

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)**

This notice is placed on behalf of UNECA. United Nations Procurement Division (UNPD) cannot provide any warranty, expressed or implied, as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of contents of furnished information; and is unable to answer any enquiries regarding this RFI. You are therefore requested to direct all your queries to UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA using the fax number provided below.

Title of the RFI:

ASKIA Federated Search Engine

Date of this RFI: 12 May 2020**Closing Date for Receipt of RFI at PD:** 26 May 2020**RFI Number:** RFIUNECA299**Address RFI response by fax or e-mail to the Attention of:** Michael Getachew**Fax Number:****E-mail Address:** getachew17@un.org**UNSPSC Code:** 81112104**DESCRIPTION OF REQUIREMENTS**

General Information about the ASKIA Programme

The Access to Scientific and Socio-economic Information in Africa (ASKIA) Initiative defines a framework for bringing together scientific and socio-economic information for the African community, including scientists, researchers, academics, students, economists and, policy-makers, over an interactive online portal acting as a one-stop shop to such knowledge and associated information.

The overall goal of the initiative is to strengthen knowledge discovery and access by tapping into global scientific and socio-economic knowledge on and from Africa. The initiative responds to recommendations that have been made by experts from the fields of Information management and Libraries and from policy makers that have convened in the various conferences across Africa to discuss on strategies of promoting knowledge development in Africa.

The emphasis of the initiative is to develop a one-stop shop to collate and filters scientific and socio-economic knowledge as well as associated information including geospatial data, news and events through a single search and in one view search to enable ease of discovery and access. Moreover, there are millions of places to go online to find information where quality data often competes with unreliable internet chatter making it difficult for a user to locate relevant information. Noting that there is no single product to cover all of the information needs of ECA's information clients, multiple products are required and there is a considerable learning curve for information clients to become familiar with each of the products. Sometimes the client will need to use more than one product to obtain the information they require and then compare the results from each and remove any duplication.

In this regard ECA is seeking to implement a Federated Search solution to federate various information sources and provide a single search interface to access the information from all connected information sources with familiar options to search and retrieve information with the least amount of effort possible from

its various information sources. The Federated Search solution will provide a one-stop shop to collate all relevant information from all identified sources as well as associated information including geospatial data, news and events in one view to enable ease of discovery and access to the describe content from and on Africa.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS / INFORMATION (IF ANY)

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>

VENDOR RESPONSE FORM

TO: Michael Getachew
Email: getachew17@un.org

RFI Number:

FAX:

FROM:

SUBJECT: ASKIA Federated Search Engine

To be filled by the Vendor (All fields marked with an '' are mandatory)*

COMPANY INFORMATION

UNGM Vendor ID Number*:

Legal Company Name (Not trade name or DBA name) *:

Company Contact *:

Address *:

City *:

State:

Postal Code*:

Country *:

Telephone Number *:

Fax Number *:

Email Address:

Company Website:

We declare that our company fully meets the prerequisites A, B, C, D and E, for eligibility to register with the United Nations as outlined in the paragraph 1 of the RFI INSTRUCTIONS page.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Name and Title: _____

**** If not already registered with UN Procurement Division, please use the following URL to register at United Nations Global Marketplace (UNGM): www.ungm.org.**

RFI INSTRUCTIONS

1) Registering as a Vendor with the United Nations

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 or 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>.

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) RFI Process

Vendors interested in responding should forward their information (as requested in the RFI) to UNITED NATIONS **ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA** (Mission Acronym) by the closing date set forth in this RFI. *Due to the high volume of communications, Mission Acronym is not in a position to issue confirmation of receipt of RFIs.*

Please note that no further details of the planned 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>.

