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Government Technology (GovTech) Agency
Royal Government of Bhutan

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GovTech
Bhutan

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GovTech/ACCESS/PMU/2025-26/ 1793

February 10, 2026

ACCELERATING TRANSPORT AND TRADE CONNECTIVITY IN EASTERN SOUTH ASIA (ACCESS) – BHUTAN PROJECT

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (REoI) (CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)

Country: Bhutan

Name of Project: Accelerating Transport and Trade Connectivity in Eastern South Asia (Access) – Bhutan Project

Loan No/Credit No/ Grant No: IDA 77560 (Credit)/IDAE4310 (grant)

Assignment Title: Selection of consultancy firm for **Government Security Operations Center (G-SOC) establishment and Critical Information Infrastructure Protection (CIIP) implementation preparations**

Reference No: GovTech/CS-3/1

1. Royal Government of Bhutan has received financial assistance in the form of Credit and Grant from the World Bank towards the cost of the proposed **Accelerating Transport and Trade Connectivity in Eastern South Asia (ACCESS)-Bhutan Project**, to be implemented partly by the **GovTech Agency**, and intends to apply a part of the proceeds of this financing for the services of Selection of consultancy firm for **Government Security Operations Center (G-SOC) establishment and Critical Information Infrastructure Protection (CIIP) implementation preparations**. The consultancy firm



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will spearhead preparatory work for G-SOC establishment, develop CIIP baselines, and deliver comprehensive work plans for both initiatives.

2. **The broad scope of services** (“the Services”) includes two workstreams as follows:

A. Workstream 1: Establishment of the G-SOC

This workstream entails preparatory works for the establishment of the G-SOC, as follows:

- a) Develop G-SOC Handbook (Desk research and review of Background Materials, Development of initial draft of the G-SOC Handbook, G-SOC Handbook Validation)
- b) G-SOC Establishment Work Plan (Review of the G-SOC Handbook for Planning Purposes, Development of the G-SOC Implementation Workplan, Development of G-SOC Technical Design and Specifications, G-SOC Skills Development Plan, Validation of the Draft Implementation Plan, Support for Procurement Preparation, Training and Capacity Development Workshop)

B. Workstream 2: Development of CIIP Baseline

This workstream involves the development of the CIIP baselines and the associated implementation work plan, as follows:

- a) Development of the CIIP Baseline (Desk Review and Scoping Consultations, Preparation of CIIP Baseline Operationalization Note, Development of Selected CIIP Baseline Elements, Consolidation of the CIIP Baseline, Validation and Finalization of the CIIP Baseline)
- b) CIIP Baseline Implementation Work Plan (Review of the CIIP Documents, Human Resources and Capacity Requirements, Technical Tools and Security Measures Specification, Develop Implementation Safeguards, Validation of the Draft Implementation Plan, and Support for Procurement Preparation)



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3. Detail Terms of Reference (TOR) and other information will be available upon request from the address provided below either through email or in person. ToR is also available on GovTech Agency website www.tech.gov.bt
4. 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:
 - a) General Experience of the firm in providing similar services (core business and years in business);
 - b) 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;
 - c) Technical and managerial capability of the firm, staffing and logistics.

Consultants are requested to submit, but not limited to, the following supporting documents in support of the above-mentioned criteria:

- (i) The Firm's Incorporation/Trade/registration documents from the country of the firm;
- (ii) Firm's brochures; (iii) description of similar consultancy contracts, including the scope, contract amount, name of Client, period of the contract (date of contract signing to date of completion), location/ country of the services, etc. **Key Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage.**

5. The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.13, 3.15, and 3.16 of the World Bank's “Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers” September 2023 (“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.*

6. Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications but shall indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture (i.e. all members of the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable) and/or a sub-consultancy (i.e. the Consultant will be responsible, including for the services of the sub-consultant). In case of an association, the Consultant must explain in the EoI submission (a) the rationale/justification for the proposed inclusion of the JV members and/or sub-consultants; and (b) the anticipated role and relevant qualifications of each member of the Joint Venture and/or of each sub-consultant for carrying out the assignment. Failure to provide the above explanation in the EoI may risk the association not being shortlisted for the assignment. However, the qualifications/ experience of sub-consultants will not be considered in the evaluation of Expressions of Interest for Shortlisting. The total number of firms in the association will be limited to a maximum of **Two (02)**.
7. A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the **Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)** method as set out in the Procurement Regulations.
8. The expected duration of the assignment is **40 weeks**.
9. Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours **[0900 to 1700 hours]**



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10. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EoIs without assigning any reason, whatsoever.
11. Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by **1500 hours (Bhutan Time) (GMT + 6 hours)** on or before **March 13, 2026**. Please clearly mention “Expression of Interest (EoI) for Selection of consultancy firm for **Government Security Operations Center (G-SOC) establishment and Critical Information Infrastructure Protection (CIIP) implementation preparations** in the e-mail’s subject line or on the top of the envelope.

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