**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

**(CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)**

**Country: Republic of Armenia**

**Name of project: Mining Industry Policy Program**

**Grant Number: TF0A5519**

**Assignment Title: Assistance to the Development of a Mining Strategy/Policy of Armenia**

**Reference No. (**As per Procurement Plan**): MSP-CS-2-1**

The Republic of Armenia has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the “**Mining Industry Policy Program”** Grant Project (Project), and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services. The services include: **Assistance to the Development of a Mining Strategy/Policy of Armenia.**

Armenia has an abundance of mineral resources and industrial minerals. The minerals sector represents one of few industrial sectors in Armenia that have developed in an economically positive way, and it is seen by the Government as having an important role in further development of the country's economy. In 2017 Armenia was granted EITI Candidate country status. It was recommended to urgently embark on developing a national mining policy, as Armenia has never had one, and align this with the efforts that are being made to make Armenia an EITI compliant country. The development of the Mineral Sector Policy will help Armenia determine what it wants the sector to look like in the future, and how to make sure that a mining sector in Armenia will use modern technologies and operate in a technically, economically, environmentally and socially responsible manner, considering the challenges posed by climate change and forge strong linkages with local businesses.

The objective of the assignment is to carry out a analysis of the availability and management of geological data and services, and propose a model for the organization and management of the geological services, specifically advise the necessity of creation of the State Geological Service.

The services are expected to start in March 2020 and will last 1,5 months’ period.

The selected Consultant Company will implement the following main activities:

1. Analyze the results of already implemented studies (EITI Report, WB Economic Potential Assessment undertaken under this Grant, Systematic Disclosure Study with the support of the German International Cooperation Company), analyze national legislation (Public Service Legislation, Mining Code, SNCOs, legislation related to foundations and independent bodies) and study international best practices regarding geodata management for the mining sector, to recommend:
   1. Necessity and justifications for the creation of the State Geological Service, and its position and role within the other institutions managing the mining sector in Armenia;
   2. The potential functions, services to be provided by this service for Armenia, the principles of paid or free of charge of each of them for relevant stakeholders;
   3. To propose alternatives to the legal form of the Service: their strengths and weaknesses, with particular reference to funding sources, relationships with the coordinating authority. Proposed options should also include the most optimal organizational structure, approximate staff list (jobs within the Geological Services) along with minimum qulafication requirements and yearly budget estimation.
2. Analyze international best practice and procedures, and provide recommendations for implementation of (geological explorations) state programs in the field of mining (in particular, state-funded / subsidized studies of primary interest in the mining sector), to be undertaken or coordinated by the to-be formed Geologfical Services or responsible Ministry. In particular, it is necessary to indicate how the relevant funds should be planned in the state budget, through whom and how tenders should be organised, how and by whom the information obtained should be managed/owned.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be obtained at the address given below.

The Office of the Prime Minister of RoA now invites eligible Consultant firms (Consultants) 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 (information on general work experience, description and work experience in the implementation of the similar assignments, technical and managerial capability of the firm, etc.).

The shortlisting criteria are specified below:

The consulting company shall meet the following qualification criteria:

* At least 5 years of experience in the field of public administration, business process development, experience in the management of geological services functional analysis would be an asset;
* At least 5 years of experience in legal analyzis and legal drafting;
* At least 5 years of experience in implementation of research and analyses in mining industry, experience with the procurement and management of geological data would be an asset.

Key Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage.

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” July 2016, revised on August 2018 (“Procurement Regulations”), setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Selection based on Consultant Qualification (CQS) method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications, but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub-consultancy. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours ***09:00 to 18:00 hours (local time)***in working days.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by **February 21, 2020, 18:00 (local time)** (GMT+4).

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