



GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(INDIVIDUAL CONSULTING SERVICES SELECTION)
DATE OF ISSUANCE: 30th May,2022**

Sierra Leone Financial Inclusion Project

Assignment Title: Consultancy Services for a Payment Systems Consultant (Operational) for the Sierra Leone Financial Inclusion Project.

Reference No. SL-MOFED-287155-CS-INDV

The Government of Sierra Leone has received a loan of USD\$12M from IDA/World Bank to implement the Sierra Leone Financial Inclusion Project. The Project has a development objective to increase the interoperability of digital payments and access to financial services. The Project is an Investment Project Financing (IPF) and comprised of three components. Component 1 – Ensuring interoperability of digital payments; finances the hardware, software, and consulting services required to implement a switch successfully. Component 2 – Ensuring the viability of the payments system through increasing usage thereof by financing access points for the switch, including Point of Sale (POS) terminals, mobile wallets, and government payments. The component has a particular emphasis on increasing access in areas of the country with particularly low levels of financial inclusion, and in particular, rural areas. The component also supports other barriers to the usage of the payments system, including legal and regulatory barriers and financial awareness. Component 3 – Project Implementation Support; finances a project coordinator and oversight mechanisms for the project to ensure private sector stakeholder involvement.

GOALS OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The main objective of this assignment is to engage the services of a Payment Systems Consultant (Operational) (PSC-O) to help operationalize the switch through drafting all the requisite business policies, rules, regulations, settlement arrangements and requirements, liquidity management rules and mitigation measures, operational procedures, clearing schedules, and pricing strategies.

OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF WORK

The specific objectives of this assignment are to assist BSL in drafting the following items for the national switch:

- rules and regulations, including:
 - (i) access criteria and participation requirements;
 - (ii) risk management and mitigation measures comprising (a) liquidity risk, (b) settlement risk, (c) operational risk, including cyber security, (d) adherence to international standards, and (e) data protection and security; and

- (iii) clearing schedules
- operational procedures – transaction authentication and authorization requirements, daily reconciliation, customer grievance redressal, charge backs, and dispute resolution.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment *can be obtained at 13a Howe Street*, the Project Fiduciary Management Unit now invites eligible individual Consultant (“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 evaluation shall be based on the relevant qualifications and experience of the Individual Consultant.

The attention of interested consultant is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank’s “Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers” July 2016, revised November 2017, July 2018 and November 2020 (“Procurement Regulations”), setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest. In addition, please refer to the following specific information on conflict of interest related to this assignment:

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Individual Consultant Selection (IC) Method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 16:00pm daily.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by e-mail) by Monday 13th June,2022 at 16:00pm.

Mode of Application

All expression of Interest should be addressed to:

Attn: The Head of Procurement

Project Fiduciary Management Unit

Ministry of Finance

13a Howe Street Freetown

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