

REPUBLIC OF SERBIA
Competiveness and Jobs Project
LOAN NUMBER 8528-YF

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR
INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANCY SERVICES

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE MEMBER / DEPUTY MEMBER
- EXPERT IN APPLIED RESEARCH -

The Republic of Serbia has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD i.e. World Bank) for the Competitiveness and Jobs Project (Project) which objective is to improve effectiveness and coordination of selected public programs to alleviate constraints to competitiveness and job creation, including investment and export promotion, innovation, active market programs and labour intermediation. The Innovation Fund of the Republic of Serbia (IF) intends to engage:

- Investment Committee Member/Deputy Member – Expert in Applied Research

Background

Subject assignment belongs under the Component A2 Program for Innovation of the Project, which is implemented by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development (MoESTD). The IF is implementing under Component A2 following programs: Mini and Matching Grants Programs (to finance specific proof of concept, prototyping, research and development (R&D) and technology development projects with commercialization potential in start-ups, micro, small and medium enterprises), Collaborative Grants Scheme Program (designed to incentivize private sector companies and public sector R&D organizations to engage in joint scientific research and development projects), Innovation Voucher Program and Technology Transfer.

In order to secure objectivity, transparency and quality of the evaluation of the project proposals submitted within the Mini and Matching Grants and Collaborative Grant Scheme Program (MGs Programs), the IF has secured international investment committee selection process by establishing IF's independent international Investment Committee, expert body which ideally include 5 members with adequate number of deputies.

The Investment Committee has been established in accordance with best international practices and in accordance with the IF's Charter, constitutes an independent decision-making body comprised of highly qualified individuals. The function of the Investment Committee is that of a permanent, albeit independent body within the IF's evaluation process and the Investment Committee is responsible for making the final decision on which projects the IF financially supports. The Investment Committee works in synergy and makes decisions via consensus in order to assess all incoming project proposals and cover the following areas of industry, science and technology: energy and energy efficiency, life sciences, civil engineering and construction materials, machines and mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, information and communication technologies, food science and agriculture, environmental science and new materials and nanotechnologies.

In accordance with the above mentioned, the IF is seeking to engage Expert(s) for Applied Research, for the position of Investment Committee Member and/or Deputy Member.

Objective of the Assignment

Engagement of the IF's independent Investment Committee is required for the Mini and Matching Grants and Collaborative Grant Scheme Program (MGs Programs) implementation. The recommended composition of the Investment Committee would ideally include 5 members with adequate number of deputies (if applicable), with international exposure and understanding of both local and global challenges and opportunities, including private industrial sector representatives, entrepreneurial community, international finance experts with a VC/PE background; and applied research sector representatives. This Investment Committee is responsible for selecting projects to receive grant financing; but would not be supra-Board of Directors. An independent Investment Committee is considered a critical governance feature and in line with international best practice. It is expected that approximately 100 project proposals will be submitted to the Innovation Fund per a call for proposals per a program.

Scope of work

The specific functions and responsibilities of the Investment Committee Member and Deputy Member with expertise in applied research include, but are not limited to:

- Implementation of Investment Committee work procedures with the other Investment Committee members
- Evaluation of project proposals submitted for financing under the programs/financing instruments IF is implementing, related to all aspects of project proposals, including evaluation of innovative technology/product/service, intellectual property, market potential and viability of proposed development strategy
- Preparation of the project review summary for the applicants with the other Investment Committee members
- Participation in final decisions and approval of projects for financing with other Investment Committee members
- Participation in monitoring the progress of financed projects in cooperation with the IF's Program Managers and/or other designated member of IF's team, as necessary
- Expertise and assistance in developing future programs of the IF, and in modification of existing programs when needed

Experience and Qualifications

The person suitable for this position should have the following qualifications:

- PhD in science or engineering
- Excellence in academic and applied research and significant, internationally recognized contribution to science and/or engineering research in the field of expertise
- Extensive experience in international research program and proposal evaluation as a program director, chair, expert reviewer or panel member

- Advisory experience related to participation in government programs and initiatives in the field of expertise
- At least 10 years of international work experience in the field of applied research and/or cooperation with industry and relevant references in management for these types of projects
- Effective interpersonal, advisory skills proven through successful interaction with stakeholders, including senior government officials, entrepreneurs and researchers
- Good knowledge of local macroeconomic conditions, challenges and opportunities in investment climate, particularly establishing and growing a business is desirable
- Fluency in English

Timing and Duration

The assignment is expected to start approximately in December 2018. Duration of the assignment is around 2.5 years. Generally, the Investment Committee members and deputy members are expected to be engaged for approximately 50 man days (1 man day equals 8 working hours). It is expected that the Investment Committee members will come to Belgrade at least once for around 5 days per call for proposals per a program.

Additional Information for Candidates

The IF invites all interested eligible individual consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services.

The individual consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the IF's general Rulebook on procedures for selection of independent international experts for the purpose of implementation of the IF's financing programs (March 2017). The IF will select the best ranked candidates for applied research area of expertise. Selected candidates will be awarded contracts for Investment Committee Member/Deputy Member

Interested and eligible individual consultants should send expressions of interest, together with information on relevant experience and CV, by e-mail to the contact information listed below.

Expressions of interest in English language must be delivered to the e-mail address below **by September 3, 2018.**

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