REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
CONSULTING SERVICES

Selection #: RG-T4201 - P001
Selection Method: Simplified Competitive Selection
Country: Barbados
Sector: Competitiveness, Technology and Innovation Division
Funding – TC #: ATN/OC-19838-RG
Project #: RG-T4201
TC name: Strengthening the investment, innovation and business climate in the Caribbean

Description of Services: Execution of labour assessments and the facilitation of industry-academia collaboration under a pilot talent development programme for the life sciences.

Link to TC document: Public TC Document- RG-T4201

The Caribbean region needs a fast-growing private sector to address the pressing issues of debt sustainability, employment, and COVID recovery. To support this objective, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) launched a competitive process for project proposals entitled The Economic Growth Initiative-Focus on Small and Island Countries on February 6th, 2023. The call sought to promote improvements in the business climate that will foster increased private sector investment and innovation in the Caribbean. It also aimed to support Caribbean governments in identifying and advancing business climate reforms that increase returns and/or lower the risk of private sector investment and innovation.

In so doing, the Bank invited project proposals with the following four pillars:

Pillar 1: Focus on small and island countries - Business Environment for Entrepreneurship in the Caribbean
Pillar 2: Public-Private dialogue - Eliminating obstacles in productive sectors and value chains
Pillar 3: Market niches - Unlocking strategic investments in new technologies and green transformative agendas
Pillar 4: Public-Private Partnerships - Enabling IDB Group synergies to support their development
Each pillar has individualized terms of reference and application periods.

In response to the call, Export Barbados (Barbados Investment & Development Corporation -BIDC) submitted a project proposal to undertake activities to bridge the gap between private sector talent demands and the Barbados labour force for the advancement of the life sciences industry. This project is expected to deliver insight into the labour needs of industry (skills and supply) for the life sciences ecosystem, as well as develop and implement solutions to address these needs. Overall, it should result in an enhancement of the business environment for operators in Barbados' budding life sciences ecosystem by providing the talent resources necessary for innovation and growth.

This project aligns with the thrust of the Government of Barbados to construct an economic diversification pillar around the life sciences. The life sciences comprise fields of science involving the study of living organisms such as plants, animals and humans. While biology remains the centerpiece of the life sciences, technological advancements in molecular biology and biotechnology have led to the emergence and expansion of specializations and interdisciplinary fields. As a result, the discipline encompasses a range of sectors including pharmaceuticals, chemicals, paper products, and food products.

For this operation, the IDB intends to contract consulting services described in this Request for Expressions of Interest.

Expressions of interest must be delivered using the IDB Portal for Bank Executed Operations (http://beo-procurement.iadb.org/home) by: **September 20th 2023**, 5:00 P.M. (Washington D.C. Time).

To access the IDB Portal, the firms must generate a registration account, including ***all*** the data requested by the Portal. In the event that any of the information requested is not included, the firm will not be able to participate in this or any other Bank-executed selection process for operational work. If the firm has been previously registered, please validate that you have ***all*** the firm's information updated and complete before submitting an expression of interest.

The consulting services ("the Services") entail the provision of services to (i) provide a skills needs map and assessment for the life sciences ecosystem and a labour demand estimate for the industry showing current (within 3- 6 months) and future (within 1-2 years) demand (ii) facilitate collaborative relationships between core academia and industry stakeholders for the life sciences towards the development of at least two (2) strategies to address areas of need (iii) train at least 15 participants in the pilot, skills enhancement of the life sciences ecosystem and the provision of supportive infrastructure to facilitate the future enhancement of the life sciences ecosystem talent pool supply. The consultancy should also suggest and justify a governance structure for collaboration between industry and academia.

Eligible consulting firms will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Inter-American Development Bank: *Policy for the Selection and Contracting of Consulting firms for Bank-executed Operational Work* - GN-2765-4. All eligible consulting firms, as defined in the Policy may express an interest. If the Consulting Firm is presented in a Consortium, it will designate one of them as a representative, and the latter will be responsible for the communications, the registration in the portal and for submitting the corresponding documents.

The IDB now invites eligible consulting firms to indicate their interest in providing the services described above in the draft summary of the intended Terms of Reference for the assignment. Interested consulting firms must provide information establishing that they are qualified to perform the Services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Eligible consulting firms may associate in a form of a Joint Venture or a sub-consultancy agreement to enhance their qualifications. Such association or Joint Venture shall appoint one of the firms as the representative. The EOI must not be longer than 30 pages.

Interested eligible consulting firms may obtain further information during office hours, 09:00 AM to 05:00 PM, (Washington D.C. Time) by sending an email to: Sylvia Dohnert de Lascurain (sylviad@iadb.org), with a copy to Wayne Elliott (waynee@iadb.org).

Inter-American Development Bank
Division: Competitiveness, Technology and Innovation
Attn: Sylvia Dohnert de Lascurain, Project Team Leader

1300 New York Ave, NW, Washington DC 20577, USA
E-mail: sylviad@iadb.org
Web site: www.iadb.org