

CRDF GLOBAL
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
Seeking Experts on Private Military and Security Companies

Project Summary:

This project will provide in-depth training on specific open-source tools, a deeper understanding of how prohibited PMCs operate, and access to experts to develop specific strategies to acquire legitimate PMC services without exposure to the negative effects of proliferator state-backed PMCs. The workshops are intended to train participants on how utilizing prohibited PMCs may violate international law, industry standards, and U.S. sanctions prohibitions. Experts will train stakeholders on international best-practices to evaluate, vet, and conduct due diligence during procurement of PMCs by providing actionable, open-source information; in-depth case studies and interactive tabletop exercises related to the deployment, financing, illicit arms transfers, and logistics mechanisms of illicit PMCs.

Scope:

CRDF Global is seeking Subject Matter Expert(s) (SME) with expertise related to Russian and Chinese Private Military and Security Companies to lead in-person workshops in Africa and/or South America in 2023 and provide mentorship to grantees following the workshops. CRDF Global will organize:

- Three (3) two-day events in Africa;
- One (1) six-month grant competition
- One (1) two-day event in Latin America

For the upcoming engagements above, CRDF Global is seeking SMEs with expertise and experience working in Africa and/or Latin America. Selected experts will work within a team to:

- develop workshop agendas, curriculum, presentations, interactive activities, table-top exercises and materials, moderate and lead workshop sessions
- travel to and lead in-person workshop engagements
- review submitted grant applications
- conduct participant outreach and recruitment
- provide mentorship via monthly virtual check-ins with selected grantees

Contractor Requirements:

A successful proposal will highlight some of the following qualifications:

- Understanding of international law and best practices on the contracting and operations of PMCs such as the Montreux Document or the International Code of Conduct for Private Security Service Providers;
- Knowledge of the operation of Russian and Chinese-linked PMCs in Africa and/or South America, particularly entities subject to US, EU, or other international sanctions;
- Experience conducting open source investigations to track individuals and institutions involved in PMCs and their related activities;
- Knowledge of case studies showcasing pathways illicit PMCs use to contribute to the arms trade, prolong conflict, infringe on national sovereignty, and create economic dependence.

- Understanding of industry standards for professional PMC operations, and procurement and contracting by states, companies, and/or international organizations;
- Understanding of due diligence and know your customer techniques stakeholders can use to ensure compliance with international sanctions related to PMC-linked activities and entities;
- In-depth knowledge of Russia and China's geo-strategic and geo-economic interests in Africa and Latin America, including specific trends and affected industries and commodities;
- Experience working with audiences such as: oversight and regulatory authorities, national security advisors, election watchdogs, human rights ombudsmen, law enforcement, counterterrorism and counternarcotic units, military representatives, operations managers from the energy and extractives industries, journalists, financial institutions, managers of security personnel and procurement, trade and logistics representatives, humanitarian aid distributors and managers, academics and civil society representatives.
- Experience advising, teaching, leading trainings, or providing mentorship;
- Experience working with stakeholders from Africa and/or Latin America;
- Any foreign language skills, especially Spanish, Portuguese and/or French;
- Flexibility and ability to respond to adjustments directed by the customer;
- Willingness and ability to travel internationally to lead in-person workshops in Africa and/or Latin America, 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 experts would be informed of any changes in advance.
- Willingness and ability to provide mentorship to selected grantees via monthly virtual check in meetings in the local grantee's time zone;

Proposal Requirements:

Experts may submit proposals as an individual or as a team, and the proposal may cover a portion of the scope, or the full scope outlined above. Please indicate which workshops you are willing to attend and/or develop materials for in your submission. Proposals should be submitted as electronic documents in PDF, Word or Excel format to mrenfroe@crdfglobal.org. If selected, CRDF Global would develop a specific Scope of Work and Schedule of Deliverables with the contractor(s).

Each proposal must include:

- Statement of Interest and Technical Capabilities / Cost Proposal (see below for example)
- CV(s)
- List of recent experience in the RFP Subject Matter area and applicable references/past performance
- 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
541690 Other Scientific and Technical Consulting Services – \$15 million

Statement of Interest/Cost Proposal Example: (optional format)

- **Task 1 (e.g., Content Development for Workshops)**
Description: (insert proposed task description)
- **Task 2 (e.g., Participant Recruitment Outreach)**
Description: (insert proposed task description)

Task Item	Level of Effort (hours or equipment/materials)	Any required compensation
<i>e.g., Task 1: Content Development for workshops</i>	<i>e.g., Estimated 85 hours</i>	<i>e.g., \$ -- / per hour of work</i>
<i>e.g., Task 2: Participant Recruitment Outreach</i>	<i>e.g., Estimated 10 hours</i>	<i>e.g., \$ -- / per hour of work</i>

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 with *{RFP Subject Matter Area}*.

{List other applicable experience, qualifications, certification, etc. that will be considered based off of criteria on the [financial and technical review template](#)}

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.

CRDF Global pledges to prioritize sponsorship of diverse events and panels of experts whenever possible.

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 RFI 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 RFI. 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 RFI, 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 RFI, 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 RFI, 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 RFI, should be made in writing and included in the form of an addendum to the applicable Section in the RFI.

CRDF Global Proprietary Information. Supplier agrees that all non-public information contained in this document and communicated verbally in reference to this RFI by CRDF Global shall be received for the sole discretion and purpose of enabling the supplier to submit an accurate response to this RFP/RFI. 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 RFI 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.