

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
Ministry of Public Works and Transport
NR13 Improvement and Maintenance Project
Project: P163730; Sector: General Industry and Trade Sector

Assignment Title: Annual Audit of Financial Statements for NR13 Improvement and Maintenance Project
Reference No.: Package 10

The Ministry of Public Works and Transport ("MPWT") of the Government of Lao PDR has received financing from the International Development Association ("IDA"), Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank ("AIIB") and Nordic Development Fund ("NDF") toward the cost of the NR13 Improvement and Maintenance Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

MPWT is seeking the services of an independent qualified external auditor to carry out audits of the Project's annual financial statements for the entire period of the Project (from 22 January 2019 to 31 May 2023). The objective of the audit of the Project financial statements is to enable the auditor to express a professional opinion on the Project's financial position as at the end of each of the accounting period specified below and of the statement of cash receipts and payments for the accounting period ending on that date. The Project's books of account provide the basis for preparation of the financial statements and are established to reflect the financial transactions in respect of the Project.

The auditor will be appointed for the entire project life from 22 January 2019 to 31 May 2023 (FY2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023), the current Project closing date. Except for the first audit which will cover the period from 22 January 2019 to 31 December 2019 and final audit which covers the period from 1 January 2023 to 31 May 2023. The auditor will conduct an audit of the financial statements for each fiscal year ending December 31.

The continued engagement of the auditor for each financial year will be subject to satisfactory performance in conducting the audit of previous years' financial statements, including the timely submission of the audit reports in accordance with the agreed timeframes and financial covenants of the relevant financing agreements with donors.

In addition, a separated audit is required for the Special Fund granted by AIIB for the period from 26 June 2018 to 31 July 2019.

The audit shall cover the financial statements for each of the following periods:

- For the period from project 22 January 2019 to 31 December 2019;
- For the year ending 31 December 2020;
- For the year ending 31 December 2021;
- For the year ending 31 December 2022; and
- For the period from 1 January 2023 to 31 May 2023 (the current closing date)

The Department of Inspection of MPWT now invites eligible audit firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are:

- Be a legal entity with business license granted by appropriate authority;
- Be an entity acceptable to the World Bank as technically competent, independent and able to comply with International Standards on Auditing ("ISA"), and have adequate quality control to ensure compliance with ISA, International Standard of Quality Control ("ISQC 1") and other requirements;
- Experience in financial auditing in the public sector;
- Experience in auditing in the region and in the Lao PDR;
- Extensive experience in financial statements audit of World Bank and/or donor funded projects.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraphs 3.14, 3.16 and 3.17 of the World Bank's Regulations - Procurement in Investment Project Financing - Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services (July 2016 revised November 2017 edition), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Consultants' Qualifications-based Selection (CQS) method set out in the World Bank's Regulations. Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours - 09:00 to 17:00 o'clock.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by fax, or by e-mail) by August 12, 2019.

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Department of Inspection
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