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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

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOI)

SERVICE PROVISION

LABORATORY EXPERT

AU-PANVAC/LIPC/003.25

Date: **April 2025**

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TERMS OF REFERENCE

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1. Background

The Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre of African Union (AU-PANVAC) was established in 1986 in response to the need for good quality vaccines for the control of rinderpest in Africa and has since then expanded its mandate to include quality assurance of all animal vaccines as well as production and distribution of essential biological reagents for the surveillance and diagnostics of animal diseases.

Drawing lessons learned from the Global Rinderpest Eradication Programme (GREP), the FAO and WOAH had developed a PPR Global Control and Eradication Strategy (PPR-GCES) which was adopted in 2015 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

The AUC has made the eradication of PPR a priority policy issue as reflected in the Decisions of the Executive Council of the African Union Ex.CL/Dec.610(XVIII) and EX.CL/1041(XXXII) of 2010 and 2018 respectively, urging its technical Offices (AU-IBAR and AU-PANVAC), RECs and technical partners to mobilize resources for the control and eradication of PPR and other priority trans-boundary animal diseases (TADs).

The Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (IBAR) and the Pan-African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (PANVAC) alongside its technical partners, the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) are implementing the phase 1 of the EU project for the eradication of PPR in Africa.

In seeking to achieve this objective, AU-PANVAC is looking for an outstanding and innovative Laboratory Specialist to work in Vaccine Quality Control and Diagnostics production.

The successful applicant will support conduct research and laboratory for research and development of diagnostic serology assays.

2. Objectives of the work

The aim of the Service Provider – Laboratory Expert is to ensure specialized expertise in vaccine quality control and production of diagnostics for disease surveillance.

Laboratory Expert is expected to establish and maintain high standards of quality assurance and control for vaccine production and diagnostic activities.

3. Scope of the Work

The service provider shall perform the following duties:

- Support the execution of quality control tests procedures of PPR vaccines to guarantee the test report are delivered consistency in due time.
- Provide technical expertise in the production, optimize assay conditions and conduct validations process for the PPR Blocking ELISA (bELISA) diagnostic assays
- Support the production of PPR ELISA tests.
- Support in the development of Term of references for establishing regional reference diagnostic laboratories for PPR
- Support Laboratory Quality Management:
    - Develop, implement, and manage quality control measures for vaccine production, ensuring adherence to international standards and regulatory requirements.
    - To promote veterinary laboratories external quality audit and accreditation.
- Assist in the harmonisation of standard for registration of PPR vaccine:
    - Updated on international regulations and standards related to vaccine quality control and diagnostics.
    - Ensure compliance with regulatory requirements, preparing and submitting documentation for approvals as necessary.

- To arrange appropriate linkages with the relevant national and international reference laboratories or centres as the primary sources of vaccine technologies, standards and reference reagents
- Prepare regular reports on quality control metrics, diagnostic results, and compliance status for organizational review.
- Perform any other related duties as required by the Director of PANVAC

4. Specific Tasks

The service provider will deliver the following specific tasks:

- Support the execution of quality control tests procedures of PPR vaccines to guarantee the test report are delivered consistency,
- Provide technical expertise in the production, optimize assay conditions and conduct validations process for the PPR Blocking ELISA (bELISA) diagnostic assays,
- Support Laboratory Quality Management
- Assist harmonisation of standards process for registration of PPR vaccine,
- To arrange appropriate linkages with the relevant national and international reference laboratories or centres as the primary sources of vaccine technologies, standards and reference reagents
- Prepare regular reports on quality control metrics, diagnostic results, and compliance status for organizational review.

5. **Deliverables**

The service provider shall deliver a monthly activity report related to the scope and tasks carried out.

7. Timeline

The assignment shall be for a period of six (6) months beginning 1st July 2025.

8. Duty Station

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

9. Service provider fee and schedule payments

a) The service provider will be paid a monthly lump sum of USD 7,100. (Seven Thousand One Hundred United States Dollars only) on a monthly basis for

the assignment. This amount includes all of the service provider's fees, reimbursables and profits as well as any tax obligation that may be imposed on the service provider. It excludes travel costs and daily subsistence allowance, when the service provider 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 service provider and acceptance of the same by the Client.

10. Qualification and Experience of the Service Provider

I. Candidates must hold at least a Master's degree in one of the following fields: bacteriology, virology, immunology and molecular biology. Having PhD degree in the related disciplines and Diploma of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine will be an added advantage;
II. At least five years' professional experience in managing activities in vaccine and research for the development of serological and molecular diagnostic tests in the field of animal health;
III. Experience in the development and management of policies and the implementation of disease control strategies for the sustainable strengthening of animal production systems at national and international level;
IV. Experience in biological risk management: biosafety and biosecurity;
V. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills for effective collaboration with stakeholders on security matters, to meet and deal with persons of diverse backgrounds;
VI. Resourceful and skilled at collecting, analyzing and using data to recommend, make and communicate decisions of a technical nature lay audiences
VII. 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:

Technical proposal evaluation points		
1	General Education, Qualification and General training	**30**
2	Experience relevant to the Assignment	**60**
3	Understanding of the assignment	**10**
	Total	**100**

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 Service provider will report on its activities to the Acting Director of AU-PANVAC.

14. Invitation

AU-PANVAC now invites eligible Individual Service provider to express 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) 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 Monday 23 May 2025.

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

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

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