



Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) For Destination Inspection REOI No LRA/ICB/BOT/001/16/17

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) was established by an Act of the National Legislature in 2013 to replace the Department of Revenue of the erstwhile Ministry of Finance (MOF) (including the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs and Excise), with a mandate of assessing and collecting national revenues as specified in the Revenue Code of Liberia or related law; administering, accounting, auditing and enforcing revenue collection laws and regulations; and educating taxpayers to facilitate tax and customs compliance.**
- 1.2 On July 14, 2016, Liberia became the 163rd member of the World Trade Organization (WTO). As part of the requirement of WTO and WCO membership, Liberia is obligated to transition to Destination Inspection (DI) Regime as a step to reducing barriers to international trade. This is a critical requirement of all WTO and WCO member countries. Currently, Liberia is using Pre-shipment Inspection (PSI) for most of the commodities imported to Liberia and maintains a Destination Inspection site at the Freeport of Liberia, the Robert's International Airport and at all Land Borders within the country. The current Destination Inspections are manual and done in the absence of modern technologies and the appropriate infrastructure and thus the need for investment in infrastructure, equipment, technology including equipment and capacity building in order for Liberia to transition from PSI to DI.**
- 1.3 Therefore, the Government of Liberia through the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) now invites interested and eligible firms/operators with the requisite financial and technical capacity to assess, design, fund, build and operate a new state-of-the-art Destination Inspection Facility at the current international Customs Sea and Airport across the country. The firm should also consider the possibility of creating Customs Clearance Zones within the various regions for the purpose of Destination Inspection. The firm shall provide technical training and hands-on knowledge transfer to Customs to effectively manage valuation, tariff classification and origin controls by the close of the contract period. Hands on training and knowledge transfer shall also include intrusive inspection of cargo, management of inspection facilities, operation of technology and equipment among others. Interested firms can either be foreign, Liberian, or joint ventures of foreign and Liberian.**

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- 2.1 The project is Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT). It requires the assessment for facilities construction, design of infrastructure, construction, and provision of all equipment for inspection and office facilities as well as providing adequate training for Customs staff under a comprehensive DI Transition Plan. During the said "DI Build Up" period, the Operator will be required to concurrently provide PSI and DI services for imports and exports. The investor(s) will provide all of the requirements and will recoup its investment**



and return on investment over several years to be detailed as agreed in the BOT Agreement. Investment cost and returns on investment shall be provided in financial proposal. The project shall at minimum include the following:

- Complete assessment report
- State-of-the-art facilities for physical inspection of cargo (simultaneous inspection of 25 - 50 forty-foot containers in all weather conditions).
- State-of-the-art non-intrusive inspection technology(NIIT) and facility
- State-of-the-art cargo inspection equipment
 - ✓ Offices
 - ✓ Vehicle holding area (up to 100 vehicles for inspection) and equipment for offloading vehicles
 - ✓ Customs-owned warehouse outside the port for inspection and storage of seizures
 - ✓ Warehouses for inspection of loosed cargos and storage of seizures in the ports
 - ✓ Inventory management system for customs storage warehouses
- Risk Management tools and systems
- Verification of Conformity (VOC) to be blended with system (Optional)
- Customs owned valuation database
- Long term subscription to international price databases
- Data Center
- Electronic document management system
- Overnight bungalow and office space for Customs boarding crew at seaports

3. QUALIFICATION PARAMETERS/EVALUATION CRITERIA

The EOI for the aforesaid assignment must include the following:

3.1 A brief company profile in narrative form with the following supporting documents:

- Business(es) Registration(s)
- Articles of Incorporation
- Last 3 years audited financial statements
- Fiscal compliance or tax clearance

3.2 Capability statement giving details about the experience and expertise of the service providers related to the Expression of Interest. List of projects of similar nature executed in, at minimum, the last 10 years. In the case of Joint Venture, each firm's capability statement and supporting document in count 3.1 must be provided and the primary firm identified.

3.3 Must be amongst the top five recognized companies for the provision of similar destination inspection service.

3.4 Must have the capability to pre-finance all investments requirement including assessment, design, construction, provision of equipment, state-of-the-art technologies and related equipment, equipping of modern DI sites, data center, the deployment of modern non - intrusive inspection tools including the modernization of Customs offices and quarters around the Country plus wide and local area connectivity.



- 3.5 Curriculum vitae of Senior Management and long term technical staff with relevant experience in the implementation, management and delivery of a Destination Inspection Regime.
- 3.6 Submission of satisfactory bank references and documents demonstrating availability of funds/liquid assets and/or credit facilities from reputable banker(s) of not less than 25 million to effectively carryout the project
- 3.7 Competence and capability will be established by the following parameters:
 - Financial Capability in terms of Net-worth and
 - Technical Experience of Applicant
- 3.8 Against each of these parameters, applicants would be required to meet the evaluation criteria as detailed in this Section. The evaluation shall be carried out in terms of Pass/Fail of the applicants to meet at minimum both of the above mentioned parameters separately. Applicant(s) meeting all the criteria will be shortlisted or qualified to submit their bid(s) for the proposed project.
- 3.9 Applicants fulfilling the following conditions are eligible to apply for the EOI.

FINANCIAL CAPABILITY:

Applicants should have a minimum net worth of US\$25,000,000 in the last three financial years (2014, 2015 and 2016).

Item No.	Minimum Eligibility Criterion	Documentary Proof
1.	Applicants should have a minimum net worth of US\$25,000,000 in 2014, 2015 and 2016	Audited Annual Accounts for the last three financial years

TECHNICAL EXPERIENCE

Applicants should have the following minimum experience in at least one of the below inspections over the past 10 years:

- Pre-shipment Inspection or
- Destination Inspection
- Preferably a combination of both

Note: The Authority reserves the right to reject any application which is non-responsive and no request for alteration, modification, substitution or withdrawal shall be entertained by the Authority in respect of such application.

4. SUBMISSION OF EOI

- 4.1 EOI application shall be submitted electronically and also in a sealed single envelop having the title of envelop as: "EOI application for Destination Inspection", REOI Number: REOI No. LRA/ICB/BOT/16/17.



The envelop should contain the following information in 8 sets (Original, Copy 1 & Copy 2)

- Covering Letter;
- Financial information certified by an accredited auditing firm;
- In case of consortium or Joint Venture (JV), copy of notarized Consortium or Joint Venture agreement;
- List of contracts previously executed with customs authorities or of similar nature.

5. DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF EOI

- 5.1 All applications should be submitted on or before 14:00 GMT Tuesday, August 22, 2017 at the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) Head Office located at ELWA Junction, Paynesville, Liberia.
- 5.2 The Authority may, in its sole discretion, extend the deadline for submission due date by issuing an addendum
- 5.3 EOIs shall be submitted at the below listed address by courier, in person or by email on or before 14:00 GMT Tuesday, August 22, 2017.

Address:

Procurement Manager, LRA

Procurement Unit

Basement, Ground Floor

LRA's Headquarter

ELWA Junction

Paynesville, Liberia

Email: walter.dean@lra.gov.lr cc oliver.rogers@lra.gov.lr

6. AMENDMENT OF EOI

- 6.1 At any time prior to the deadline for submission due date, the Authority may, for any reason, whether at its own initiative or in response to clarifications requested by an applicant, modify the EOI by issuance of an addendum. However, such addendums shall not reduce the requirements but may increase the number of requirements.
- 6.2 The EOI and any addendum thereto will be published in widely read newspapers and on the following websites: www.nic.gov.lr, www.mfdp.gov.lr, www.lra.gov.lr, www.ppcc.gov.lr and www.emansion.gov.lr