

IDB986-735/08

**REGIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT OF A CERTIFICATION SYSTEM FOR EFFICIENCY AND  
TRANSPARENCY IN WATER AND SANITATION OPERATORS**

**Sector: Water and Sanitation**

**CONSULTING SERVICES**

**Expressions of Interest**

**Technical Cooperation No. RG-T1527**

**Deadline: 19 September 2008**

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is in the process of receiving financing from internal and external sources, and it intends to apply the proceeds for the Development of a Certification System for Efficiency and Transparency in Water and Sanitation Operators, with the goal of promoting efficiency and transparency of water and sewage utilities.

The services include the development of a certification system to: (a) assess and score water and sanitation utilities' efficiency and transparency levels, based on objective and standardized criteria, reflecting the sector specificities, and (b) certify good performance. The efficiency and transparency assessment will be performed through the analysis of a number of functions or characteristics of the utility (i.e., legal status and governance; policy formulation and regulation; reporting and transparency; community outreach and customer relation management; service coverage and quality of service; tariff and revenue; operational efficiency; human resources management; financial management and performance; environmental management; strategic planning and sustainability of the services; project design and execution). The certification system to be developed will result in a practical tool that includes indicators easy to understand, measure and verify.

The IDB now invites eligible consultancy firms and rating agencies to express their interest in providing the services. Interested firms/agencies must submit information establishing that they are qualified to perform the services. The expression of interest must include: (i) a brief background of the firm, agency or consortium; (ii) a summary describing pertinent expertise of the firm, agency or consortium; (iii) a summary describing completed or ongoing similar assignments; (iv) a summary describing the availability of appropriate skills among staff. Interested consultancy firms are strongly invited to partner and form consortia with rating agencies to improve their qualification. The expression of interest must not be longer than ten pages. The list of similar assignments and personnel's curricula can be presented as annexes.

The terms of reference of the service will be sent only to those firms, agencies or consortia that will be shortlisted and invited to present their offers.

Consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the IDB's *Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants financed by the Inter-American Development Bank* (current edition) and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the policies.

Interested consultants may obtain further information addressing any questions, via e-mail, to the address indicated below.

Expressions of interest must be delivered via e-mail to the address indicated below by 09:00 hours (Washington DC time) on 19 September 2008, indicating in the e-mail subject: "Expression of Interest - Development of a Certification System for Efficiency and Transparency in Water and Sanitation Operators".

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