



Government of the Federated States of Micronesia
Department of Transportation, Communication & Infrastructure
P.O. Box PS-2 Palikir, Pohnpei FM 96941

**REQUEST OF EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTANT SERVICES)**

Federated States of Micronesia
PACIFIC REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY PROJECT 2: PALAU - FSM CONNECTIVITY PROJECT
World Bank Project No. P130592
World Bank Grant No. D004-FM
Expressions of Interest

The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) has received financing from the World Bank under the Palau – FSM Connectivity Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consultant services.

International connectivity infrastructure funded by the World Bank under the Project is allocated to (i) a new submarine fiber optic cable supplied by NEC that will link the FSM State of Yap to the South East Asia- United States (SEA-US) cable system to Guam (Yap link scheduled for completion in Q4 2017), and (ii) a new submarine fiber optic cable that will link the FSM State of Chuuk to the existing Pohnpei Spur which connects the FSM State of Pohnpei to the Hannon-Armstrong (HANTRU-1) cable to Guam. The Chuuk cable system is scheduled for completion in Q4 2017 or Q1 2018). FSM is also seeking World Bank funding to participate in a regional cable with the countries of Kiribati and Nauru which would link Kiribati and Nauru to the FSM State of Kosrae to the Pohnpei Spur interconnecting to HANTRU-1 to Guam, otherwise known as the “East Micronesia Cable” or “EMC” system.

The Governments of the three participating countries in the EMC Project have established an intergovernmental joint Project Steering Committee (PSC), tasked with overseeing the development of the strategic investment in the EMC system. The PSC is hiring a joint technical project manager who will be responsible for the detailed technical aspects of project design and development through contracting for the cable system. The PSC’s joint project manager will be expected to finalize the proposed configuration of the EMC system with input from the technical advisory Consultant for each country.

FSM is seeking to hire a legal and technical advisory consulting firm to support Kosrae’s participation in the EMC system and to provide advice on the arrangements governing access to HANTRU-1 for the fiber optic cable systems for Chuuk and the EMC. The objective of the Services under this assignment is to assist FSM in developing and implementing its proposed new infrastructure investment in a manner consistent with the project conditions and requirements, and the long term interests of ICT users in the FSM.

In this context, the Consultant will be expected to provide transactional advice to FSM on (i) ownership and operations arrangements for Kosrae’s share of the EMC system, (ii) the ownership and operations arrangements for the parties’ transit and capacity usage on the existing Pohnpei Spur and HANTRU-1 to Guam, and (iii) ensuring that the route configuration and supply of the EMC system provide the most efficient and beneficial outcome for Kosrae and for the FSM.

Details can be found in the attached Terms of Reference. The consultant will also be expected to provide advice to FSM to negotiate and agree arrangements connecting the Chuuk cable system to Guam via the existing Pohnpei Spur.

The FSM Department of Transportation, Communications and Infrastructure (DTCI), as implementing agency, now invites eligible consultants (firms) to indicate their interest in providing consultancy services for this assignment. 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 associate in the form of a joint venture or sub-consultancy to enhance their qualifications. In case of a Joint Venture (JV), all members of the JV will be evaluated jointly for the purpose of short listing and shall be jointly and severally liable for the assignment and shall sign the contract jointly in case of award is made to that JV group. Interested consultants should clearly indicate the structure of their “association” and the duties of their partners and sub consultants in their application. Unclear expressions of interests in terms of “in association with” and / or “in affiliation with” and etc. without indicating the status of the partnership and designation of the lead partner may not be considered for short listing.

The Consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures of Selection Based on the Consultants’ Qualifications (CQS) set out in the World Bank’s [Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers](#) of January 2011. The Consultant will be evaluated and selected applying the following criteria on a 100 total point basis:

1. *Specific experience of the Consultant (as a firm) relevant to the assignment (35 total)*
2. *General Experience in the telecommunications sector (20 total)*
3. *Availability of key expertise (45 total)*
 - a. Legal experts in telecommunications sector (15)
 - b. Finance experts in telecommunications sector (15)
 - c. Technical expertise (15)

The closing date for submissions of expressions of interest is **January 20, 2017, at 17:00 hours** local (Pohnpei, FSM) time. Expressions of Interest with supporting documents can be sent electronically to the Project Coordinator, Aaron L. Warren at alw.fsm@gmail.com (copy to transcom@mail.fm) or by Fax: + (691) 320-5853.

The complete Terms of Reference for the assignment are posted on DTCI’s web-site at <http://www.ict.fm/communications.html> or may be obtained directly by email request to the Project Coordinator. The office contact is indicated below:

Aaron L. Warren, ICT Project Coordinator
and Mark DeOrio, Assistant Secretary for Communication
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Interested consultants may obtain further information from the contacts listed above during office hours 08:00 to 17:00 hours from Monday-Friday.