



**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTING FIRM)**

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY ON DEVELOPMENT
HORN OF AFRICA DIGITAL MARKET INTEGRATION (HDMI) PROJECT, PHASE 1**

**CONSULTANCY SERVICES TO UNDERTAKE FEASIBILITY STUDY ON
ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL PAYMENT SYSTEMS AND A CROSS-BORDER
INTEROPERABILITY PLATFORM (HORN OF AFRICA SWITCH)**

REF NO: IGAD-HDMI/B4/QCBS/2024/03

Country: Multinational (Djibouti, Somalia and South Sudan)

Sector: Digital development

Financing Agreement Reference: 2100155042222 / 5900155017803

Project ID No.: P-Z1-GB0-036

Date: 17/10/2024

The **Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)** has received financing from the African Development Bank Group toward the cost of the **Horn of Africa Digital Market Integration (HDMI) Project, Phase 1** and intends to apply part of the agreed amount for this grant to payments under the contract for provision of **‘Consultancy Services to Conduct a Feasibility Study on the Establishment of National Payment Systems and a Horn of Africa Switch.’**

The services included under the Phase 1 of the HDMI aims to strengthen development of more deeply integrated economies across the Horn of Africa region, through creation of a Single Digital Market across Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan. These align with the **IGAD Strategy (2021–2025)**, **IGAD Regional Infrastructure Master Plan**, the **African Union (AU) Agenda 2063**, **AU Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa (2020-2030)** and AfDB’s **High 5 priorities**, including **‘Industrialize Africa’**, **‘Integrate Africa’** and **‘Improve the Quality of Life for the People of Africa’**.

The outlined ambitions highlight a critical need for elaborate institutional and technological frameworks at both national and regional levels. These frameworks are essential for enabling seamless financial transactions and cross-border interoperability, which are crucial for fostering regional integration and economic cooperation.

To achieve this, it is imperative that a regional switch is developed in accordance with international standards and best practices concerning interoperability, security, encryption and regulatory compliance, including **Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Counter-Terrorism Financing (CTF)** measures. Therefore, a detailed feasibility study (technical, economic, financial, social, legal, organizational and institutional) is necessary to guide this initiative, ensuring that the switch addresses current national and regional challenges and positions the Horn of Africa as a leader in regional economic cooperation and innovation. The implementation period is **five (5) months**. The services and requirements for this Consultancy are stipulated in the Terms of Reference (ToRs) that can be obtained from the address below.

The **IGAD** now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing these services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Consultants may constitute joint-ventures to enhance their chances of qualification.

The eligibility criteria, short-listing and selection procedure will follow the African Development Bank's *“Procurement Policy for Bank Group Funded Operations”*, *October 2015*, which is available on the Bank’s website at <http://www.afdb.org>.

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours **Sunday to Thursday, from 7:30 AM to 2:30 PM GMT+3**

Expressions of interest including supporting documents must be **delivered OR emailed** to the address below by **12 noon GMT+3 on November 12th, 2024** quoting ‘Expression of Interest for **Consultancy Services to Conduct a Feasibility Study on Establishment of National Payment Systems and a Horn of Africa Switch - Ref No: IGAD-HDMI/B4/QCBS/2024/03.**’ The format for emailed documents shall be PDF.

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