

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

THE FEASIBILITY STUDY OF NATIONAL CENTERS OF RESEARCH INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN AI AND ALLIED TECHNOLOGIES (NCRIE-AI)

NAME OF THE WORK

**FEASIBILITY STUDY OF NATIONAL CENTERS OF RESEARCH INNOVATION AND
ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN AI AND ALLIED TECHNOLOGIES (NCRIE-AI)**

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2 DATA SHEET

Serial No.	Items	Description
1	Ministry	Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication
2	Address	Ministry of IT and Telecommunications 7th Floor, Pakistan Secretariat, Kohsar Block, Islamabad Tel: +92-51-9215348
3	EOI Reference Number	1-2/2021-IT/NCRIE
4	Date of Issue of EOI	17 th October 2021
5	Last Date for Submission of EOI Response	31 st October 2021
6	Language of EOI	English
7	Website	www.moitt.gov.pk

3 DISCLAIMER

The Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication (MoITT) invites Feasibility Study of National Centers of Research Innovation and Entrepreneurship in AI and Allied Technologies (NCRIE-AI) to study the scope of AI in global and local perspective in relation to Pakistan's planned transition towards technology driven knowledge economy to assess the need for establishment of such centers. MoITT intends to select well- established, experienced and innovative consultants for the Feasibility Study of National Centers of Research Innovation and Entrepreneurship in AI and Allied Technologies (NCRIE-AI). The sole objective of this document (the Expression of Interest) is to solicit response from interested consultants for taking part in the propose various options for setting up the centers keeping in perspective the world best practices and local context and recommend the most feasible option. MoITT reserves the right to discontinue with the selection process without assigning any reason thereof.

While this document has been prepared in good faith, no representation or warranty, expressed or implied, is or will be made, and no responsibility or liability will be accepted by MoITT or any of their employees, advisors or agents as to or in relation to the accuracy or completeness of this document and any liability thereof is hereby expressly disclaimed. Interested consultants may carry out their own study/ analysis/ investigation as required as part of their due diligence before submitting their responses.

This document does not constitute an offer or invitation, or solicitation of an offer, nor does this document or anything contained herein, shall form a basis of any contract or commitment whatsoever.

Some of the activities listed to be carried out by MoITT subsequent to the receipt of the responses are indicative only. The Ministry has the right to continue with these activities, modify the sequence of activities, add new activities or remove some of the activities, as dictated by the best interests of MoITT.

4 PROPRIETARY NOTICE

This document contains confidential information of Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication, which is provided for the sole purpose of permitting the recipient to evaluate the proposal submitted herewith. In consideration of receipt of this document, the recipient agrees to maintain such information in confidence and to not reproduce or otherwise disclose this information to any person outside the group directly responsible for evaluation of its contents, except that there is no obligation to maintain the confidentiality of any information which was known to the recipient prior to receipt of such information from MoITT or becomes publicly known through no fault of recipient, from MoITT or is received without obligation of confidentiality from a third party owing no obligation of confidentiality to MoITT.

5 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

5.1 About Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication

Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication Pakistan (MoITT) is the national focal Ministry and enabling arm of the Government of Pakistan for planning, coordinating and directing efforts to initiate and launch Information Technology and Telecommunications programs and projects aimed at economic development of the country.

5.2 Purpose of this EOI

Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication is evaluating the scope of AI in global and local perspective in relation to Pakistan's planned transition towards technology driven knowledge economy to assess the need for establishment of such centers.

Consultants having technical and financial strength are invited to participate in this venture in which the Ministry will participate to an extent of facilitation / sponsoring for the Project.

MoITT is in the process of selecting well-established, experienced and innovative consultants for the Feasibility Study of National Centers of Research Innovation and Entrepreneurship in AI and Allied Technologies (NCRIE-AI) through competitive bidding process. The objective of this document is to solicit proposal from interested consultants, who fulfil the prequalification criteria set out in this document, to offer Feasibility Study of National Centers of Research Innovation and Entrepreneurship in AI and Allied Technologies (NCRIE-AI).

Based on the prequalification criteria set out in this document, prequalified consultants will be allowed to participate in the subsequent RFP. Prequalified consultants have to complete the consultancy report/services within One Hundred and Twenty Days (120) days after award of contract.

It is expected that only consultants having proven experience in Research Innovation and Entrepreneurship in AI and Allied Technologies and related projects will respond to this Expression of Interest notice.

6 SCOPE OF WORK

6.1 Terms of Reference / SOW

The scope of work and expected outputs/deliverables will be the following:

- a) The study should explore how to build the mandate and execute a strategy to transform Pakistan towards knowledge economy by training its human resource with valuable skills in IT, creating environment where this resource can be put to work to energize economy, increase exports and assist in creating more knowledge jobs. A knowledge economy authority should be established to implement the respective tasks.
- b) This feasibility should make it clear that how AI centers can help and grow startups in the domain of AI. It will promote spinoffs and exploit all other commercialization opportunities. This will not only bring industrial expertise right on campus but will also help in sustainability of the center and in the creation of required innovation echo system.
- c) The study will consider possibilities that how these centers will focus on research and development of demand driven projects for execution by industry in collaboration with the centers. Moreover, it will explore that how each center can award Ph.D., Masters and Postdoc degrees at full strength in AI and allied fields. Can and to which scale the centers may help strengthen the undergraduate programs in the country by making available its foreign-trained PhDs to CS/IT/CE programs of the public and selected private sector universities. This facilitation of PhDs to these universities will provide the needed impetus to strengthen the undergraduate CS education in the country, especially in AI and allied fields.
- d) This study should investigate the establishment of a venture fund for the support of highly competitive startups and SMEs in the related fields. The innovation fund will be established that in collaboration with relevant ministries will float RFPs for the digitalization, data collection, and data standardization for various public sector entities in defined thematic areas. The local IT industry in collaboration with these centers and international partners will bid for the projects and most suitable consortium will be awarded projects. The feasibility should specify the mechanism for the establishment of Fund for Innovation, Research and Entrepreneurship (FIRE) and its respective TORs. This fund should be governed by its own independent

management unit hosted in Auxiliary center in Islamabad. This Fund will comprise of following heads;

- i. FIRE management unit
 - ii. RPFs for Innovation Fund: Sector wise including but not limited to Health, Agriculture, Energy, Transport, Education, Manufacturing etc
 - iii. Entrepreneurship and Venture Fund
- e) The Study should consider a research fund envisioned for promoting collaborative research activities in the proposed centers on future and bleeding edge technologies.
- f) The feasibility should explore possible Collaboration with ‘International Innovation Resources’, the study shall specify a platform for encouraging its domestic AI enterprises to leverage international resources by developing cooperation with foreign universities and research institutes. This approach shall assist Pakistani companies towards achieving international recognition and partnerships. Additionally, the study shall also look into the matter of facilitation of foreign companies to set their roots in Pakistan.
- g) The study should specify that how AI can help in the safety of citizens and their properties, one of the fundamental pillar of good governance, can also be ensured through intelligent AI based monitoring of data and developing mechanisms for early warning. Similarly, possibilities for good governance could be explored in Health, Agriculture, Energy, Transport, and many other sectors of public delivery.
- h) This feasibility should lay out a strategy that how data beneficial for AI to be shared between multiple ministries and departments of country at federal and provincial level. Moreover, how these centers can help to establish increasing communication and sharing among academia, industry and the defense forces.
- i) The feasibility should study the establishment of a data standardization and data sharing platform that will be developed by the National Data Authority under NCRIE-AI-Auxiliary.
- j) In this feasibility study, AI policy framework will be specified to ensure the implementation of above described objectives in multiple sectors of the country. The study should specify the functionalities in detail of an AI Regulator entity under NCRIE-AI-Auxiliary to manage the National Data Authority and AI Open Source middleware development for rapid development and deployment of data driven decision support system, and applications.

7 PREQUALIFICATION OF CONSULTANT(S)

The criteria for the prequalification of consultant(s) are tabulated as following.

Consultants obtaining 70 marks and above will only be prequalified and will be allowed to participate in the RFP.

CRITERIA		MARKS (Max)	DOCUMENTS REQUIRED
A.	FINANCIAL CAPABILITY	10	
	Turnover figure for last consecutive three (03) years	10	Information to be provided on prescribed Form A-1
B.	GENERAL WORK EXPERIENCE	25	
	Past Experience Past Experience of projects of Information Technology consultancy services.	25	Information to be provided on prescribed Form B-1 & Form B-2
C.	SPECIFIC WORK EXPERIENCE (Excluding that of Part-B above)	40	
	Consultancy Projects of Similar Nature Past (Similar) experience of completed projects of Research Innovation Entrepreneurship in AI & Allied Technologies. Past (Similar) experience of consultancy provided for Research Innovation Entrepreneurship in AI & Allied Technologies. Past (Similar) experience of products/solutions developed for Research Innovation Entrepreneurship in AI & Allied Technologies	40	Information to be provided on prescribed Form C-1 & Form C-2
D.	HUMAN RESOURCES CAPABILITY	25	
	Qualification of Experience of resources employed by the organization	25	Information to be provided on prescribed Form- D-1 & Form- D-2
	Grant Total	100	

8 CLARIFICATION DURING EVALUATION BY THE MINISTRY

During the prequalification, the Ministry may require the consultant(s) for necessary clarifications or substantiation of the information furnished. The applicant(s) shall furnish the necessary clarifications expeditiously by post/courier/fax/e-mail or by any other means of communication to Ministry's address.

If the consultant fails to provide timely clarification or substantiation of the information furnished, the Ministry may declare such consultant as unqualified and reject his/her application.

9 REJECTION OF EOI DOCUMENT OF APPLICANT(S)

The Ministry reserves the right to reject any or all EOI applications. The Ministry shall upon request communicate to any applicant who submitted EOI application, the grounds for its rejection, but is not required to justify those grounds. The Ministry is not liable for any losses to applicant(s) due to such rejection.

Making any misrepresentation or furnishing of any false or wrong information, document or evidence by any applicant, as the case may be, may result in rejection of the EOI document of applicant(s). In addition, in such cases, legal action shall be taken as per prevailing law, in addition to debarment of the applicant(s) to participate in any procurement in the jurisdiction of the Ministry, for the time determined by the Ministry on the basis of the gravity of misrepresentation or false or wrong information.

10 NOTICE OF RESULT OF EVALUATION

All applicants irrespective of whether prequalified or not will be notified in writing the result of prequalification in due course of time.

Pre-qualified applicant(s) will be invited to participate in the Request for Proposal process.

11 REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

S. No.	Documents
1	Certified Copy of Registration/Incorporation, as per the laws of the land in which it originates.
2	Copy of Valid Income Tax, GST Certificate(s) whichever applicable.
3	Certified Copy of Tax Clearance Certificate of previous Fiscal Year or extension letter for present Fiscal Year with Tax Clearance Certificate of previous to previous Fiscal Year Requirement may be relaxed, as determined by the Ministry.
4	Audit report of last three (03) fiscal years. Requirement may be relaxed, as determined by the Ministry.
5	The Bidder must demonstrate through documentary evidence that it has successfully delivered at least three (03) Projects along with Completion Certificate / Letter.
6	Self-Declaration Form of mentioning their eligibility, non-conflict of interest, non-receipt of any punishment while providing consultancy services or any other business including any kind of debarment by any Governmental or national or international organizations and litigation history (if any).

12 FORMS

12.1 FORM A-1

FINANCIAL CAPABILITY OF THE CONSULTANT

Full name of the Consultant: _____

FINANCIAL STATUS

Turnover of last three fiscal years	FY _____	FY _____	FY _____
Amount in PKR			
Amount in words			

Note:

Provide similar information for each member in case of joint venture.

Submit Audited Reports of last three (03) fiscal years to support the above information.

Date:
Consultant

Signature & Designation

Seal of the

12.2 FORM B-1

GENERAL WORK EXPERIENCE OF THE CONSULTANT

S. N.	Name of the project	Location	Client value of contract (PKR)	Year of completion	Description of relevant work
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					
7.					

Note: (1) *Note: Provide above information for each member in case of a joint venture.*

Date:

Signature & Designation

Seal of the Consultant

12.3 FORM B-2

DETAILS OF THE WORKS STATED IN FORM B-1

The following information should be provided in the format indicated for each reference project for which the consultant was legally contracted.

Project Name:		Country:
Project Location: Name of Client: Approximate value of Services:		Professional Staff Provided by the consultant: No. of Staff: N. of Man-months:
Start Date: (Month/Year)	Completion Date: (Month/Year)	No. of man-months of Professional Staff provided by consultant(s).
Name of associated firm(s) if any:		
Name of Senior Staff (Project Director/Coordinator, Team Leader) involved and functions performed:		
Detailed Narrative Description of Project:		
Detailed Description of Actual Services Provided by the Consultant:		

Date

Signature & Designation

Seal of the Consultant

12.4FORM C-1

SPECIFIC WORK EXPERIENCE OF THE CONSULTANT OF THE SIMILAR NATURE (RESEARCH INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN AI AND ALLIED TECHNOLOGIES)

S. N.	Name of the project	Location	Client value of contract	Year of completion	Description of relevant work carried out
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					
7.					

Note: (1) *Note: Provide above information for each member in case of a joint venture.*

Date:
Consultant

Signature & Designation

Seal of the

12.5 FORM C-2

DETAILS OF THE WORKS STATED IN FORM C-1

The following information should be provided in the format indicated for each reference project for which the consultant was legally contracted.

Project Name:		Country:
Project Location: Name of Client: Approximate value of Services:		Professional Staff Provided by the consultant: No. of Staff: N. of Man-months:
Start Date: (Month/Year)	Completion Date: (Month/Year)	No. of man-months of Professional Staff provided by the consultant(s).
Name of associated firm(s) if any:		
Name of Senior Staff (Project Director/Coordinator, Team Leader) involved and functions performed:		
Detailed Narrative Description of Project:		
Detailed Description of Actual Services Provided by the Consultant(s):		

Date:
Consultant

Signature & Designation

Seal of the

12.6FORM-D-1

DETAILS OF KEY PERSONNEL/PROFESSIONALS

S. No.	Designation	Name	Qualification (including university & year of degree obtained after graduation)	Full time/part time	Total years of experience	Projects currently involved in
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						

Date:
Consultant

Signature & Designation

Seal of the

12.7 FORM-D-2

Resume (Name of the Prime/Alternate Candidate)

(There is no mandatory requirement to mention alternate candidates)

Position		Candidate [tick appropriate one] Prime Alternate	
Candidate Information	1. Name of Candidate	2. Date of Birth	
	Professional Qualification		
Present Employment	Name of Employer		
	Address of Employer		
	Telephone	Contact (manager/personnel officer)	
	Fax	Telax	
	Job title of candidate	Year with present employer	

Summarize professional experience in reverse chronological order. Indicate particular technical and managerial experience relevant to the Project.

Month/ Dates/years		Company / Project/ Position/ Relevant technical and management experience	
From	To		

Date:
Consultant

Signature & Designation

Seal of the

12.8Form E-1

Cover Letter from the Consultant

Consultant letter head [Date]
The xxxxxx

Reference: Notice on Expression OF Interest for the Feasibility Study of National Centers of Research Innovation and Entrepreneurship in AI & Allied Technologies.

Dear Sir,

This is to notify you that XXXX intends to submit a response to the EOI for the Feasibility Study of National Centers of Research Innovation and Entrepreneurship in AI & Allied Technologies.

Primary and Secondary contacts are:

	Primary Contact	Secondary Contact
Name:		
Designation:		
Address:		
Mobile No.		
e-mail ID		

We confirm that the information contained in this response or any part thereof, including its exhibits, and other documents and instruments delivered or to be delivered to Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication is true, accurate, verifiable and complete

It is hereby confirmed that I/We are entitled to act on behalf of our consultant and empowered to sign this document as well as such other documents, which may be required in this connection

(Signature)
(In the capacity of)

Duly authorized to sign the EoI Response for and on behalf of:

Sincerely,

Name Title Signature Date
(Name and Address of Consultant)

Seal/Stamp of Consultant

12.9 Form E-2

CERTIFICATE AS TO AUTHORISED SIGNATORIES

I, certify that I am of the, and that..... who signed the above response is authorized to bind the consultant by authority of its governing body.

Date:
Consultant

Signature & Designation

Seal of the