REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)

This notice is placed by UNPD. The accuracy, reliability and completeness of the contents of furnished information is the responsibility of UNPD. You are therefore requested to direct all queries regarding this RFI to UNPD using the fax number or e-mail address provided below.

Title of the RFI:
Provision of IT Professional Services in relation to the Feasibility study of the UNdata portal modernization

Date of this RFI: 3 August 2021 **Closing Date for Receipt of RFI:** 25 August 2021

RFI Number: RFIUNPD18756

Beneficiary Country/Territory: United States of America

Commodity/Service category: IT Professional Services

Address RFI response by fax or e-mail to the Attention of: Muhammed Riadul Islam, Procurement Officer

Fax Number: Please respond by email

E-mail Address: islam21@un.org

UNSPSC Code: 81160000,81110000,81112105

DESCRIPTION OF REQUIREMENTS

The UN Secretary-General's Data strategy for action by everyone, everywhere with insight, impact and integrity sets out a vision for a "data ecosystem that maximizes the value of our data assets for our organizations and the stakeholders we serve". Better governance, access to and sharing of high-quality data are key to deliver better services for people and planet and better outcomes for everyone.

The implementation of the UN Secretary-General's vision requires user-driven data integration approaches, including a federated architecture focused on the coordinated sharing and interchange of information among authoritative national, regional and international data hubs.

It also requires an effective and transparent governance framework that positions UNdata as a global network of trusted providers of authoritative data and statistics, as well as a modern data management infrastructure that allows users to find, access and use open data services and analytic tools.

The UN Statistical Commission at its 52nd session in March 2021 approved a vision and way forward for the implementation of the new UNdata and the establishment of a new Interagency and Expert Group to support the review and revamping of UNdata and the regular update of its data and metadata.

The UNdata central platform as envisaged in the SG's strategy and has endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission in March 2021, will need to meet the needs of today's broader community of data users, including:

- Serve as the main entry point to authoritative, geospatially-enabled statistical data, and their corresponding metadata, compiled by the UN system and other participating international and regional organizations;
- Establish a point of access to national data platforms maintained by national statistical authorities of UN Member States.
- Provide a modern architecture and tools for the integration, presentation, analysis, visualization, communication, use and re-use of data;
- Facilitate the interoperability, traceability, integration and usability by using international statistical and geospatial metadata standards.

The new UNdata will also need to realize the expectations outlined in the Roadmap for Innovating UN Data and Statistics by the Committee of Chief Statisticians of the UN System (CCS-UN) of ensuring feasibility and sustainability.

The realization of the vision of UNdata as a network of trusted data providers will require a data governance framework in which all UN system entities and other participating international and regional organizations and data providers share a common responsibility, taking into account their respective mandates and capabilities; and strong engagement between data stewards from the UN statistical system and all their user constituencies.

The successful integration of data from organizations with different mandates and constituencies requires a thorough analysis of the global statistical architecture and users' requirements.

It is imperative to bring in experts from different domain areas, who understand day-to-day processes, are closely familiar with the design, purpose and unique processes of source systems, and are able to identify and address hidden data challenges.

The business, data, and technology aspects of the new UNdata architecture will allow data to flow seamlessly from producers to final users, leveraging modern data storage and processing environments and tools, and allowing members of cross-functional teams to collaborate in the development, testing, implementation and refinement of solutions for data-driven policy and decision making.

Exploring data and analytic results in visual form is key to obtain and communicate data insights in ways that are easily understood, shared and acted upon. This includes, in particular, empowering users to perform data analyses and produce dynamic charts and map visualizations at different levels of granularity, allowing them to interactively discover trends, patterns and relationships between different data sets over time and across the geographic space.

The development of the new UNdata is expected to be conducted in multiple phases:

Phase I
- Initial planning phase, feasibility study and stakeholder engagement:
    - Part 1: Analysis of stakeholders' needs and preliminary benchmarking and market analysis and technical feasibility.
    - Part 2: Detailed feasibility study and project plan, donor research, and outreach and fundraising.

Phase II
- Building a first operational version of the new UNdata platform, implementing key data integration and user experience features, focusing on major UNSD datasets and other selected datasets from the existing UNdata.

Phase III
    • Broadening the scope of the new UNdata platform to include datasets from across the UN system, advancing data integration and expanding data analysis and visualization capabilities.

Phase IV
    • Integration with country platforms based on a federated architecture and full scaling up.

Required Services

The professional external service providers will be required to conduct a feasibility study based on the vision for the new UNdata outlined above:

    • Conduct benchmarking and market analysis study based on an outreach exercise to understand stakeholders' needs, including focus groups to identify gaps and unmet needs.
    • Plan and organize the first meeting of the UNdata Inter-Agency and Expert Group in 2021:
        - Prepare agenda and concept note.
        - Prepare a slide deck for a presentation at the first IAEG-UNdata meeting and other support materials for meeting participants.
        - Facilitate and support discussions during the IAEG-UNdata meeting
        - Prepare a summary of the discussion at the IAEG-UNdata meeting to be used as a basis for the next phase of the work;
    • Develop an initial technical feasibility study
        - Initial technology landscape analysis
        - High-level technology opportunities and risks analysis document

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS / INFORMATION (IF ANY)

To respond to this RFI, please submit vendor information through the EOI link below AND provide the requested information in a separate file directly to islam21@un.org with a copy to lantao.li@un.org. Please provide responses to all of the questions below.

Interested companies shall provide information in relation to the following aspects of the technical requirement:

1.   Ability to conduct systematic research to discover, validate, and document user needs
2.   Experience in the use of human-centric design methodologies, including usability principles and usability testing.
3.   Knowledge of statistical business processes and modern statistical production and dissemination architectures.
4.   Knowledge of project planning methodologies.
5.   Experience leading digital transformation processes in the public sector and/or international organizations.
6.   Experience in supporting international organizations with similar initiatives and independent fund raising.
7.   Experience in supporting the UN in conducting consultations on technical aspects and principles for the establishment of data platforms for sustainable development.
8.   Past engagement of working with the global statistical community.
9.   Knowledge and application of open data standards and principles.
10.   Knowledge of IT architecture for database development.

In addition, the UN requests the following specific information.

a.   Please provide a brief description of your company, its structure, years in business and the line of business dealing with evaluation services.
b.   Please provide a list of your company's clients in public sector that are utilizing similar services through long-term arrangements e.g. Long-Term Agreements.
c.   Please indicate fee range for the project as well as daily rates range for different level of personnel.

NOTE

Information on tendering for the UN Procurement System is **available free of charge** at the following address: https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice

Only the United Nations Global Marketplace (UNGM) has been authorised to collect a nominal fee from vendors that wish to receive automatically Procurement Notices or Requests for Expression Of Interest. Vendors interested in this Tender Alert Service are invited to subscribe on http://www.ungm.org

Vendors interested in participating in a potential future solicitation process should submit the Vendor Response Form of this RFI electronically (through the link available on the next page) before the closing date set forth above.

VENDOR RESPONSE

NOTICE

- Companies can only participate in solicitations of the UN Secretariat after completing their registration (free of charge) at the United Nations Global Marketplace (www.ungm.org).

- Please verify that your company is registered under its **full legal** name on the United Nations Global Market Place (www.ungm.org) and that your application for registration as vendor has been submitted to the **UN Secretariat** in the same site, to be able to participate in any potential solicitation process as a result of this RFI.

- While companies can participate in solicitations after completion of registration at Basic Level, we strongly recommend all companies to register at least at **Level 1** under the United Nations Secretariat prior to participating in any solicitations.

PLEASE NOTE: You should submit your response to this RFI electronically at:
https://www.un.org/Depts/ptd/node/add/interest-expressed?EOI=RFIUNPD18756

In case you have difficulties submitting your response electronically, please contact islam21@un.org directly for instructions.

1) <u>Registering as a Vendor with the United Nations</u>

Vendors interested in fulfilling the requirement described above must be registered at the UN Global Marketplace (www.ungm.org) with the UN Secretariat in order to be eligible to participate in any solicitation. Information on the registration process can be found at https://www.un.org/Depts/ptd/vendors.

Prerequisites for Eligibility
In order to be eligible for UN registration, you must declare that:

A. Your company (as well as any parent, subsidiary or affiliate companies) is not listed in, or associated with a company or individual listed in:

    I. the Compendium of United Nations Security Council Sanctions Lists (https://www.un.org/sc/suborg/en/sanctions/un-sc-consolidated-list), or

    II. the IIC Oil for Food List website or, if listed on either, this has been disclosed to the United Nations Procurement Division in writing.

B. Your company (as well as any parent, subsidiary or affiliate companies) is not currently removed or suspended by the United Nations or any other UN organisation (including the World Bank);

C. Your company (as well as any parent, subsidiary of affiliate companies) is not under formal investigation, nor have been sanctioned within the preceding three (3) years, by any national authority of a United Nations Member State for engaging or having engaged in proscribed practices, including but not limited to: corruption, fraud, coercion, collusion, obstruction, or any other unethical practice;

D. Your company has not declared bankruptcy, are not involved in bankruptcy or receivership proceedings, and there is no judgment or pending legal action against your company that could impair your company's operations in the foreseeable future;

E. Your company does not employ, or anticipate employing, any person(s) who is, or has been a UN staff member within the last year, if said UN staff member has or had prior professional dealings with the Vendor in his/her capacity as UN staff member within the last three years of service with the UN (in accordance with UN post-employment restrictions published in ST/SGB/2006/15).

F. Your company undertakes not to engage in proscribed practices (including but not limited to: corruption, fraud, coercion, collusion, obstruction, or any other unethical practice), with the UN or any other party, and to conduct business in a manner that averts any financial, operational, reputational or other undue risk to the UN.

For Registered Vendors: Vendors already registered at the UN Global Marketplace with the UN Secretariat must ensure that the information and documentation (e.g. financial statements, address, contact name, etc.) provided in connection with their registration are up to date in UNGM. Please verify and ensure that your company is registered under its full legal name.

For Vendors Interested in Registration: Vendors not yet registered should apply for registration on the United Nations Global Marketplace (http://www.ungm.org); information on the registration process can be found at https://www.un.org/Depts/ptd/vendors. Vendors must complete the registration process prior to the closing date of the RFI. Vendors who have not completed the UNGM registration process with the UN Secretariat before the closing date of the RFI are not considered eligible to participate in the potential solicitation process related to the RFI. We strongly recommend all companies to register at least at Level 1 under the UN Secretariat prior to participating in any solicitations.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Any false, incomplete or defective vendor registration may result in the rejection of the application or cancellation of an already existing registration.

2) <u>RFI Process</u>

Vendors interested in participating in the potential solicitation process should forward their information (as requested in the RFI) to UNPD (UNPD) by the closing date set forth in this RFI. *Due to the high volume of communications UNPD is not in a position to issue confirmation of receipt of RFIs.*

Please note that no further details of the potential solicitation can be made available to the vendors prior to issuance of the solicitation documents.
This RFI is issued subject to the conditions contained in the RFI introductory page available at https://www.un.org/Depts/ptd/rfi.