



CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOI)

MONITORING, CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE (MCS) FOR THE FFA MEMBERSHIP

Ref: CPO7_1718

Background

The Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) was established in 1979 with the signing of the FFA Convention by Pacific leaders. Based in Honiara, Solomon Islands, FFA's members are Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

The Mission of the FFA is to “drive regional cooperation to create and enable the maximum long term social and economic benefit from the sustainable use of our shared offshore fishery resources.”

The FFA Secretariat is staffed by over 90 international and locally-recruited staff who manage a broad range of programs approved by the FFA membership. This work involves promoting regional cooperation and assisting member states to sustainably manage their valuable offshore fisheries resources.

Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS)

MCS is a critical element of FFA’s fisheries management framework. FFA members have determined that effective fisheries MCS in their respective EEZs and more broadly is essential if domestic tuna industry development is to realise long-term success. FFA members have adopted arrangements with both legal and technical elements to apply MCS tools at the national and regional levels.

IUU fishing poses a significant threat to Pacific Island tuna fisheries, undermining international, regional, and national efforts to effectively conserve and manage fish stocks. As such, FFA are delivering projects to address this. One in particular aims to strengthen Port State Measures (PSM) within the FFA membership.

PSM’s are one effective way of addressing IUU fishing and are generally focussed on determining vessel compliance with applicable conservation and management measures and laws, through port inspection regimes. The linkage of PSM’s with other port based activities that monitor and verify fishing vessel catches is an important precursor for effective catch documentation schemes and in securing market access.

Technological advancements provide FFA members the opportunity to improve the effectiveness of their MCS arrangements and address some of the capacity issues faced by Small Island Developing States (SIDS). However, assistance is needed to better define how emerging technologies can be used to advance MCS capabilities.

Need for MCS consultants

FFA is implementing a five year project funded by the New Zealand Government aimed at strengthening FFA member PSM's with the objective of 'Reduced IUU fishing in the Pacific through cooperative monitoring, control and surveillance programmes'.

The project recognises the need for intensive national work to develop and deliver instruments and tools that will enable FFA members to enhance their PSM's. This will also provide the necessary frameworks for members to participate in information sharing and MCS activities regionally and internationally and to better combat IUU fishing.

As such, consultants with a broad understanding of the various MCS activities used in the region are sought to contribute and work as part of a team to implement project activities, as preferred suppliers.

Expression of Interest (EOI)

An EOI is invited from interested Consultants who have extensive experience in fisheries MCS projects and related activities in the Pacific region. Detailed experience and understanding of national and regional PSM's and their application to national and regional MCS activities is essential. A comprehensive understanding and working knowledge of international developments, obligations and instruments relating to Port State Measures is required. Consultants must be able to undertake some, or all, of the activities outlined in the Terms of Reference below.

Terms of Reference

The Consultant(s) may be asked to undertake assignments in a number of activities including, but not limited to:

- (i) Scope, review and document existing national and regional MCS policies and activities;
- (ii) Undertake gaps analysis of particular MCS activities against international and regional requirements, and best practice where applicable;
- (iii) Assess MCS capacity and resourcing availability, and determine where additional resourcing is essential, and may be needed;
- (iv) Review and develop policy and procedures for implementing MCS activities and further developing MCS programs, taking in to the use of account emerging technologies and the use of electronic reporting tools;
- (v) Participate in national and regional workshops as a resource person and/or participant
- (vi) Identify and undertake training requirements;
- (vii) Develop and coordinate national MCS training activities;
- (viii) Develop national strategies for implementing port State measures, and/or MCS activities;
- (ix) Review incorporate emerging technologies in to MCS operational procedures;
- (x) Contribute to the development of information management systems for MCS activities, in particular PSM's.
- (xi) Assist in the review of technical documents that contribute to the project.

The work requires consultants that are familiar with Pacific fisheries MCS issues at a high-level, and familiarity with MCS operational systems used regionally and nationally.

Consultants should also have solid experience in the other related MCS areas including, but not limited to, the following areas:

- a) The role of MCS to prevent, deter and eliminate Illegal, Unreported, Unregulated (IUU) fishing;
- b) Catch Documentation Schemes and other fisheries traceability programs;
- c) National and regional MCS risk assessments and associated MCS plans and strategies;
- d) MCS activities undertaken, required and/or managed by FFA, PNA, and/or WCPFC;
- e) Electronic Reporting and Electronic Monitoring design, operations and implementation;
- f) MCS capacity development, including relating to MCS data analysis;
- g) Development and implementation of Standard Operating Procedures concerning MCS activities;
- h) Transshipment activities and monitoring;
- i) Compliance actions, including enforcement and prosecution;
- j) Data sharing arrangements to assist regional MCS activities (e.g. Niue Treaty Subsidiary Agreement).

Suitable consultants must have a working knowledge of, and experience with, the legal, policy, and operational mechanisms in place in the Pacific region to support MCS. Consultants must also have experience engaging with MCS authorities and officers within the FFA membership, and the FFA, WCPFC, and SPC Secretariats and PNA Office. Demonstrated communication and analytical skills are essential, including effective and concise reporting.

Prior to the commencement of any work commissioned under this EOI, FFA and the relevant Consultant will agree on a written Tasking Note detailing the anticipated outputs and indicative budget for each or any required project, task or activity. This will be approved by the Director of Fisheries Operations and counter-signed by the Director General or Deputy Director General.

The availability and nature of MCS projects will depend on a number of factors including, but not limited to, the project workplan, availability of funding, and the capacity of FFA Membership and Secretariat staff to undertake the project activities.

Evaluation and Assessment of RFP

All bids shall be evaluated using a two stage procedure with evaluation of the technical proposal being completed prior to any financial proposal being reviewed and compared. The overall evaluation weighting shall be 80% Technical and 20% Financial.

The technical evaluation will be in accordance with the following criteria:

Evaluation Criteria	Weighting
Detailed understanding of national and regional Pacific Fisheries MCS issues and activities	30%
Working knowledge of, and experience with, the legal, policy and operational mechanisms in place in the Pacific region regarding Port State Measures	25%
Demonstrated communication and analytical skills, including effective report writing	25%
Experience engaging with MCS authorities in FFA membership including with relevant representatives from FFA, WCPFC, and SPC Secretariats and PNA Office.	20%
Total	100%

In the second stage, the financial proposal evaluation, those bidders who have attained a minimum of 70% score in the technical evaluation will be compared.

Financial Proposal

In this EOI stage of the process, bidders should confine their Financial Bid to an indication of Cost per Day formulation that provides a transparent indication of costs.

Prices must be quoted in United States Dollars (USD).

References

All submissions are required to provide evidence of professional or technical capacity such as educational or professional qualifications, details of experience on similar projects.

All submissions are required to verify financial capacity, corporate identity and/or a track record of successful delivery to clients.

FFA will evaluate the EOI submissions received, and shortlist a number of consultants in a pool of Preferred Suppliers. This will remain valid for a minimum of two years.

Submission of EOI

1. All EOI should be submitted together with all relevant documents and shall be in English.
2. Submission of EOIs responding to this invitation should be received by 5pm, 23 February 2018 (**Solomon Islands time and date**). Late applications will not be considered.

Hard copy applications shall be sealed and should comply with the directions contained herein and addressed to: The Director-General, Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency, P O Box 629, Honiara, SOLOMON ISLANDS - Telephone (677) 21124 and Fax (677) 23995. – Attention PSM Tender.

Submission of bids as electronic PDF files will be acceptable, sent by email to procurement@ffa.int and the subject must detail the EOI request for proposal number (RFP) and subject title.

EOI's should be of no more than five (5) pages not including relevant CV's or necessary attachments.

Award of Contract

FFA reserves the right to accept any EOI, and to annul the solicitation process and reject all proposals at any time prior to award of any contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder(s) or any obligation to inform the affected bidder(s) of the grounds for such action.

For further information regarding this invitation please contact the Forum Fisheries Agency:

Email: pamela.maru@ffa.int