



WARCIP LIBERIA PROJECT

WEST AFRICA REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM



Request for Expressions of Interest

Consultant Services for Provision of Advisory Services in the Assessment of Competition in the Liberia Telecommunications Market

1) This request for Expressions of Interest is being published on DGmarket, UNDB, national newspapers in Liberia, and on LTA website to attract suitable candidates.

2) Background

The Government of Liberia (GoL) has received a loan from the International Development Association of the World Bank (the “Bank”) towards the cost of implementing the first phase of the West Africa Regional Communications Infrastructure Program (WARCIP) Liberia Project (the “Project”) and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this loan towards the cost of providing advisory services in the assessment of competition in the Liberian telecommunications market.

This consultancy is in furtherance of the Liberia Telecommunications Authority’s (LTA) function to maximize the welfare of all citizens through systematic studies, observations and analyses of the telecommunications market, including the market segments, in order to gauge the state of liberalization. The LTA intends to continue this function by assessing the state of competition in the telecommunications sector in order to define markets, determine existence of significant market power (SMP) and impose appropriate regulatory obligations and remedies to ensure a level playing field.

Existence of fair competition in telecommunications markets is a necessary condition for sustainable economic development and enhanced social welfare of the people. Anti-competitive practices by dominant players may marginalize the benefits of economic efficiency inherent in competitive markets. Abuse of market power diminishes opportunities for dynamic efficiency leading to worsening consumer welfare. In recognition of this fact, the LTA intends to hire a consultant to review and assess competition in the Liberia telecommunications market.

3) Objective

The overall objective of this study is to understand the state of competition in the telecommunications sector. Specifically, this study seeks to:

(i) Define and identify the relevant markets in the telecommunications sector;

(ii) Develop guidelines for determining and designating operators with SMP and for instituting recommended remedies;

(iii) Assess the level of competition in each market segment and determine existence of operators with significant market power; and

(iv) Recommend appropriate regulatory obligations and remedies.

4) Scope of Work

The Consultant will work closely with the LTA to analyze competition in the Liberia telecommunications market in order to define and identify the relevant markets and to assess competition in each market. The consultant shall develop guidelines for determining and designating operators with SMP and recommend appropriate remedies and regulatory obligations for operators with SMP. The consultant shall also liaise with relevant authorities in the country to get an understanding of the competition environment particularly in the telecommunications sector. The Consultant shall also ensure that knowledge is transferred to designated LTA staff to ensure their capacity to conduct future market studies and analyses.

5) Duration, Deliverables and Administrative Arrangements

The following are the deliverables of the consultant:

- i. An inception report and work plan.

- ii. A draft report on relevant telecommunications markets, assessing competition in relevant markets and specifying criteria for determining operators with SMP to be presented to LTA Board of Commissioners and industry stockholders' workshop;
- iii. The final report to include the following:
 - a) Definitions of and identification of telecommunications markets operational within the Liberian telecommunications sector;
 - b) List of relevant markets;
 - c) Assessment of competition in each relevant market;
 - d) Guidelines for determining operators with SMP and suggestions for appropriate regulatory obligations and remedies;
 - e) Accounting separation and cost accounting guidelines;
 - f) Comments on existing laws, regulations and guidelines concerning competition and designation of SMP and necessary legislative and regulatory changes required to improve existing guidelines and provisions;
 - g) Assessment of the capacity of trained LTA staff in conducting market studies and analysis.

The consultant will undertake missions to Liberia as required to complete this work. The consultant will work under the general direction of, and in close collaboration with, the LTA. The LTA will provide the consultant with access to all relevant reports, legislation, statistics, policy documents and information, as well as arrange consultations, as required, with other government agencies, private operators, and relevant parties.

The consultant is expected to mobilize within two weeks of contract signature.

The assignment should be completed within six (6) months from the date of signing the contract.

6) **Consultant Qualifications**

This consultancy is expected to be carried out by a consulting firm or a group of firms with at least **five** years international experience in providing advisory services in analyzing competition in telecommunications markets. The Consultants team shall include **four** qualified experts in Telecommunications, Telecommunications Economics, and Finance, and in Regulatory and Competition issues.

7) **Deadline for Submission**

Expressions of Interest with detailed information of Past Performance must be delivered to the address below (by hand or e-mail) **on or before 30 August 2013 at 1700hrs GMT**. Only short listed candidates will be contacted.

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