

**CRDF GLOBAL
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

**Subject Matter Experts on Conducting Open Source Investigations and
Exposing Illicit Networks Which Contribute to the Proliferation of Weapons**

Submission Deadline: May 13, 2021

Summary and Scope of Work:

CRDF Global is seeking a subject matter expert, or subject matter expert team, specializing in conducting open source investigations on government corruption and exposing illicit networks which contribute to the proliferation of weapons to sanctioned entities. In collaboration with other experts identified by CRDF Global, the subject matter expert(s) would develop online training materials and co-lead a virtual workshop on June 10, 2021.

The training curriculum will be focused on uncovering illicit networks, proxy groups, and individuals which violate international sanctions by procuring and selling military goods, such as advanced conventional weapons, to sanctioned entities. The primary stakeholders for this training will be **investigative journalists and media professionals from Algeria, Guinea, South Africa, Bulgaria, and Romania.**

Illicit or unofficial networks often facilitate the procurement and sale of advanced conventional weapons that can 1) violate various sanction regimes; 2) enable the theft of corporate or proprietary information; 3) escalate armed conflicts; and 4) create commercial and security dependencies with high-risk actors. The subject matter expert(s) will highlight the media's role in identifying and exposing these networks which seek to profit from the proliferation of advanced conventional weapons. The subject matter expert(s) will cover practical tools and methodologies journalists can use to conduct open source investigations. They will also provide specific real-world examples from recent investigations in eastern Europe or Africa which successfully exposed government corruption related to the procurement of weapons, or other military goods and services. At least some of the training materials should focus on interactive elements (such as Zoom Polls or exercises) to engage the training participants.

Tasks and Deliverables:

For the online training, subject matter experts will:

- 1) Develop and submit presentations and workshop materials;
- 2) Implement the online workshop; and
- 3) Submit an After-Action Report to CRDF Global at the conclusion of the project.

Task/Deliverable	Date
Development and Submission of Draft Presentations and Workshop Materials for the Online Training	May 27, 2021
Final Presentations and Workshop Materials Due	June 3, 2021
Participate in 3-hour Live Training	June 10, 2021
Submit Project After-Action Report	June 17, 2021

Contractor Requirements:

Successful subject matter experts will have comprehensive knowledge of:

- Practical tools and methodologies to conduct open source investigations.
- Methods that illicit or unofficial networks use to facilitate the procurement and sale of advanced conventional weapons and evade legal frameworks and sanctions.
- Real-world examples of recent investigations which uncovered government obfuscation or corruption related to the procurement of weapons in Eastern Europe and/or Africa.

Preferred requirements:

- Previous experience leading or supporting successful investigations into government procurement corruption, weapons proliferation, or illicit trade and financial networks in Africa or Eastern Europe.
- Demonstrated record of success engaging or working with investigative journalists in Eastern Europe and Africa, specifically Algeria, Guinea, South Africa, Bulgaria, and Romania.
- Knowledge of illicit networks related to advanced conventional weapon proliferation in Eastern Europe and/or Africa.
- Experience remotely implementing training programs.

Proposal Requirements:

Each proposal must include:

- Statement of Interest and Technical Capabilities
- Cost proposal
 - Must include task/deliverables, listed in the task/deliverables section above, along with an hourly rate and hours needed to complete the task/deliverable.
- CV(s)
- List of recent experience in investigative journalism and applicable references/past performance
- (If Applicable) Any Small or Disadvantaged Business Designations (Veteran Owned, HUB Zone, Women Owned, Disadvantaged Businesses)
- (If Applicable) [NAICS Codes](#)

Timetable:

April 23, 2021: RFP Questions due
April 28, 2021: RFP Questions & Answers released
May 13, 2021: RFP submissions due
May 20, 2021: Tentative Contract start date

Contractor Selection Criteria:

CRDF Global will select the contractor that provides the best value in terms of overall price and experience.

The Contractor should have proven experience working in investigative journalism spaces and it is preferred that the subject matter expert has previously investigated the procurement of weapons and military goods and services by proliferator states. Contractor's experience will be directly compared to the points listed in the Contractor Requirements section of this RFP, proportionally weighted with their history of past success on similar projects.

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.

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.

Submission:

Proposals should be submitted to procurement@crdfglobal.org & acwtrainings@crdfglobal.org to the attention of:

Ms. Marta Kosmyna

Proposals must be submitted no later than **5 PM EDT on May 13, 2021**. Proposals should be submitted as electronic documents in PDF, Word, or Excel format.

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 may 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, the 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.

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.