

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

**Country:** *BHUTAN*  
**Project Title:** *Accelerating Transport and Trade Connectivity in Eastern South Asia Phase 2  
- Bhutan Project – Project Preparation Advance*

**Credit No.:** *IDA-V5040*

**Assignment Title:** **Assessment of International Bandwidth and Last Mile Connectivity Requirements to Support Digital Trade in Bhutan**

**Reference No. (as per Procurement Plan):** BT-GOVTECH-FBS-12 DECEMBER 2023

In October 2023, the Royal Government of Bhutan received a Project Preparation Advance (PPA) in support for the preparation of the proposed ACCESS project. As part of the PPA, the Government Technology Agency (GovTech) will be carrying out a technical feasibility study to advance readiness of the proposed digital connectivity interventions under ACCESS.

The objectives of the assignment are to: (i) assess existing international connectivity status, market conditions, and bandwidth utilization practices of public institutions and to design a competitive procurement structure based on an IRU approach for additional, resilient international bandwidth for the Government Network (GovNet and DrukREN, the Research & Education Network); (ii) assess demand for expanding last mile connectivity to currently unconnected trade, logistics, and agricultural centers in Bhutan which are expected to be key beneficiaries/users of the NSW and other digital trade systems in the future; and (iii) prepare two bidding documents – (a) IRU procurement of international bandwidth; and (b) last mile connectivity for unconnected trade and logistics centers.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found at the following website: ([/](#)).

The GovTech Agency now invites eligible consulting 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. The shortlisting criteria are: (i) General Experience of the consultant; (ii) Experience in similar assignments of compatible size, complexity and technical specialty in the required area including demonstrable track record or relevant project success, regional work experience and understanding; (iii) Technical and managerial capability of the firm including financial soundness, staffing and logistics;. 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" Nov 2020 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest. In addition, please refer to the following specific information on conflict of interest related to this assignment as per paragraph 3.17 of the Procurement Regulations: *Consultants shall not be hired for any assignment that would be in conflict with their prior or current obligations to other clients, or that may place them in a position of being unable to carry out the assignment in the best interests of the Borrower.*

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. In the case of an association (joint venture and/ or sub-consultant), all members should have real and well-defined inputs to the assignment, and the total number of firms including the associates will be limited to a maximum of 03 (Three).

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Fixed Budget Selection Method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the following email during office hours [[gyeltshent@tech.gov.bt](mailto:gyeltshent@tech.gov.bt) or [tchoephel@tech.gov.bt](mailto:tchoephel@tech.gov.bt) between 0900 to 1700 hours Bhutan Standard Time].

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by fax, or by email) by on or before 1700 hours (Bhutan Standard Time, GMT+6 hrs), *14th March, 2024*.

Attn: Mr. Tempa Gyeltshen, Procurement Officer, Mobile No: +975 -17716747, Email:[gyeltshent@tech.gov.bt](mailto:gyeltshent@tech.gov.bt) or

Mr. Thuenzang Choephel, Deputy.Executive Engineer, Mobile No: +975 17868363, Email:[tchoephel@tech.gov.bt](mailto:tchoephel@tech.gov.bt).

GovTech Agency

Royal Government of Bhutan