

**REPUBLIC OF SERBIA  
INNOVATION SERBIA PROJECT  
Project ID No. P126229-RE**

**SOLICITATION OF EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

**FOR**

**LEGAL ADVISORY FIRM**

The Republic of Serbia has applied for financing in the amount of EUR 8.4 million equivalent a Grant from European Union Instrument for Pre-Accession (hereinafter: IPA), administered by the World Bank (hereinafter: WB) toward the cost of the Innovation Serbia Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds to payments for individual consultancy services under this Project.

The Serbia Innovation Fund (IF) needs to engage one **Legal Advisory Firm (Firm)**.

Objective of the Assignment

The IF was established with the objective of providing financing to encourage entrepreneurship and innovation in Serbia. The IF participates in co-financing of programs, projects and other activities organized by international organizations, financial institutions and the private sector to foster innovation

While financing innovation and innovative companies through existing programs, as well as in development of future financial instruments, the IF needs to engage a Firm which will assist with various aspects of law, by acting in accordance with the local regulation and best international practice.

Scope of work

- Assistance in screening and evaluation of subprojects/grants with respect to corporate / business and intellectual property issues, including but not limited to licensing agreements, know-how agreements, corporate documents and other legal documents for subprojects/grants.
- Assistance in structuring Fund's intellectual property policy in accordance with the best practices in Europe and Serbian regulation.
- Legal screening of the agreements between the IF and any other legal entities, including but not limited to enterprises to be financed by the IF. Assistance and advice in structuring Fund's international agreements in accordance with local laws.
- Improvement of all international agreements with regard to, including but not limited to, corporate law issues.
- Assistance in legal aspects of IF current and future financing instruments.

Experience and qualifications

The Firm should have proven experience in providing legal services and consulting services in Serbia for both the international and local clients in the field of international commercial law, including experience in the field of: mergers, acquisitions, banking and finance, telecom, media and technology, corporate law, employment, taxation, environmental law, intellectual property, and dispute resolution.

Firms must have been in existence for five years minimum and have general law expertise.

The Firm should have capacity to assign a team of people that will work on this assignment. The qualifications of presented staff should to be related to the assignments of law and consulting services in the field of international commercial and IP law and financing transactions . Specifically, qualifications of the team staff include but are not limited to:

- Experience providing legal support in early stages of institutional development,
- At least 5 years of experience for Firm's staff in intellectual property according to Serbian law and best practices in Europe,
- At least 5 years of experience for Firm's staff in banking and finance according to Serbian law and best practices in Europe,
- At least 5 years of experience for Firm's staff in telecom, media and technology according to Serbian law and best practices in Europe,
- At least 5 years of experience for Firm's staff in corporate law according to Serbian law and best practices in Europe,
- At least 5 years of experience for Firm's staff in employment according to Serbian law and best practices in Europe,
- At least 5 years of experience for Firm's staff in taxation according to Serbian law and best practices in Europe,
- At least 5 years of experience for Firm's staff in environmental law according to Serbian law and best practices in Europe,
- At least 5 years of experience for Firm's staff in dispute resolution according to Serbian law and best practices in Europe,
- At least 5 years of experience for Firm's staff in mergers and acquisitions according to Serbian law and best practices in Europe.

#### Timing and Duration

The Firm would be engaged for 41 days in the period of 3 years: during the 1<sup>st</sup> year 15 days, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year 15 days and in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year 11 days. The assignment is envisaged to start in November 2011, subject to signing of the Administration Agreement between the World Bank and the European Commission and the Grant Agreement between the World Bank and the Government of Serbia.

**The Serbia Innovation Fund (IF) now invites eligible Firms to indicate their interest in providing the services.**

Expressions of Interest (EOI) from eligible firms/ joint venture (consortia) should specify the following relevant information:

- (i) Short introduction of the firm/consortium;
- (ii) Core business and years in business;
- (iii) Qualifications in the field of the assignment (in case of a "joint venture (consortia)", such evidence is required for all members of the "joint venture (consortia)", while in case of a sub-consultancy, it is required only for the leading firm);
- (iv) Technical and managerial organization of the firm; and
- (v) General qualifications and number of relevant key staff

**The Firm will be selected using the Selection Based on Consultants' Qualifications (CQS) in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers (January 2011)*.**

Interested and eligible firms wishing to participate should submit their Expressions of Interest (EOIs) in English **by e-mail to the contact information listed below.**

Expressions of interest must be delivered by **November 03, 2011.**

To: Milena Micanovic  
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