

IDB449-683 (Online Only)

**REGIONAL  
PROMOTING SMALL- AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISE COMPETITIVENESS  
Consulting Services  
DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT A NATIONAL AND REGIONAL INFORMATION SYSTEM ON  
STANDARDIZATION  
Technical Standards RG-M1022; ATN/ME-8991-RG  
Expressions of Interest**

This notice appears in *UN Development Business Online* only and not in the printed version. Although this notice is assigned to a specific print issue, the official publication date of this notice is considered the date that it is posted online.

The CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality has received financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) toward the cost of Promoting Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprise Competitiveness in the Caribbean through technical standards, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

This consultancy includes the design, enhancement, set-up and maintenance of an information system to help facilitate market access to entrepreneurs and coordinate activities within the national standardization system in each of the member states of CARICOM and amongst countries of the region. The information system will guarantee communication and participation amongst the various countries and will assist the processes of standardization in each of the member states of CARICOM. Further, the system will strengthen the regional system at the CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ).

Initially, the information system will be based on the network infrastructure of four CARICOM member states – Barbados, Jamaica, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago, with connectivity to the entire CARICOM region. Expandability is an important criterion of the regional information system, which must be sufficiently scalable and robust to eventually incorporate the remaining member states of CARICOM. The specifications of the technical infrastructure must conform to international guidelines and shall be compatible with the database systems of the Notification and Enquiry Points of international organisations.

The consultant firm shall be required to complete the following objectives within the scope of the project, as provided by the terms of reference:

- To select the hosting company that meets at least the minimum requirements for hosting an interactive web-based solution to support the national and regional information system
- To develop an Internet-based solution that meets all criteria and offers the greatest cost effectiveness for the design, construction and implementation of an interactive Web portal that supports this system
- To identify and recommend the appropriate hardware and software infrastructure to facilitate access and optimum use of the system by member states
- To provide a maintenance agreement which would include, inter alia, technical support and the development of new requirements based on the growing needs of the member states

The contract will be a lump sum contract inclusive of all expenses and procurements incurred. The budget for the consultancy is fixed price at US\$ 65,000.

The consulting service is for a period of 19 months. The development of the Web portal will occur in the first six months of the project with user testing immediately after development for a period of one month. The twelve-month maintenance program shall follow immediately after the commissioning of the Web portal and the signing of the maintenance agreement.

The CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality now invites eligible consultants to express their interest in providing the service. 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 to enhance their qualifications.

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the IDB's <I>Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants</I> (GN2220-10) that may be obtained at the IDB Web site below.

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours (0830 to 1630) and at the CROSQ Web site.

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by 17 August 2006.

CROSQ  
CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality  
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