

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

(CONSULTING SERVICES – INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT SELECTION)

Country: Pakistan

Name of Project: Digital Economy Enhancement Project

Credit No: 7514-PK

Assignment Title: Telecom Strategy Expert

Reference No.: PK-MoITT-469367-CS-INDV

The Government of Pakistan has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) toward the cost of Digital Economy Enhancement Project (DEEP) and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services, which shall be implemented by the Ministry of IT and Telecom.

The consulting services (“the Services”) include professional expertise of “**Telecom Strategy Expert**” at a monthly lump sum remuneration. The Ministry of IT and Telecom, being Project Management Unit (PMU) intends to hire services of “**Telecom Strategy Expert**” for DEEP that can assist the project management in relevant field. The consultant, as an expert in the field, will provide quality advice maintaining the highest degree of integrity and ethical standards. The services of individual consultant shall be initially hired for a period of 12 Months.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be obtained at the address given below or can be downloaded from <https://njp.gov.pk>

Ministry of IT and Telecom being Project Management Unit invites eligible candidates (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services as “**Telecom Strategy Expert**” in Digital Economy Enhancement Project. Interested Candidates should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the expected Services. The services of individual consultant will be required /hired to assist project team on DEEP as per ToRs. The short-listing criteria are based on: (i) Qualification, (ii) Experience (iii) Additional Skills

The selected candidates will be required to present their original documents at the time of the interview. Submission of any false information will lead to immediate disqualification of the candidate at any stage of the hiring process.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank’s “Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers” September 2023, setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Open Competitive Selection of Individual Consultants method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours 0830 to 1630 PST.

Applicants shall apply online at National Job Portal www.njp.gov.pk.

Program Office (DEEP)

Ministry of IT and Telecom

7th Floor, Kohsar Complex

Pakistan Secretariat

F-5, Islamabad

Telephone: 051-9215621

Hiring for Individual Consultants Under DEEP

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Announcement Reference no:	1-1/2024-IT	Date	12 January 2025		
Project	Digital Economy Enhancement Project (P174402)				
Position Name	Telecom Strategy Expert	Position ID	PK-MoITT-469367-CS-INDV		
Vacancy	1	Type of Contract	Individual	Duration	12 Months

BACKGROUND

Digital Economy Enhancement Project (DEEP) is a World Bank assisted project with the objective to enhance the Government's capacity for digitally enabled public services delivery for citizens and businesses.

MoITT is the sponsoring agency of the project with execution support of (i) Board of Investment (BoI), (ii) National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA), (iii) National IT Board (NITB), and (iv) Ignite – National Technology Fund.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Digital Economy Enhancement Project (DEEP) aims at building the capacity of the Government to provide digitally enabled public services to citizens and businesses. The project will support the development of digital public infrastructure—including for responsible data exchange, digital authentication, and verifiable credentials—and digitalization of public services (including to make them available through a new national citizen portal), which will improve the accessibility and delivery of services, economic opportunities, and social protection.

In addition, DEEP will support a transition towards a digital inventory of administrative procedures and the development of an electronic single window—the Pakistan Business Portal (PBP)—integrated across all three layers of government for new and existing businesses to apply, renew, pay, and meet all their compliance needs. It will also promote civic innovation and digital inclusion.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The consultant will be engaged to develop comprehensive Terms of Reference (ToRs) and tender documents to facilitate the procurement process for onboarding firm(s) focusing on implementing a single-window system for Right of Way (ROW), advancing ROW reforms, crafting a National fiberization policy & plan, exploring strategies to improve smartphone affordability and digital service adoption, and driving policy reforms for disaster management in the telecom sector.

Additionally, the consultant will ensure that the ToRs address climate-related disaster resilience including assessing the climate resilience of existing telecom infrastructure and propose options to enhance resilience against climate and natural disasters.

This individual consultant will also extend necessary support, monitor and supervise the firm(s) performance to ensure the delivery of the overall DEEP project. Consultant will provide oversight, evaluate progress, and ensure compliance with project objectives and standards. The consultant will also engage with stakeholders to understand their needs, adhere to industry standards, and ensure compliance and regular reporting to MoITT/DEEP PMU.

SCOPE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The consultant will develop comprehensive Terms of Reference (ToRs) and Request for Proposals (RFPs) for key initiatives which includes facilitating the Right of Way (ROW) application process by defining compliance requirements and interactive dashboards, the National Fiberization Policy, focusing on infrastructure development and resource allocation, a policy framework for smart device proliferation, assesses the National Disaster Telecom Plan to enhance resilience against disasters, and proposes international partnerships and benchmark including assessing telecom infrastructure's climate resilience and providing strategic recommendations for improvement

The consultant will ensure the timely initiation and execution of tasks in compliance with World Bank standards, coordinating with stakeholders throughout the process. They will identify, assess, and mitigate risks, while closely monitoring daily progress, managing budgets, and adhering to project timelines. Quality control will be maintained through measurable standards, performance inspections, and corrective actions. The consultant will secure stakeholder acceptance, hand over all deliverables, and ensure the smooth closure of tasks, including comprehensive documentation and reporting.

4.1 Deliverables:

1. Development of TORs/ RFPs

I. Facilitate Application for Right of Way (ROW)

- a. Facilitate the application process for Right of Way (ROW) by defining scope and requirements for compliance with regulations, integrating ROW agencies for enhanced

coordination, and re-engineering business processes to improve efficiency and transparency including implementing an online system for ROW NOC issuance, along with a secure online payment system for fees. Establish robust complaint and case management systems to address grievances and monitor cases effectively. Additionally, design interactive dashboards to provide real-time insights into applications, approvals, payments, and complaints, ensuring streamlined operations and stakeholder accessibility.

II. National Fiberization Policy and Plan

- a. Creating a detailed roadmap for implementing the fiberization strategy, with actionable milestones and resource allocation.
- b. Establishing a comprehensive framework for fiber-optic infrastructure development, considering regulatory, technical, and financial aspects.

III. Smart Devices Proliferation Policy

- a. Outline the development of a policy framework to encourage the adoption and integration of smart devices into telecom infrastructure.

IV. National Disaster Telecom Plan

- a. Define the scope for the firm(s) to review and provide recommendations for the ongoing National Disaster Telecom Plan.
- b. Include tasks to assess the current disaster resilience of telecom infrastructure.
- c. Propose actionable recommendations to enhance resilience against climate and natural disasters.
- d. Facilitate international dialogue and partnerships to benchmark and implement best practices.
- e. Develop an index to score the telecom sector's improvement in climate resilience.
- f. Draft a comprehensive plan connecting with international stakeholders for disaster resilience.

V. Assessment of Climate Resilience & Recommendations

- a. Specify deliverables for assessing climate resilience across telecom infrastructure.
- b. Develop strategic recommendations for the firm(s) to improve resilience against climate-related and natural disasters.

2. Project Oversight and Stakeholder Engagement

- a. The consultant will provide essential support, monitor, and oversee the performance of the firm(s) to ensure the successful implementation and delivery of the overall DEEP project. They will offer guidance, track progress, and ensure adherence to the project's objectives and standards.
- b. Additionally, the consultant will engage with stakeholders to understand their requirements, align with industry standards, and ensure compliance. Regular reporting to MoITT/DEEP PMU will also be conducted to maintain transparency and accountability.

The consultant will ensure that the ToRs developed provide clear, actionable, and measurable deliverables for the firm(s) and align with the overall project objectives and international standards.

QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE

- 1) Minimum 16 years of education from a reputable/HEC/internationally recognized university in Electrical/Computer/Electronics/Telecom/Information Technology, or a relevant field.
- 2) Minimum 18 years of total professional work experience including national/international level experience in project execution, project communication, coordination formulation, analysis, stakeholder engagements preferably in Telecom/ICT/Digital sector.
- 3) Good understanding of international standards, regulations and practices
- 4) Proven track record of project execution and successful implementation of policies at national / international levels.
- 5) Strong communication, analytical, problem-solving skills and presentation skills with the ability to build consensus among diverse stakeholders at Federal and Provincials.

ADDITIONAL SKILLS / EXPERTISE

- 1) Ability to establish monitoring and evaluation frameworks to assess the policy's impact and effectiveness.
- 2) Ability to effectively organize stakeholder consultations.
- 3) Skills in creating comprehensive and actionable project implementation plans that align with project objectives.
- 4) Ability to develop a long-term vision and strategic goals.
- 5) Ability to work on tools that can help to improve the efficiency and timely delivery of the project.
- 6) Proficiency in conducting thorough research, including literature reviews, case studies, and field research.
- 7) PMP/PRINCE2/ ISO21500 certification.

SCHEDULE FOR THE ASSIGNMENT

The consultant will be appointed on a contract basis for a period of 12 Months. However, in case of additional time engagement the process and modalities of extended duration will be finalized at the time of Contract.

REMUNERATION AND OTHER BENEFITS

- 1) The consultant will receive remuneration as per the scope of work defined and based on the World Bank guidelines applicable to individual consultants for this position.
- 2) Travel expenses as approved by the World Bank and the Government of Pakistan.
- 3) This is a consulting-based appointment and does not offer medical or other benefits.

REPORTING OBLIGATIONS

- 1) The Consultant will report to the Program Director PMU through the Telecom Wing of Ministry of IT & Telecom.
- 2) The Consultant is required to follow all rules and directives of the World Bank and the Government of Pakistan for successful implementation of the project.
- 3) The Consultant is required to follow working days and timings as per the directives of the Federal Government of Pakistan.
- 4) The Consultant is required to report to work in an official attire.
- 5) The Consultant is prohibited from working for any other party or a paid job, or taking any other assignment during the course of this contract without written approval from the Competent Authority.
- 6) The Consultant shall ensure that all the required reports for the project are prepared on time in accordance with the requirements of the World Bank and the Government of Pakistan.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- 1) The applicant will be selected based on the following criteria

Criteria	Points
Educational Qualification	20
Work Experience	20
Additional Skills/ Expertise	10
Interview	50

SUBMISSION

Candidates meeting the required criteria should submit their applications at <http://www.njp.gov.pk> within 15 days of publication of the advertisement. No hard copy of application shall be accepted and all applications must be sent via NJP online. Shortlisted candidates who are working in Government sector are required to produce NOC at the time of interview.

