

Sierra Leone Financial Inclusion Project (SLFIP)

(IDA Project No.: P166601)

Consulting Services: Hire a firm to conduct Cybersecurity assessment, testing, implementation plan, and capacity building for BSL.

SL-MOFED-233427-CS-QCBS

(Date of Issue: 12th May, 2021)

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

1. BACKGROUND

The Government of Sierra Leone has received a loan of USD\$12M from IDA/World Bank to implement the Sierra Leone Financial Inclusion Project. The Project's development objective is to increase the interoperability of digital payments and access to financial services for individuals. The Project is an Investment Project Financing (IPF) and comprised of three components. Component 1 – Ensuring interoperability of digital payments; finances the hardware, software, and consulting services required to implement a switch successfully. Component 2 – Ensuring the viability of the payments system through increasing usage thereof by financing access points for the switch, including Point of Sale (POS) terminals, mobile wallets, and government payments. The component has a particular emphasis on increasing access in areas of the country with particularly low levels of financial inclusion, and in particular, rural areas. The component also supports other barriers to the usage of the payments system, including legal and regulatory barriers and financial awareness. Component 3 – Project Implementation Support; finances a project coordinator and oversight mechanisms for the project to ensure private sector stakeholder involvement.

In particular, component 2 aims to support linkages to the country's payment systems, including through overcoming cyber security hurdles to the viability of BSL's payment systems by bolstering cyber security. Moreover, the successful implementation and acceptance of the payments system will require assurances in the security of the system. Thus, the project will finance a cybersecurity assessment and activities to put in place changes in the systems and policies needed to decrease cybersecurity risks.

2. GOAL AND OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The main objective of the assignment is to engage the services of a firm to conduct a cyber security assessment of the BSL's payment systems (i.e., ACH and RTGS), including the forthcoming national retail payment switch, and related systems.

3. SCOPE OF WORK

The Government of Sierra Leone is looking for a service provider to provide the following services:

- Assess the overall cybersecurity preparedness and resiliency of the BSL's payment systems following a recognized cybersecurity framework or reference model (e.g., NIST Cybersecurity Risk Management Framework);
- Assess the operational effectiveness of the technical controls in place by conducting relevant technical test procedures like external penetration testing, vulnerability scans and desk-based review of processes and procedures;
- Rate the maturity of controls across domains following an industry standard (e.g., NIST CRMF)
- Prepare an implementation roadmap that includes but is not limited to a detailed set of actionable recommendations for enhancing the cybersecurity preparedness and resiliency, prioritized based on risk and return on investment, level of effort, etc.;
- Provide at least 80 hours of capacity building and awareness sessions to BSL staff who would be responsible for supporting the implementation of the recommendations included in the

report. This should include at least 40 hours training on penetration tests, including high-level approach, tools, and techniques used, as transferable skill to relevant technical staff, and the other 40 hours for the more managerial and awareness raising training. Applying firms are also encouraged to deliver a pro bono one day Cybersecurity training workshop at the local university, for Comp Sci students and professors.

4. DURATION NATURE OF APPOINTMENT

The assessment is expected to be completed within four months of contract signing.

5. DELIVERABLES

Deliverable	% of Pay attached to deliverables	Deadline (month)
Signed contract	5%	
Inception report with detailed work plan, methodology and timeline and proposed annotated report outline	15%	m1
Assessment report with concrete and costed solutions for each of the recommendations in the roadmap ranging from technical assistance to and hardware and software to promote enhanced cyber security.	30%	m3
Capacity building workshops and materials	30%	m4

6. QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE

The firm will be recruited on a competitive basis and in accordance with the World Bank procurement guidelines. They should possess the following qualification and experience:

- Prior experience must include at least three (3) cybersecurity assessments for national government organization/Central Banks similar in size and complexity to BSL.
- Experience in providing capacity building and technical advice to organizations in the Africa region is preferred.
- Strong background and experience in conduction cybersecurity assessments following industry recognized standards such as NIST CRMF or similar.

Selection Criteria

The short listing criteria are:

1. Firms experience relevant to the Assignment
2. Competency/qualification of the proposed Consultants relevant to the Assignment

Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, core business, years of experience in the business, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, technical and managerial organization structure of the firm, number of key staffs, availability of appropriate skills among staff, general qualifications etc.) Consultants may associate to enhance their qualification.

This EoI will lead to the preparation of Short list of firms

Key Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage

Consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers (July 2016, Revised November 2017)

Mode of Application

All proposals submitted in hard copy should have an original and three copies

Team Lead
Project Fiduciary Management Unit (PFMU)
Ministry of Finance
Africanus House, 1st Floor
13A Howe Street
Freetown, Sierra Leone

Or

By E-mail: application should be sent as an attachment (including all supporting documents) to: pfmu2018@gmail.com cc: sandelo185@gmail.com

Please clearly indicate on the envelope (in the case of hard copy application) or in the email subject heading and attachment (in the case of electronic applications) the post for which application is made.

Closing Date:

26st May, 2021 at 4:00 pm GMT.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Signed -----


Dated 11/05/2021 -----