

## **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 credential’s verification. 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](http://www.njp.gov.pk) or email at [deep.consultant@moitt.gov.pk](mailto:deep.consultant@moitt.gov.pk).

**Section Office (IT)**

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## Hiring for Individual Consultants Under DEEP

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

Announcement Reference no:	1-1/2024-IT	Date	31 August 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.

**REPORTING OBLIGATIONS**

- 1) The Data Exchange Layer Consultant will report to the Program Director PMU, Ministry of IT & Telecom.

**SELECTION CRITERIA**

Procurement will be carried out in accordance with the Open Competitive Selection of Individual Consultants in accordance with Bank's Procurement Regulations for Borrowers for Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services and applicable to Investment Project Financing (IPF) hereinafter referred to as "Regulations" dated September 2023.