

CRDF GLOBAL
Expert on Investigating Illicit Networks Which Facilitate Weapons Proliferation
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Deadline: December 20, 2021

Summary:

CRDF Global is seeking experts specializing in research, investigation and analysis of Russian and Chinese illicit corporate networks which facilitate weapons proliferation in the East Asia Pacific region. In collaboration with other experts identified by CRDF Global, the expert(s) will co-lead a series of trainings for the financial sector, commerce associations, trade groups, and investigative journalists.

The training will cover the hidden financial costs and reputational risks of conducting business with sanctioned entities through extensive use of specific and recent case studies. The curriculum will cover:

- How Russian and Chinese defense networks use front companies, commercial espionage, deceptive marketing strategies, and unscrupulous brokers to conduct arms sales.
- How to identify the use of offshore companies to obscure the involvement of prohibited or high risk Chinese and Russian defense firms in procurement, financial, investment, and merger and acquisition activities.
- How to identify high risk corporate secretarial, management, and legal actors that provide material support to corruption networks.

The training will empower participants to identify, avoid, and disrupt deceptive practices used by Russian and Chinese defense entities to proliferate advanced conventional weapons and their related technology and components.

Scope:

The expert(s) will advise business leaders and financial compliance and anti-money laundering officers on how to identify illicit networks and sanctioned entities, the types of commodities that may be affected, and how to proactively screen against defense-related transactions and commercial activity. The training content will also cover due diligence and compliance best practices for Financial Intelligence Units to avoid sanctions risks.

The project will also highlight the role of investigative journalism in identifying waste, fraud, and abuse of power related to military procurement in order to increase transparency and expose corruption.

Tasks and Deliverables:

The expert or experts will develop the training and workshop curriculum, as well as interactive presentations and training materials with in-depth case studies tailored to each audience.

The expert or team of experts will implement and co-lead five (5) virtual webinars and three (3) in-person workshops between June 2022 - 2023. The expert(s) will be responsible for submitting a two-page After Action Report at the conclusion of each event.

CRDF Global may request the expert(s) participate in planning and rehearsal calls, assist with participant identification and outreach, and/or provide feedback on training materials such as invitations and surveys.

Due to Covid-19, CRDF Global may postpone or rescope the project to entirely virtual engagements which would not require international travel. The selected expert(s) would be informed of any changes at least 3 months in advance.

Contractor Requirements:

A successful proposal will highlight some of the following qualifications:

- Relevant experience analyzing open source corporate network data, publicly available information on defense procurement and arms trade data, or financial transactions to identify fraud and corruption.
- Knowledge of methods that illicit networks use to facilitate the procurement and sale of advanced conventional weapons in the East Asia Pacific region to evade legal frameworks and sanctions.
- Demonstrated capability to prepare relevant instructional content and conduct trainings on identifying risks when procuring military goods and services and how to disrupt proliferator state efforts to gain access to advanced conventional weapons or their related technology and components.
- Experience advising either business, financial or media audiences.
- Experience working with stakeholders from ACAMS, FATF, Egmont Group, Interpol or related groups.
- Experience working with stakeholders from journalism associations such as the Organized Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP), Global Investigative Journalism Network (GIJN), International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ), etc.
- Willingness and ability to lead up to five (5) virtual webinars in the East Asia Pacific local time zones.
- Willingness and ability to travel internationally to lead up to three (3) in-person workshops in the Philippines, Malaysia and Thailand between August 2022 - 2023, if local and CDC guidelines permit it. Due to Covid-19, CRDF Global may postpone or rescope the project to entirely virtual engagements which would not require international travel. The selected expert(s) would be informed of any changes at least 3 months in advance.
- An understanding of regional political and cultural dynamics in the East Asia Pacific region.

- Past experience living in, working in, or engaging stakeholders in Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, or Thailand.
- Flexibility and ability to respond to adjustments directed by the customer.
- Experience teaching virtually or speaking in virtual events.

Proposal Requirements:

Each proposal must include:

Submission Package A

- Statement of Interest (under one-page).
- List of RFP related capabilities and applicable past experience.
- CV(s) of expert(s) who will lead the workshops.

Submission Package B

- Cost proposal with an hourly labor rate and total budget for the deliverables outlined above.
- Any Small or Disadvantaged Business Designations (Veteran Owned, HUB Zone, Women Owned, Disadvantaged Businesses).
- [NAICS Codes](#): 541620 Environmental Consulting Services- Small Business Threshold \$15 million OR 541690 Other Scientific and Technical Consulting Services – \$15 million

Submission:

All submissions are due no later than 5:00 PM EDT, December 20, 2021. All submissions must be in electronic documents in PDF (Portable Document File), Word, or Excel format.

Proposals should be submitted separately as:

Package A addressed to the following email address:

acwtrainings@crdfglobla.org

Package B addressed to the following email address:

reta@crdfglobal.org

Timetable:

November 24, 2021: RFP Posted

December 6, 2021: RFP Questions Due

December 8, 2021: RFP Questions & Answers Released

December 20, 2021: RFP Submissions Due

Contractor Selection Criteria:

CRDF Global will select the contractor that provides the best value in terms of overall price and experience. The proposal should be clear and concise, and the contractor should have proven experience working in the areas of expertise and qualifications outlined above.

CRDF Global is committed to not sponsoring single-gender panels whenever possible. We will consider the gender-balance of proposed subject matter expert teams and speakers when evaluating proposals. CRDF Global prioritizes a safe and collaborative work environment in which diversity, equity, and inclusion is championed and discussed. CRDF Global provides equal employment opportunities to all qualified individuals without regard to age, race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity, national origin, protected veteran, or disabled status. We are dedicated to creating and maintaining a respectful work environment that is safe, engaging, and comfortable for all.

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 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 the 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

CRDF Global provides equal opportunities to all qualified individuals without regard to age, race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, protected veteran, or disabled status. We are committed to prioritizing an inclusive and collaborative space in which diversity and equity is discussed, championed, and supported. We acknowledge and honor the fundamental value and dignity of all individuals. We pledge ourselves to creating and maintaining an environment that respects diverse traditions, heritages, and experiences.

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.