

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (REOI)

Contract Title: **Assessment of the Impacts and Potential Benefits of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy**

1. Contract reference no.

11th EDF/SFCICP/CSME/SER/2024-LP

2. Procedure

Open Tendering

3. Source of Funding

11TH EDF - Financing Agreement FED/2018/040-087

4. Contracting Authority

Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

CONTRACT SPECIFICATION

5. Contract description

The project will utilize the services of a team of consultants or consortium to undertake a study on the impact of the CSME. This will involve the identification and quantification of the economic and non-economic benefits and impacts of implementation of the various elements of the CSME. The consultants will frame the study around the economic integration pillar of CARICOM.

Attention should be paid to the management of the governance arrangements in so far as it relates to the rate of implementation of the regimes. Aspects therein would include coordination across the Institutions of the Community (including the Secretariat) and with Member States, the relationship between the Community Organs, Bodies and Institutions, and the process for arriving at and implementing regional decisions at the national level. They should also include strategies at all levels that would expedite implementation.

Given the complexity of the analysis to be carried out, the study will require a **clear, well-structured methodological approach and organisation** of the work which must be detailed in the offer and agreed with the CARICOM Secretariat during the inception phase. The approach must incorporate a combination of quantitative and qualitative research methods as appropriate.

The consultants would be required to conduct interviews and consultations with major stakeholders in the Community to gather data to inform the study. These stakeholders would include, inter alia:

- Executive and Senior Management Staff of the CARICOM Secretariat
- Heads of Community and other Regional Institutions
- Representatives of the Governments of Member States
- CARICOM Private Sector Organisation (CPSO) and Private Sector Bodies in the Member States participating in the CSME
- Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL)
- Caribbean Employers Confederation (CEC)
- Business firms, Exporters and Professional Service Providers
- Financial Institutions
- Civil Society
- Academia, including the University of the West Indies, The University of Guyana and Anton de Kok University of Suriname
- International Development Partners.

6. Number and titles of lots

One (1) lot only

7. Maximum budget

USD 390,691

8. Scope for additional services

The CARICOM Secretariat may, at its discretion, extend the project in duration and/or scope subject to the availability of funding up to a maximum not exceeding the length and value of the initial contract. Any extension of the contract would be subject to satisfactory performance by the Consultant.

CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

9. Eligibility

Participation is open to all natural persons and legal persons participating either individually or in a grouping (consortium) of tenderers of any nationality. Participation is also open to international organisations.

10. Candidature

All eligible natural and legal persons (as per clause 9 above) or groupings of such persons (consortia) may apply.

A consortium may be a permanent, legally-established grouping or a grouping that has been constituted informally for a specific tender procedure. All members of a consortium (i.e. the leader and all other members) are jointly and severally liable to the CARICOM Secretariat.

11. Number of EOIs

No more than one (1) Expression of Interest (EOI) may be submitted by a natural or legal person, whatever the form of participation (as an individual legal entity or as leader or member of a consortium submitting an EOI). In the event that a natural or legal person submits more than one EOI, all EOIs in which that person has participated will be excluded.

12. Shortlist alliances prohibited

Any tenders received from tenderers comprising firms other than those mentioned in the short-listed EOI will be excluded from this Open Tender procedure unless prior approval from the CARICOM Secretariat has been obtained. Short-listed consultants may not form alliances or subcontract to each other for the contract in question.

13. Grounds for exclusion

As part of the EOI, consultants must submit a signed declaration, included in the standard EOI form, to the effect that they are not in any of the exclusion situations listed in Clause 13 of Module 2 of the CARICOM Secretariat's Guidelines and Procedures Manual (GPM) available at: <https://caricom.org/wp-content/uploads/re-amended-GPM-as-7-Sep-21-2.pdf> Sub-contracting

14. Sub-contracting

Subcontracting is Not allowed.

15. Number of consultants to be short-listed

On the basis of the EOIs received, between 4-6 consultants will be invited to submit detailed tenders for this contract. If the number of eligible consultants meeting the

selection criteria is less than the minimum of 3, the CARICOM Secretariat may invite the consultants who satisfy the criteria to submit a tender.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

16. Provisional date of invitation to tender

22 April 2024

17. Provisional commencement date of the contract

1 June 2024

18. Initial period of implementation of tasks

Sixteen (16) months

SELECTION AND AWARD CRITERIA

19. Selection criteria

The following selection criteria will be applied to consultants. In the case of EOIs submitted by a consortium, these selection criteria will be applied to the consortium as a whole:

1. **Financial capacity of candidate** (based on item 3 of the EOI form). In case of the candidate being a public body, equivalent information should be provided.

Criteria for legal persons: -

- i. the average annual turnover of the candidate must be at least equal to the 60% of the maximum budget of the contract; and
- ii. Net current assets must be positive for the current and previous year.

Criteria for natural persons:

- i. the available financial resources of the candidate must be at least equal to 60% of the maximum budget of the contract; and
- ii. the financial situation of the candidate should not be in deficit, taking into account debts, at the beginning and end of the year.

2. **Professional capacity of candidate** (based on items 4 and 5 of the EOI form)

Criterion for legal and natural persons:

- i. at least four (4) staff currently work for the candidate in fields related to this contract;
- ii. has professional experience in subject matters related to this contract or any other related fields.

3. **Practical capacity of candidate** (based on items 5 and 6 of the EOI form)

Criteria for legal and natural persons:

- i. The candidate has provided services under at least one (1) contract of a similar nature, with a budget of at least equal to 60% of the maximum budget of this contract, within the past five (5) years from the submission deadline as specified in this tender.
- ii. Documentary evidence of successful completion of at least one (1) of the contracts described in 3 (i) above.

Previous experience which would have led to a breach of contract and termination by the CARICOM Secretariat shall not be used as a reference. This is also applicable concerning the previous experience of experts required under a fee-based service contract.

A consultant may, where appropriate and for a particular contract, rely on the capacities of other entities, regardless of the legal nature of the links which it has with them. It must, in that case, prove to the CARICOM Secretariat that it will have at its disposal the resources necessary for the performance of the contract, for example by producing an undertaking on the part of those entities to place those resources at its disposal. Such entities, for instance, the parent company of the consultant, must respect the same rules of eligibility, as the consultant.

If more than 6 eligible consultants meet the above selection criteria, the relative strengths and weaknesses of the EOIs of these consultants must be re-examined to identify the six best consultants. The only factors which will be taken into consideration during this re-examination are:

- a. the highest number of projects in criterion 3 (i)
- b. the project with the highest value in criterion 3 (i)
- c. Preference will be given to experience in the Caribbean region

20. Award criteria

Best value for money.

SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOIs)

21. Deadline for receipt of EOIs

15 April 2024 on or before 16:30hrs (Guyana time)

Any EOI received after this deadline will not be considered.

22. EOI format and details to be provided

EOIs must be submitted using the format of a standard template, which is available at

the following Internet address: 1<https://caricom.org/procurement-notice/>

Any additional documentation (brochure, letter, etc.) sent with an EOI will not be taken into consideration.

23. How EOIs may be submitted

EOIs must be submitted in English exclusively via email in a password protected pdf file to procurement.tenders@caricom.org

EOIs submitted by any other means will not be considered.

24. Alteration or withdrawal of EOIs

Consultants may alter or withdraw their EOI by written notification prior to the deadline for submission of EOIs. No EOI may be altered after this deadline.

Any such notification of alteration or withdrawal shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with Item 23. The outer envelope (and the relevant inner envelope if used) must be marked 'Alteration' or 'Withdrawal' as appropriate.

25. Operational language

All written communications for this tender procedure and contract must be in English.

26. Data Protection and Privacy

Any personal data requested is done on the authority of the CARICOM Secretariat, who for the purposes of this EOI is the contracting authority. If processing your reply to the EOI involves transfer of personal data (such as names, contact details and CVs) to the Secretariat, they will be processed solely for the purposes of the monitoring of the procurement procedure and of the implementation of the contract by the Secretariat and to comply with its obligations under its Data Protection and Privacy Rules. The intended recipients of any such data shall be staff of the Secretariat involved in the procurement procedure and contract implementation. Any personal data that is required under this EOI is compulsory and any failure to provide same may lead to rejection of the EOI. Any person whose personal data is under the control of the Secretariat pursuant to this EOI shall have the right to access, modify, correct or delete its data in accordance with the Secretariat's Data Protection and Privacy Rules available at <https://caricom.org/wp-content/uploads/CCS-Data-Protection-and-Privacy-Rules-GC.pdf>. For the part of any personal data transferred by to the Secretariat pursuant to this tender, the controller for the processing of personal data carried out within the Secretariat is: -

Mr. Chester James
Programme Manager – Procurement
Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
Turkeyen, Greater Georgetown
Guyana

Tel: + (592) 222 – 0104

27. Additional information

The opening hours of the CARICOM Secretariat are 08:30 hrs to 16:30 hrs Monday to Friday.