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**PAN AFRICAN VETERINARY VACCINE CENTRE  
CENTRE PANAFRICAIN DES VACCINS VETERINAIRES  
AU-PANVAC**

Debre Zeit, ETHIOPIA P. O. Box 1746 Telephone : 251 11 433 8001 Fax : 251 11 433 8844  
E-mail: [aupanvac@africa-union.org](mailto:aupanvac@africa-union.org)

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**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOI)**

**Laboratory Expert Consultancy- MOLECULAR BIOLOGY**

**AUPANVAC/LIPC/A/005.21**

Date: July 2021

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## **Terms of Reference**

### **Laboratory Expert – MOLECULAR BIOLOGY**

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#### **1. Background**

The livestock sector in has consistently played a major role in poverty reduction and food security and is considered as one of the main contributors towards the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

However, the persistence of Trans-Boundary Animal Diseases such as Foot and Mouth disease (FMD) has continued to be a major constraint to the livestock sector by limiting productivity, access to markets, and impacting negatively on the livelihoods and resilience of the rural poor who depend on them.

The African Union Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (AU-PANVAC) is the AU technical Centre responsible for "promoting the availability of safe, effective and affordable veterinary vaccines in Africa.

In the implementation of its mandates, AU-PANVAC plays a critical role in the enhancement of quality of veterinary vaccines in Africa and their adequate utilization by producers in the field and in supporting national and regional diagnostic laboratories to access needed reagents and enhance their diagnostic capacities.

In this present project, AU-PANVAC is collaborating with the Pirbright Institute in a twinning project to build capacity for the independent certification of FMD vaccines in Africa.

## **2. The rationale for the Pirbright – PANVAC FMD Project**

Foot and mouth disease (FMD) is a severe, highly contagious viral disease of livestock that has a significant economic impact on the cattle industry in Africa.

The morbidity rate may be up to 100% in susceptible populations and the disease affects cattle, swine, sheep, goats and other cloven-hoofed ruminants with severe production losses.

Control of FMD in Africa requires appropriate vaccines and vaccination programmes. FMD vaccines require appropriate matching and AU-PANVAC does not currently have the capacity to implement this.

Currently AU-PANVAC is working with the Pirbright Institute which has the relevant skills and technology to build capacity of AU-PANVAC to certify all vaccines against FMD. The Twinning project will be of immense benefit to Africa as it will establish a sustainable system for production and use of good quality FMD vaccines on the continent.

## **3. Objectives of the work**

The aim of the twinning programmed between AU-PANVAC and The Pirbright Institute is to build capacity at AU-PANVAC to support the implementation of an independent FMD vaccine quality control system for Africa.

## **4. Scope of the Work**

The consultant shall perform the following duties:

1. Application of OIE quality standards for FMDV PCR methodologies
2. Deploying vaccine Molecular testing
3. Support Coordination with vaccine manufacturers
4. Participate in Training and technology transfer.

## **5. Specific Tasks**

The consultant will deliver the following specific tasks:

- Perform molecular biology techniques for the diagnosis in relation of FMD vaccine quality control tests.
- Participate in the development of molecular tests for diagnosis and control of transboundary animal diseases such as FMD.
- Participate in the implementation and monitoring of the AU-PANVAC/ Pirbright Project based on Good Laboratory Practice.
- Participate in the implementation safety studies for FMD vaccines quality control testing according to international standards,
- Support laboratory activities for the production of FMD biologicals and reagents of animal base,
- Assist in the preparation of Instruction manuals, Standard Operating Procedures and other technical manuals for management of laboratory animals,
- Participate in network laboratories external quality assessment and accreditation, and
- Perform any other related duties as required by the Director of PANVAC.

## **6. Deliverables**

The Consultant shall deliver a monthly activity report related to scope and tasks carried out.

## **7. Timeline**

The assignment shall be for a period of six (6) months beginning 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021.

## **8. Duty Station**

- a. The consultant will be based at the Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (AU-PANVAC), Bishoftu, Ethiopia.

## **9. Consultancy fees and schedule payments**

- a) The consultant will be paid a monthly lump sum of USD3, 860.00 (Three Thousand, Eight hundred and Sixty United States Dollars only) for the assignment. This amount includes all of the Consultant's fees, reimbursable and profits as well as any tax obligation that may be imposed on the Consultant. It excludes travel costs and daily subsistence allowance, when the Consultant is required to travel on official mission, which will be fully paid for by the AU-PANVAC in line with the relevant Guidelines and procedures.
- b) Payments will be based on outputs/deliverables specified in the TOR and upon certification of satisfactory work by the Supervisor. The payment will be made on monthly basis subject to submission of satisfactory report by the Consultant and acceptance of the same by the Client.

## **10. Qualification and Experience of the Consultants**

- I. Candidates must hold at least a DVM, BSC in Laboratory science, Microbiology, Animal Science or related fields.
- II. Possesses in-depth knowledge, excellent skills and relevant experience in Molecular biology
- III. Works with minimal guidance and supervision in the implementation of basic molecular biology techniques;
- IV. Adds value to team-based activities;
- V. Ensures high standards of performance and compliance with institutional guidelines;
- VI. Integrates results-based and accountability-oriented approaches into the development of the toolkit;
- VII. Demonstrates integrity, a collaborative spirit, a sense of achievement, and an understanding of risk management in past experiences;
- VIII. Languages: Fluency in English (required); French, Arabic and Portuguese (desired).
- IX.** Good knowledge of the AU policy making processes, prospects, and challenges will be an added advantage

## 11. Evaluation and Qualification criteria

For evaluation of the submission the following criteria will be applied:

<b>Technical proposal evaluation points</b>		
<b>1.</b>	General Education, Qualification and General training	<b>30</b>
<b>2</b>	Experience relevant to the Assignment	<b>50</b>
<b>3</b>	Understanding of the assignment	<b>20</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

## 12. Language Requirements

Applicants must be proficient in English or French. Advanced Knowledge of one more or several other working languages would be an added advantage.

## 13. Contract Management Reporting

The contract will be managed by the African Union Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (AU-PANVAC). The Consultant will report on its activities to the Senior Veterinary Vaccine Officer (AU-PANVAC).

## 14. Invitation

AU-PANVAC now invites eligible Individual Consultants to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested candidates must provide information demonstrating that he/she has the required qualifications and relevant experience

to perform the Services. Any clarification requests shall be addressed to the email address hereunder

### **Documents required**

- a) Cover letter
- b) A brief concept note, 2-3 pages demonstrating the Understanding of the assignment / TOR
- c) CVs

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

### **15. Address for delivery of Expression of Interest and Clarification requests**

Expressions of Interest must be delivered by email to the address below not later than 15:00 hours local time, on Friday 06 August 2021.

The email subject shall clearly state the title of the assignment and procurement number.

**PAN AFRICAN VETERINARY VACCINE CENTER AFRICAN UNION  
COMMISSION (AU-PANVAC)**

**Attn: Dr. Charles Bodjo**

**P. O. Box 1746,**

**Debre Zeit, Ethiopia.**

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