

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Request for Provision of services for Revamping of the African Union Commission's Internal Communications System (VSAT / IPL)

Background

The African Union Commission (AUC) is an Intergovernmental Organization made by 54 Member States and has its Head Quarter Office in the capital city of Ethiopia, Addis Ababa, with other Regional and Representative offices in Africa, Europe and USA.

To carry out its mandate efficiently, the Commission is required to have an independent and secured communication network infrastructure to connect its regional and representative offices as well as its satellite offices. As a result, the Commission has implemented a hybrid communication infrastructure based on satellite (VSAT) and an International Private Line (IPL) based on a fiber link to available sites to link the above mentioned offices in 25 sites making the VSAT HUB connection for all the remote sites at the HQ (annex 1). This infrastructure has been serving the Commission for the past 10 years and is still up and running. The Commission is now in a position to revamp the current communication infrastructure.

Hence, for the feasible implementation of the project, the Commission is sourcing for a Service Provider or system integrator that can materialize the envisaged network communication system.

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The objective of this project is to revamp the AUC private communication infrastructure between the offices of the AU and its partners within and/or outside the continent of Africa that takes into account the following requirements:

- A. Connectivity between the African Union Headquarter and its existing and future Regional Offices (RO), specialized institutions, and Regional Economic Communities (RECs);
- B. Identification of alternative technical solutions, other than the current method in use, for real time Data, Voice Gateway to the Internet access, high- speed Internet access that has an enhanced capacity and performance while minimizing cost and administrative overheads.
- C. New technology that has efficient satellite access method for optimized operation while enhancing the current operational performance and reducing recurring cost and administrative overheads;
- D. Efficient service provision;
- E. Reduced cost of operation;
- F. Smooth integration with internal network infrastructure;
- G. Adequate room for further growth, and
- H. Flexible and secured operation.

2. Current Status

In terms of the network communication, currently the Commission has:

i) Hardware

- A HUB at the HQ – 9.3 meters antenna, ODU and IDU
- 21 VSAT remote sites with a 2.4mts antenna, ODU and IDU (**all of them are in Africa. See Annex I for detail site locations. Kindly be advised that this list is indicative and will change according to future needs**)
- 4 sites with an IPL connection via a Teleport leased from a service provider. (**Washington, New York, Brussels and Geneva**)

Satellite

- Uses ARABSAT 5A.
- Consumes a total of about 20Mhz space segment from a single beam

Management:

- All services - space segment leasing, ground operation management, corrective and preventive maintenance, spare part philosophy, etc. – are fully outsourced and handled by a third party service provider under a defined Service Level Agreement (SLA).
- Has a monitoring interface for the client to observe the performance and utilization of the resources. (BW utilization, site availability, etc.)

Services:

- The infrastructure is used to provide **Data** (Corporate traffic like ERP applications, internal portals, e-Mail, etc.), **Voice** and **Video Conferencing** traffics.

To this end, the African Union Commission now invites Expressions of Interest from qualified and registered companies for VSAT Connectivity. Interested firms or consortium should submit the following documents along with signed and sealed letter of Expression of Interest:

- i. Detailed company profile,
- ii. Copies of registration certificates and business licenses,
- iii. Company's past experience (Provide references of previous assignments)

Assessment criteria

- i) Core business and years in the business. A minimum 3 years in the business is required
- ii) Specific experience of the firm related to the assignment in similar size projects
- iii) Managerial and technical organisation of the firm
- iv) Local support facilities in sites for installation purposes and a 24/7 Support Network operations center for incident report and network issues to ensure continuity of the service. List of firm branches and/or partner companies able to provide a quick support in case of service interruption in all covered countries. A strong presence in Africa is required.
- v) Companies working with international organisations or national and government institutions or large public and private companies will have an added advantage.

Communication and Inquiries

Additional information can be obtained from:

Procurement Unit, African Union Commission

Email: tender@africa-union.org

Tel: +251 (0) 11 551 7700 – Ext 4321

Submission of Expression of Interest

ONE original and TWO copies of EOIs (in either English or French Language) must be received in one sealed envelope not later than **Friday 29th September 2017 at 1500hours**. The envelope must be clearly labelled with the title of the bid. Email submissions should be sent to the address below. Late applications will be rejected and returned unopened.

The address for submission is: **The Head Procurement, Travel and Stores Division; African Union Commission; Roosevelt Street, Building C, 3rd Floor, P. O. Box 3243, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Tel: +251 11-551-7700. Email: tender@africa-union.org**

The detailed Request for proposal document, including detailed Terms of Reference (TORs) will only be sent to shortlisted firms.

ANNEX I

Sites under consideration for this project:

No.	Site Name	Location	Remark
1	Addis A. (HQ)	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	Head Quarter office
2	Burkina Faso	Ouagadougou	
3	Cameroon	Yaoundé	
4	Egypt	Cairo	
5	Gambia	Banjul	
6	Kenya-1	Nairobi	IBAR Office
7	Kenya-2	Nairobi	AMISOM Office
8	Malawi	Lilongwe	
9	Niger	Niamey	
10	Nigeria-1	Abuja	ECOWAS Office
11	Nigeria-2	Abuja	AUC Office
12	South Africa	Midrand	PAP Office
13	Tanzania-1	Arusha	EAC Office
14	Tanzania-2	Arusha	African Court Office
15	The Sudan	Khartoum	
16	South Sudan-1	Juba	
17	Chad	Ndjamena	
18	Somalia	Mogadishu	
19	Belgium	Brussels	Europe Site
20	Switzerland	Geneva	Europe Site
21	USA-1	New York	US site
22	USA-2	Washington	US Site
23	Addis Ababa	Debrezeit	PANVAC office
24	Ivory Coast	Abidjan	
25	Burundi	Bujumbura	
26	DRC	Kinshasa	