

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRM SELECTION)

**Project : Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion
 (“SANKALP”)**
Project ID : P158435
Date : 23th October, 2017

Assignment Title: Selection of an Independent Verification Agency (IVA) for verification of Disbursement Linked Indicators under “Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP)”

Reference No. SD-22/5/2017 - IC

1. The Government of India on behalf of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has applied for financing from The World Bank towards the cost of SANKALP Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for the consulting services.

Background: The Twelfth Plan projects, by 2017 the total labour force in India would comprise 502.4 million people. The country has a substantial challenge ahead as the Government reports that only 2.3 percent of the total workforce in India has undergone formal skill training, compared to 68 percent in the United Kingdom, 75 percent in Germany, 52 percent in the United States, 80 percent in Japan, and 96 percent in South Korea. In addition, the skills forecast study indicates that 298.25 million members of the current farm and nonfarm sector workforce will need to be skilled, re-skilled, and/or up-skilled to increase labour productivity. Moreover more than 90% of the workforce is informally employed in India. Striking feature of India’s labour market is lower female workforce participation rate of only 31 percent. Lack of training infrastructure, inadequate trainers, availability of financial resources, un-employability of trained graduates etc. are other major hurdles in expanding the outreach of skilling in India.

To address these challenges, National Skill Development Mission (NSDM) was launched by Government of India (GoI) which aims to consolidate, standardize, review, monitor, coordinate and converge existing skill training initiatives. *Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion Program (SANKALP)* is a USD 250 million support program of World Bank to Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) to achieve the objectives and targets of NSDM. The project will support implementation of the Government’s skill development strategy, outlined as

per NSDM and in the National Policy for Skills Development and Entrepreneurship (NPSDE), over six years (2017-2023).

The outputs under the SANKALP project will be monitored annually through the Results Framework and are therefore synchronized with the DLI (Disbursement Linked Indicators) matrix. Overall program monitoring at the national level will be led by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), with support from key implementing agencies such as National Skill Development Agency (NSDA), National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), State Skill Development Mission (SSDMs) and Project Management Unit (PMU) of SANKALP. An Independent Verification Agency (IVA) will be selected and employed to independently verify the achievement of project indicators (DLIs) and targets on an annual basis.

A firm will be required to include in their design both quantitative and qualitative verification/evaluation methods that verify not only the achievement of specific DLI targets but also the quality of the interventions implemented. The verification process will require a team that incorporates verification/evaluation skills in skill development sector focusing on skill initiatives implemented by the stakeholders, ICT Infrastructure and relevant software, training content development, program management, financial management, and procurement processes.

2. The objective of this Independent Verification Agency (IVA) assignment is to:
 - a) Carry out an independent verification of achievement of the DLIs reported by MSDE for each disbursement claim under the Program, based on the Verification Protocol agreed between MSDE and the World Bank and
 - b) Prepare and submit independent and comprehensive Verification reports to MSDE, for DLI's achievement reports for each disbursement claim prepared by MSDE in the form and substance acceptable to MSDE and the World Bank.
3. The Independent Verification Agency (IVA) shall be hired initially for a period of three (3) years, with extension of another three years, subject to satisfactory performance by the Consultants on annual basis in the first 3 years.
4. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest as Independent Verification Agency to support MSDE in implementing SANKALP and timely and quality verification of the outcomes under the project.

5. Interested consulting firms should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to undertake the mentioned assignment. The shortlisting criteria are:
 - a) The firm should be in the business from last at-least eight years.
 - b) The firm should have an average annual turnover of INR 50 crore in the last three financial years. (2013-14; 2014-2015; 2015-16)
 - c) The firm should have experience in strategic recruitment of professionals at leadership and operational levels to ensure the availability of experts in the team required to carry out the activities.
 - d) The firm should have carried out similar assignments as independent verification agency or impact evaluations projects including quality and fiduciary assurance mechanisms to at least 3 large scale projects in the past five years for National/ State level government projects, preferably supported by bilateral or multi-lateral agencies.

6. List of documents to be submitted along with EoI are:
 - a) Document (s) to demonstrate that the firm is in the business for the last 08 years (registrations/licenses etc.)
 - b) Details of Work Experience and Similar Assignments undertaken to support the short-listing criteria accompanied by copies of contracts/completion or acceptance certificate(s);
 - c) Certificate from the statutory auditors/ Chartered Accountant certifying the turnover from consultancy business during the last three (03) financial years.
Please use the two forms given at Annexure 1 and Annexure 2 to provide details

7. The attention of interested Consulting firm/s is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank's [Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants \[under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants\] by World Bank Borrowers](#) (January 2011 and revised in July 2014) ("Consultant Guidelines"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

8. Consulting firm may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub-consultancy to enhance their qualifications. The "Association" may take the form of a joint venture (with joint and several liability) or of a sub-consultancy, and this should be stated clearly in the submission.

9. A Consulting firm will be selected in accordance with the Quality Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method set out in the Consultant Guidelines.

10. Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours from **10.00 to 17.00 hours**

11. Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form and should include firm's demonstrated capacity to provide the required expertise. Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below through registered post/speed post/ courier/ by Hand by **21st November, 2017** till 1700 hrs.

Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship

Address: 2nd Floor, Annexe Building Shivaji Stadium,
ShaheedBhagat Singh Marg, Connaught Place,
New Delhi - 110001.

Attn: Director, Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship
Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion ("SANKALP")
Tel: +91-11-23450828
E-mail: deepti.srivastava@nic.in

Form – 1: Notice of Intent to Submit response to the EoI

(To be submitted on the Letter head of the applicant)

To

Director

Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship

2nd Floor, Annexe Building Shivaji Stadium,

ShaheedBhagat Singh Marg, Connaught Place,

New Delhi - 110001.

Ref: EoI Notification dated **23th October, 2017**

Subject:Hiring of aIndependent Verification Agency (IVA) to support the implementation of Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (“SANKALP”)

Dear Sir/Maam,

1. Having examined the EoI document, we, the undersigned, herewith submit our response to your EoI Notification dated **23th October, 2017** for Hiring of aIndependent Verification Agency (IVA) to support the implementation of Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (“SANKALP”), in full conformity with the said EoI document.
2. We have read the provisions of the EoI document and confirm that these are acceptable to us. We further declare that additional conditions, variations, deviations, if any, found in our EoI shall not be given effect to.
3. We agree to abide by this EoI, consisting of this letter, the detailed response to the EoI and all attachments, for a period of 60 days from the closing date fixed for submission of proposal as stipulated in the EoI document.
4. We would like to declare that we are not involved in any major litigation that may have an impact of affecting or compromising the delivery of services as required under this assignment and we are not under a declaration of ineligibility for corrupt or fraudulent practices.

5. We hereby declare that all the information and statements made in this EoI are true and accept that any misrepresentation contained in it may lead to our disqualification.
6. We understand that MSDE is not bound to shortlist / accept any proposal received in response to this EoI.

Our correspondence details with regard to this EoI are:

No.	Information	Details
1.	Name of the applicant	
2.	Address of the applicant	
3.	Name, designation and contact address of the person to whom all references shall be made regarding this EoI	
4.	Telephone number of the contact person	
5.	Mobile number of the contact person	
6.	Fax number of the contact person	
7.	Email ID of the contact person	

We hereby declare that our proposal submitted in response to this EoI is made in good faith and the information contained is true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

Sincerely,

[Applicant's Name with seal]

Name:

Title:

Signature

Date:

Form-2: Details of the applicant's Operations

S. No.	Information Sought	Details to be furnished	
1	Contact Details of the Applicant		
	Name of the applicant		
	Address		
	Telephone, Mobile No		
	Email		
	Fax		
	Website		
2	Business Information about the Applicant's Operations		
2.1	Incorporation/registration Information		
	Incorporation status of the firm (public limited / private limited, etc.)		
	Details of company registration (Attach the photocopy of the registration)	Date of registration	
		Registration Reference No.	
Details of registration with appropriate authorities for service tax/GST and other statutory taxes/duties (for each provide date of registration, registration reference/number and photocopies and any other relevant detail)			

2.2	Turnover/Budget outlay including Consulting works: as revealed in Annual Financial Statements	
	Financial Year	IVA/consulting operations (rupees crores)
	FY 2015-16	
	FY 2014-15	
	FY 2013-14	
	Average (rupees crores) for the last 3 FY	
2.3	Details of work experience and similar assignments (minimum 3) undertaken to support the short-listing criteria accompanied by copies of contracts/completion or acceptance certificate(s)	
2.4	Certificate from the statutory auditors/ Chartered Accountant certifying the turnover from consultancy business during the last three (3) financial years.	

Please attach relevant documents as mentioned in the point 6 of the EOI document.