

CRDF GLOBAL

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Deadline: April 16, 2021 at 5:00 PM EST

Summary:

CRDF Global is seeking Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) with experience analyzing defense procurement and the proliferation of advanced conventional weapons in Southeast Asia, including through academia, government, and industry. SMEs will serve on a review panel to evaluate grant applications from researchers in Malaysia, Indonesia, India, Laos, Thailand, and the Philippines and select up to four grantees. Grantees will have approximately four months to complete their research projects, during which time SMEs will be available to provide feedback on outlines and initial drafts. Grantees will present their research at a conference in November or December 2021. SMEs are expected to attend the conference and deliver presentations on topics related to the theme of the competition.

Scope, Tasks, and Deliverables:

SMEs will review grant applications that summarize researchers' motivation and proposed methodology for completing new research projects on defense procurement in Southeast Asia and associated challenges related to the state-based proliferation of advanced conventional weapons (ACW).

SMEs should be prepared to evaluate grant applications on topics such as:

- Preventing gray-zone conflicts, proxy wars, and privatization in the East Asia Pacific region.
- Defending against the theft, forced transfer, or predatory acquisition of critical technology or companies by entities connected to the Chinese military.
- Approaches to guard against the development of dual-use infrastructure designed to support and project Chinese military power.
- Identifying Russian and Chinese corruption methods in defense procurement.
- Regional approaches to coalition building to counter Chinese military expansion into contested spaces.
- The role of state-based disinformation in conflict escalation.

SMEs will grade applications based on a rubric, participate in the review panel's deliberations, and contribute to the selection of up to four grantees.

During the four-month research period, SMEs will provide feedback on a project outline, an initial draft, and a project abstract. Grantees will have the opportunity to present their original research at a remote conference in November or December 2021. SMEs will be expected to attend the conference and deliver a presentation on a topic related to countering the proliferation of advanced conventional weapons in the region. Following the grant competition and the conference, SMEs will participate in a debrief meeting with CRDF Global and submit an after-action report.

Deliverables will include:

- Completed rubrics for a share of incoming grant applications, including a written paragraph justifying the final score recommended.

- Written feedback on outlines for four grantees.
- Written feedback on drafts for four grantees.
- Written feedback on abstracts for four grantees.
- One presentation on a topic related to countering the proliferation of advanced conventional weapons (one draft and one final copy)
- After Action Report that summarizes observations, successes, lessons learned, and recommendations for future work on this topic

Contractor Requirements:

For this work, CRDF Global is seeking SMEs with the following:

Required:

- At least ten years of relevant experience in policy and technical fields related to defense procurement and conventional weapons proliferation in the Southeast Asia region (including academia, government, and industry).
- Familiarity with Chinese and Russian defense exports and the risks associated with procuring weapons systems and other defense items from these countries.
- Willingness to attend and present at a remote conference in November or December of 2021 in GMT+8 time zone.

Preferred:

- An understanding of regional political and cultural dynamics in Southeast Asia, especially in the context of great power competition.
- Experience evaluating research proposals for completeness, quality, and feasibility.
- Experience providing feedback to researchers.
- Professional experience working in the defense industry.

Proposal Requirements:

Each proposal must include:

- Statement of Interest and Technical Capabilities
- Hourly labor rate/fee
- CV
- List of recent experience in the subject matter area
- List of applicable references
- (If applicable) Any Small or Disadvantaged Business Designations (Veteran Owned, HUB Zone, Women Owned, Disadvantaged Businesses)
- (if applicable) [NAICS Codes](#)

Timetable:

March 29: RFP posted

April 5: RFP Questions due

April 7: RFP Questions & Answers released

April 16: RFP submissions due

April 21-23: Interviews with potential Contractors

May 4: Anticipated contract start date

Contractor Selection Criteria:

CRDF Global will select the contractor that provides the best value in terms of overall price, knowledge, experience, and availability. The contractor should have proven experience working with international partners and the Department of State.

Background:

CRDF Global is an independent nonprofit organization founded in 1995 in response to the collapse of the Soviet Union and the threat of large-scale proliferation of weapons technology from the region. With support authorized by the Nunn-Lugar Act of 1991 and the Freedom Support Act of 1992, as well as private foundation contributions, CRDF Global embarked on bolstering the global scientific community and fostering alternatives to weapons research.

In the past 25 years, our work has expanded to address ever-changing global concerns, but our commitment to ensuring the success of our partners remains the same. We are a leading provider of flexible logistical support, program design and management, and strategic capacity building programs in areas of higher education, CBRNE security and nonproliferation, border security, cybersecurity, global health, technology, entrepreneurship, and international professional exchanges.

With offices in Arlington, VA; Kyiv, Ukraine; and Amman, Jordan, CRDF Global's diverse staff and networks of local community and government stakeholders deliver tailored programs that meet specific regional needs in over 100 countries across the globe.

Vision Statement:

Our world healthy, safe, and sustainable.

Mission Statement:

Safety, security, and sustainability through science, innovation, and collaboration.

Values:

We do the right thing.

We care about each other and the people we work with.

We work together to deliver excellence.

More information is available at www.crdfglobal.org.

Solicitation Terms & Conditions:

Right to Select Suppliers. CRDF Global reserves the right to negotiate with and select all qualified suppliers at its own discretion and is not obligated to inform suppliers of the methods used in the selection process. CRDF Global reserves the right to dismiss any and/or all suppliers from the bid process and reject any and/or all proposals.

Obligation. This RFP does not bind nor obligate CRDF Global in any way. CRDF Global makes no representation, either expressed or implied, that it will accept or approve in whole or in part any proposal submitted in response to this RFP. CRDF Global may reward, in whole or in part, the proposal at its sole discretion.

Notification. CRDF Global will notify bidders following completion of the evaluation process, as to whether or not bidders have been awarded the contract. The only information regarding the status of the evaluation of proposals that will be provided to any inquiring bidder shall be whether or not the inquiring bidder has been awarded the contract. CRDF Global may, at its sole discretion, inform any inquiring bidder of the reason(s) as to why it was not awarded the contract.

Binding Period. Following the due date of submission of this Proposal, the pricing included in this RFP shall be binding upon the supplier for the duration of the contract.

Hold Harmless. By submitting a response to the RFP bidder agrees that CRDF Global has sole discretion to select any and/or all suppliers. During or following the conclusion of this process, bidders waive their rights to damages whatsoever attributable to the selection process, materials provided, supplier selection, or any communication associated with the RFP process and supplier selection.

Transfer to Final Contract. The terms and conditions of the RFP, including the specifications and the completed proposal, will become at CRDF Global's sole discretion, part of the final contract (the "Agreement") between CRDF Global and the selected bidder. In the event that responses to the terms and conditions will materially impair a bidder's ability to respond to the RFP, bidder should notify CRDF Global in writing of the impairment. If bidder fails to object to any condition(s) incorporated herein, it shall mean that bidder agrees with, and will comply with the conditions set forth herein.

Exceptions. Any exceptions to the terms and conditions or any additions, which bidder may wish to include in the RFP, should be made in writing and included in the form of an addendum to the applicable Section in the RFP.

CRDF Global Proprietary Information. Supplier agrees that all non-public information contained in this document and communicated verbally in reference to this RFP by CRDF Global shall be received for the sole discretion and purpose of enabling the supplier to submit an accurate response to this RFP. The information contained in this RFP and disclosed during the course of negotiations and communications are proprietary in nature and under no circumstances to be disclosed to a third party without prior written consent from CRDF Global.

Supplier Proprietary Information. Information contained in the response to this RFP will be considered proprietary in nature if marked "confidential" or "proprietary". Such marked documents will not be disclosed to third parties outside CRDF Global with the exception of retained consultants under contractual confidentiality agreements.