

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: Data Exchange Layer Consultant

Reference No.: PK-MoITT-469356-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 “**Data Exchange Layer Consultant**” at a monthly lump sum remuneration. The Ministry of IT and Telecom, being Project Management Unit (PMU) intends to hire services of “**Data Exchange Layer Consultant**” 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 06 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 “**Data Exchange Layer Consultant**” 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	Data Exchange Layer Consultant	Position ID	PK-MoITT-469356-CS-INDV		
Vacancy	1	Type of Contract	Individual	Duration	06 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 primary objective of this assignment is to facilitate the digital transformation of Pakistan by reviewing the design and implementation of a robust Data Exchange Layer. The specialist will validate detailed technical specifications, ensure the interoperability of various components within the Digital Pakistan ecosystem, and provide technical guidance throughout the project lifecycle.

The responsibilities include (but not limited to) the following:

- 1) The Consultant will review design, technical specifications and validate the design of the Data Exchange Layer, integrating Digital ID solutions.
- 2) The consultant will ensure compliance with standards including enterprise architectural framework, security frameworks, and other technical specifications across all implementing agencies in order to ensure seamless integration of data exchange layer with the services to be developed.
- 3) The consultant will review and finalize the technical specifications, roadmap and associated plan for design, development and implementation of Data Exchange Layer in collaboration with respective PIU.
- 4) This consultancy work will guide towards enhancing the digital infrastructure under the Digital Pakistan initiative, ensuring that the systems developed are secure, efficient, and capable of supporting the country's digital transformation efforts.

SCOPE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The work of the Consultant will include the following tasks, among others:

- 1) Conduct a thorough review of the design proposals for the Data Exchange Layer.
- 2) Review detailed technical specifications for the Data Exchange Layer, ensuring alignment with international standards.
- 3) Review the defined system architecture, data flow, security protocols, and interoperability requirements.

- 4) Ensure compatibility and interoperability among different government databases and applications.
- 5) Ensure the specifications address data protection, privacy, and cybersecurity concerns.
- 6) Identify and assess any integration issues.
- 7) Provide a detailed report outlining the technical specifications for the Data Exchange Layer.
- 8) Deliver a comprehensive design review report with recommendations for improvements.

QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE

- 1) Minimum 16 years of education from a reputable/HEC recognized university in Computer Science, Information Technology, or a related field.
- 2) Minimum 15 years of professional work experience in system architecture with demonstrable expertise in designing and implementing large-scale digital solutions.
- 3) Demonstrated experience in conducting design reviews and interoperability tests.
- 4) Familiarity with digital identity solutions and interoperability standards.
- 5) Experience with cloud-based architectures, API design and data management systems.

ADDITIONAL SKILLS / EXPERTISE

- 1) Experience with international donor-funded projects will be advantageous.
- 2) Strong analytical skills.
- 3) Excellent communication and presentation skills, both orally and in writing.
- 4) Proficiency in project management tools and methodologies.
- 5) The Consultant must be well-versed in Data Exchange Layer strategies, system architecture, interoperability requirements, and international standards

SCHEDULE FOR THE ASSIGNMENT

The Data Exchange Layer Consultant will be appointed on a contract basis for a tentative period of 06 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 Data Exchange Layer Consultant will report to the Program Director PMU, Ministry of IT & Telecom.
- 2) The Data Exchange Layer 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 Data Exchange Layer Consultant is required to follow working days and timings as per the directives of the Federal Government of Pakistan.
- 4) The Data Exchange Layer Consultant is required to report to work in an official attire.
- 5) The Data Exchange Layer 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 Data Exchange Layer 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.