

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST CONSULTING SERVICES

Selection #: RG-T3810-P003

Selection Method: Full competitive

Country: Argentina, Panama, Dominican Republic, and El Salvador

Sector: IFD/CMF

Funding – TC #: ATN/FG-18628-RG

Project #: RG-T3810

TC name: *Social and Productive Digital Infrastructure in Times of Pandemic: Lessons from the case of Spain*

Description of Services: *Roadmap for the implementation of the analogue switch off*

Link to TC document: <https://www.iadb.org/en/project/RG-T3810>

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is executing the above-mentioned operation. For this operation, the IDB intends to contract consulting services described in this Request for Expressions of Interest. Expressions of interest must be delivered using the IDB Portal for Bank Executed Operations (<http://beo-procurement.iadb.org/home>) by: *March, 4th 2022*, 5:00 P.M. (Washington D.C. Time).

The consulting services (“the Services”) include the support to the beneficiary countries in the transition from analogue to digital, proposing specific actions for the implementation of the analogue switch off and the implications on the national connectivity plan.

Eligible consulting firms will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Inter-American Development Bank: [Policy for the Selection and Contracting of Consulting firms for Bank-executed Operational Work](#) - GN-2765-4. All eligible consulting firms, as defined in the Policy may express an interest. If the Consulting Firm is presented in a Consortium, it will designate one of them as a representative, and the latter will be responsible for the communications, the registration in the portal and for submitting the corresponding documents.

The IDB now invites eligible consulting firms to indicate their interest in providing the services described above in the [draft summary](#) of the intended Terms of Reference for the assignment. Interested consulting firms must provide information establishing that they are qualified to perform the Services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Eligible consulting firms may associate in a form of a Joint Venture or a sub-consultancy agreement to enhance their qualifications. Such association or Joint Venture shall appoint one of the firms as the representative.

Special requirements according to the Donor Trust Fund (DTF), if applicable.

Interested eligible consulting firms may obtain further information during office hours, 09:00 AM to 05:00 PM, (Washington D.C. Time) by sending an email to Antonio Garcia, Antoniogar@iadb.org

Division: Connectivity, Markets and Finance (IFD/CMF)
Attn: Antonio Garcia Zaballos (antoniogar@iadb.org)

1300 New York Ave, NW, Washington DC 20577, USA
Tel: +1 202 623-2980
E-mail: antoniogar@iadb.org Web site: www.iadb.org

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Roadmap for the implementation of the analogue switch off

REGIONAL

ARGENTINA, EL SALVADOR, PANAMÁ Y REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA

ATN/FG-18628-RG

RG-T3810

<https://www.iadb.org/en/project/RG-T3810>

Social and Productive Digital Infrastructure in Times of Pandemic: Lessons from the case of Spain

1. Background and Justification

- 1.1 **Justification:** The use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) services and applications available over the Internet can reinforce sectors such as education, health, business, and government, with broad implications for economic development, competitiveness, and innovation. Yet, harnessing the benefits of this new digital economy increasingly relies on the availability of broadband Internet in a country as evolving services and applications require broadband speed and bandwidth.
- 1.2 Broadband infrastructure is an enabler of development. According to several studies, a 10% growth of broadband penetration is associated with a 1.21% increase in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of high-income countries and a 1.38% increase in the GDP of low-income countries (World Bank, 2009). It is estimated that in the case of the LAC region, for a 10% growth in the penetration rate of broadband services, the GDP can be increased by 3.19%; the productivity by 2.61% and more than 67,000 jobs can be created.
- 1.3 The Government of Argentina, Panamá, Dominican Republic, and El Salvador have launched digital programs which intends to increase coverage of broadband services, reduce the internet prices, install Wi-Fi hotspots, and evolve the 2G/3G customer base to new technologies in such a way that the countries get ready for the introduction of 5G across different sectors of the economy.
- 1.4 Moreover, due to current ongoing unexpected pandemic situation (COVID-19), the deployment of broadband network to connect the hospitals and health centers has become the highest priorities. To respond to this highly contagious virus, real-time information sharing system through the Internet is necessary for the related organizations. Also, by deploying the broadband infrastructures to the rural areas and increasing the accessibility of public institutions like schools and government offices, ICT tools to overcome the pandemic crisis may be available.
- 1.5 ICT applications can play a vital role in fighting COVID-19. Mobile devices and applications can be used to support early testing and contact tracing, government websites can share latest virus information and news, 5G may be used to deliver medicine without contact, and AI technology can be used to predict and prevent medical supplies and human resources.

2. Objectives

- 2.1 The general objective of this Technical Cooperation (TC) is to conduct feasibility studies to improve the connectivity of public institutions and households in Argentina, Panamá, Dominican Republic, and El Salvador. Particularly, this competitive bidding process is expected to support the beneficiary countries in the transition from analogue to digital, proposing specific

actions for the implementation of the analogue switch off and the implications on the national connectivity plan.

3. Main activities and reports/ deliverables.

- a) Best practices on technical, regulatory and economic aspects related to the analogue switch off and the implementation of a national connectivity plan
- b) Analysis of the market structure and future needs of Spectrum
- c) Review of the regulatory framework and propose specific recommendations to update the frameworks in terms of spectrum
- d) Development of a roadmap for the switchover.
- e) Evaluation of the current technology choices;
- f) An assessment of the spectrum efficiency relative to the technologies and techniques in use and those that could possibly be implemented;
- g) Review of the international best practices and recommendations defined measuring QoS regulation on mobile networks;
- h) An international benchmark on QoS regulation for mobile networks across Latin America, Europe, Asia and USA;
- i) Proposal of creation or modifications/improvements within the existing beneficiary regulation on QoS
- j) Evaluation of current DTTB networks;
- k) Development of the National Frequency Allocation Table (NFAT) for each country; and
- l) Spectrum evaluation for Beneficiary countries
- m) Development of a Regional Frequency Allocation Table (RFAT) for the beneficiary countries.
- n) Main principles of the implementation of digital transition: universal access and equitable provision of services;
- o) Regulatory matters: assessment of the current regulatory framework and the changes necessary to promote the analogue switch-off;
- p) Institutional framework: assessment of the current institutional framework and recommendations for possible changes;
- q) Licensing models: assessment of current licensing model and recommendation for possible changes;
- r) Technical issues: Technology and standard application, design principles and network architecture; network planning, infrastructure and spectrum compatibility;
- s) Digital dividend: recommendations for the allocation of frequencies.

4. Payment Schedule

4.1 Payment will be made as per the following schedule, upon approval by the Team Leader responsible for this TC (See item below).

4.2 Schedule of payments:

| Description | Percentage | Comments |
|--------------|-------------|---|
| Working Plan | 30% | The payment will be made upon approval. |
| Draft Report | 30% | The payment will be made upon approval. |
| Final Report | 40% | The payment will be made upon approval. |
| Total | 100% | Firms or Individual Consultancy |

5. Qualifications.

5.1 The firm will have extensive experience in the telecommunications sector, with senior team members involved in projects in LAC and other developing regions. Specific domain of broadband infrastructure is required, including but not limited to backbone and last mile networks and data centers deployment. The firm must have a proven capability to deliver detailed and accurate financial, economic and environmental studies.

6. Characteristics of the Consultancy.

Justification Consultancy category and modality: Firm or individual consultant.

Improve the Understanding of market in Argentina, Panama, Dominican Republic, and El Salvador.

Places of work: External Consultancy, place of the consultant firm.

Start date and duration: expected in 9 months.

7. Supervision and Reporting.

The consultancy will have Supervision and coordination of the consultant's work will be the responsibility of Antonio García Zaballos (IFD/CMF), Team Leader.

8. Schedule of Payments.

The Payments terms will be based of the milestones or deliverables of the project. The Bank does not except to make advance payments under consulting contracts unless a significant amount of travel required. The Bank wishes to receive the most competitive cost proposal for the services described in this document.