

**INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT****TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON SMEs ACCESS TO
INNOVATION AND PATENTS
Reference No. AUC/TID/013/2017**

I. BACKGROUND

The Action Plan for Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa (AIDA) identifies strengthening research, development and innovation as a key strategy to foster structural transformation on the manufacturing sector. This could be achieved through cooperation in line with global trends and best practice in which R&D and innovation are pursued in a collaborative and interactive environment to ensure optimal use of networks and achievement of economies of scale in all stages of the technology development cycle.

In the major Regional Economic Communities of the African Union (EAC, ECCAS, ECOWAS, COMESA, and SADC), however, it has been noted that the current best available technologies are not fully diffused and neither is information on these technologies available to end-users; isolated efforts are continuously being made either at the universities, and /or in public and private sector research organizations to generate new technologies but with little corresponding attention given to the need to facilitate access to these new technologies and innovations by the various end users in the technology development value chain; and collaboration with international industry oriented research and technology organization is being pursued but in a disjointed manner.

To initiate collaboration in the above areas, it is important to first generate information on industry oriented research and technology development efforts on-going in the major Regional Economic Communities of the African Union (EAC, ECCAS, ECOWAS, COMESA, and SADC), identify areas where collaboration would have mutually beneficial outcomes and finally design targeted programmes aimed at strengthening synergies and networks to ensure effective and efficient transfer and deployment of new technologies and innovations to the business community. The acceleration of innovation and development of key technologies, cost reduction and the avoidance of duplication of R&D efforts are among the benefits that the African Union can realize through targeted and well-coordinated regional programmes. For effective collaboration to be achieved; it is paramount to generate basic information such as existing capacities in research and technology facilities; strengths and weaknesses of the various agencies involved; ongoing collaborative initiatives at both public and private sector facilities; priority research areas; funding situation etc.

The challenges encountered by the various players in the R&D, and technology development value chain relate to limited awareness by business community about the research and technology products in the region, duplication of efforts, limited funding of Research, Development and Innovation (R&D&I) by public and private sector, lack of information on the R&D&I capacities and initiatives in the region, lack of clear framework/platforms for collaboration, lack of clear promotional policies and programmes, lack of networking among universities, research and technology centers on the one hand,

and the enterprises on the other hand, sub-optimal utilization of existing technical expertise and maximization of complementarities in the region among others.

To overcome these challenges various actions have been proposed including:

- Need for the consolidation of industrial R&D&I systems and initiatives through development of a regional framework for collaboration in order to ensure synergies and optimal use of the technical resources and knowledge available in the region;
- Preparation of an inventory of R&D&I institutions in the region, their capacities & competencies; and areas of specialization. This should also target private sector operators;
- Organizing regional networking forum/event to not only facilitate exchange of information, knowledge and experience among stakeholders but to also facilitate showcasing of various technologies available in the region, particularly those technologies that are relevant to SMEs;
- Identification and designation of a regional centre of excellence to facilitate acquisition of relevant technologies, adaptation, diffusion and training for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs);
- Preparation of inventory of common user technologies applicable to the manufacturing sector and SMEs which can be disseminated through regional efforts.

II. OBJECTIVE OF THE CONSULTANCY

The overall objective of the assignment is to conduct a study and prepare a Policy Brief, with policy options on how to facilitate and promote regional cooperation in research, technology and innovation with a view to accelerating technology acquisition, adaptation, transfer and diffusion; and fostering of emergence of new enterprises and enhancement of industrial competitiveness.

III. PURPOSE

The purpose of the study is assess relevant policies, strategies, regulations and other measures that need to be reviewed, reformed or put in place both on the demand and supply sides to ensure increased commercialization and flow of technology information to the private sector;

- Generate and assess information on the ongoing R&D, technology and innovation initiatives in the major Regional Economic Communities of the African Union (EAC, ECCAS, ECOWAS, COMESA, and SADC), and identify specific areas where regional collaboration could lead to mutually beneficial outcomes to RECs;
- Generate information on the existing industrial R&D, and innovation capabilities, and capacities/infrastructure in the AU, assess the level of utilization of such resources and propose measures /approaches for effective utilization of such resources taking into account regional and national needs (the resources include human technical skills, technology and equipment, findings; and
- Support preparation of a Policy Brief to facilitate regional collaboration in industrial research, technology and innovation.

IV. SCOPE OF WORK

4.1 Specific activities

In executing the assignment the consultant should undertake the following specific activities:

- Undertake desk study to review policies, regulations, strategies and measures existing in Member States (represented through their respective Regional Economic Blocs) to promote industrial R&D, technology development, technology transfer and adaptation, and innovation (The desk review should also include selected comparator countries in ASEAN, Latin America, Europe especially countries with success stories in industrial research, technology and innovation);
- Review national, regional, and international frameworks supporting technology development and transfers to developing countries including the major Regional Economic Communities of the African Union (EAC, ECCAS, ECOWAS, COMESA, and SADC); assess effectiveness and gaps in the existing networks and/or frameworks for international and regional collaboration; and propose approaches to enhance international technology flows into the region including mechanisms to harness south-south and north-south and other triangular cooperation approaches;
- Assess national and /or regional institutions/organizations engaged in industry oriented technology development and transfer initiatives (research and technology organizations-RTOs); evaluate adequacy of their capacities, capabilities, expertise, and technical know-how, specialization areas, existing research facilities; and propose measures for effective utilization of the RTO facilities and expertise taking into account national and regional needs (This aspect of TORs should assess RTOs with facilities that can serve as regional center of excellence);
- Review the on-going industrial R&D, and technology development initiatives/programmes taking place at the universities (science & technology oriented universities) and RTOs, identify and assess initiatives with potential for scalability to regional projects as well as with industrial applications; and propose modalities/measures that should be put in place to facilitate joint undertaking of such a regional project(s);
- Assess existing linkages and channels of interactions between universities (science & technical oriented), Research and Technology Organizations (RTOs) on one hand; and the private sector; evaluate effectiveness of the linkages; and propose practical approaches for strengthening collaboration between universities (science & technical institutions); RTOs and private sector to increase technology acquisition, transfer, adaptation and commercialization;
- Assess existing mechanisms for funding industry oriented R&D, and technology development programmes at national level and propose modalities and measures to enhance funding of research, technology and innovation programmes at national and regional levels including possibilities of private sector collaboratively funding research and technology programmes; and
- Based on (i) to (vii) above, prepare a Policy Brief with a set of recommendations and an Action Plan containing concise, concrete and costed activities/programmes to be undertaken at regional level.

4.2 Geographical Area to be covered

The major Regional Economic Communities of the African Union (EAC, ECCAS, ECOWAS, COMESA, and SADC); with regional and global benchmarking.

4.3 Target groups

The target group are the players in the industrial research, technology and innovation value chain including public organizations, private sector, indigenous and local communities, research institutions and nongovernmental organizations.

V. KEY DELIVERABLES

The Consultant is expected to:

- Generate information in ongoing R&D, technology and innovation initiatives in the region, and identify specific areas where regional collaboration could lead to mutually beneficial outcomes to the major Regional Economic Communities of the African Union (EAC, ECCAS, ECOWAS, COMESA, and SADC).
- Generate information on the existing industrial R&D, and innovation capabilities, and capacities/infrastructure in the region, assess the level of utilization of such resources and propose measures /approaches for effective utilization of such resources taking into account regional and national needs (the resources include human technical skills, technology and equipment, findings; and
- Prepare a Plan of Action to facilitate regional collaboration in industrial research, technology and innovation.

V.QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE

The Consultant would be selected based on the following minimum educational and experience criteria:

a) Education and Skills

- Relevant university degree in International Trade, Economics; or its equivalent
- Demonstrated excellent in Project Managerial Skills
- Excellent analytical, conceptual and reporting skills
- A team player

b) Experience

- At least 5 years' experience of work in economic development, industrialization policy and SME Development
- Experience in undertaking technical feasibility studies and or research work
- Demonstrated knowledge and experience of working in the any of the major Regional Economic Communities of the African Union (EAC, ECCAS, ECOWAS, COMESA, and SADC)
- Demonstrated knowledge, experience and expertise in industry and private sector promotion schemes in developing countries;
- As an advantage, experience in working with regional programmes

The African Union Commission now invites eligible **Individual Consultants** to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested candidate must provide information demonstrating that he/she has the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

Consulting firms may propose individual consultant, but only the experience and qualifications of individual shall be used in the selection process, and that his or her corporate experience shall not be taken into account, and the contract would be signed with the proposed individual.

VIII. EVALUATION CRITERIA

For evaluation of the expressions of interest the following criteria will be applied:

- a) General Education Qualification and Relevant Training (20 points);
- b) Experience Related to the Assignment (25 points);
- c) Technical approach and methodology (40 points)
- d) Work plan (10 points)
- e) Language (5 points);

Interested candidates are requested to submit the following documents for AUC's consideration:

- a) Technical Proposal not exceeding 8 pages on:
 - understanding and interpretation of the TOR
 - methodology to be used in undertaking the assignment
 - time and activity schedule
- b) Financial proposal not exceeding 1 page
 - Consultant's daily rate in US\$
 - Other costs e.g. travel
 - Total cost
- c) Personal Capacity Statement
 - Relevant experience related to the assignment (include samples of two most recent similar works and/or references for the same)
 - Contacts of at least 3 organizations previously worked for
 - Curriculum Vitae of the Consultant (s)

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours 8:00-13:00hrs and 14:00-17:00 hours Local Time.

RESPONSE TO THE CALL

Proposal must be delivered in a written form to the address below not later than 1500 hours local time, August 8, 2017.

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