts are expected to each have solid experience in one of the four (4) main infrastructure sectors (transport, ICT, energy and water). Their role will be to lead the planning for each sector.

Qualifications and skills:



- An advanced University degree in the relevant engineering field (transport, ICT, energy, and water);
 - Fluency in one of the ECOWAS languages (English, French and Portuguese) and working knowledge of one of the other languages;
 - A solid analytical background with emphasis on strategic analysis.
 - Possess at least 7 years of experience in infrastructure planning for the assigned sector;
 - Previous experience in regional infrastructure master plan development;
 - Knowledge of the infrastructure planning eco-system in West Africa.
 - Possess knowledge of current planning and projects for the sector in West Africa; and knowledge of West African legal frameworks, policy and institutional arrangements for regional infrastructure projects.
- **The GIS Specialist:** The expert will be responsible for developing GIS maps and interactive software using the latest applications.
Qualification and skills:
 - Certification in database development skills, GIS and mapping skills;
 - Geographic knowledge of West Africa.
 - At least 5 years of experience in database development for specific applications and GIS mapping and analysis.
 - Experience in the design of similar databases and mapping to illustrate regional development plans;
 - Experience in data gathering and web-based programs in West Africa.

4. Language

- The consultancy firm must demonstrate the ability to work in all the three official languages of ECOWAS (English, French and Portuguese)

5. Duration of the mission

The duration of the contract is 10 calendar months.

6. Selection method

Consultants will be selected in accordance with the Quality and Cost Based Selection Method (QCBS) defined in the ECOWAS Public Procurement Code and a shortlist of six to eight (6-8) best qualified firms, will be established and invited to submit a technical and financial proposal.

7. Request for additional information

Interested consultants may obtain additional information at the email addresses below during business hours, no later than one (1) week prior to the submission deadline: Monday to Friday from 9:00 GMT+1 to 17:00 GMT+1, with the subject line "**EOI Selection of a consultant (firm) to conduct a study for the update of the Ecowas Regional Infrastructure Masterplan**".

Email: ikkamara@ecowas.int; procurement@ecowas.int; with a copy to: mamoa@ecowas.int, oshokunbi@ecowas.int, kfyee@ecowas.int, gdikko@ecowas.int, ctienon@araa.org

8. Submission of applications

Expressions of interest will be submitted by email. Bidders must submit password-protected expressions of interest clearly titled in the following format: "Expression of Interest - Selection of a consultant (firm) to conduct a study for the update of the Ecowas Regional Infrastructure Masterplan - (company name)". Submissions should be sent to the addresses below no later than **March 31st 2025 at 16h00 Nigeria Time (GMT+1)**.

Email: ikkamara@ecowas.int; procurement@ecowas.int ; with a copy to: oshokunbi@ecowas.int , kfyee@ecowas.int , gdikko@ecowas.int , ctienon@araa.org

The password will be sent to the same addresses (above) 15 minutes prior to the date and time of opening and evaluation of the expressions of interest received.

Expressions of interest must include:



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- A Letter of Expression of Interest.
- If the Candidate is formed as a consortium: a copy of the joint-venture (JV) agreement or a letter of intention to form a consortium.
- A brochure presenting the firm or consortium.
- the firm's references: each reference provided must be summarized on a reference sheet (Designation and description of the mission, place of completion (country, city), duration of the mission, name and point of contact of the client, start date, end date, description of the services rendered by the consultant, list of key personnel of the firm who participated in the mission).

9. Publication website

This Notice of Interest is also published on the ECOWAS website <http://www.ecowas.int/doing-business-inecowas/ecowas-procurement> and the PPDU website www.p pdu.org .

Commissioner, Internal Services

Prof. Nazifi Abdullahi Darma