

CRDF GLOBAL
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Deadline: January 15, 2026

Summary:

CRDF Global is seeking a team of subject matter experts to lead one, three-day, in-person cryptocurrency compliance and investigations workshop for up to sixty-five (65) public and private sector compliance, risk management and cybersecurity professionals from the Central Asian cryptocurrency community and private sector financial institutions in Astana, Kazakhstan. This workshop will focus on key developments in the international regulatory environment relating to sanctions, understanding common cryptocurrency obfuscation techniques such as mixing and chain hopping, demonstrating money laundering and obfuscation techniques as they relate to illicit actors, discussing how alt-coins can be used for sanctions evasion, discussing key industry actors, OSINT resources, and case studies regionally relevant to Central Asia. Stakeholders will gain a comprehensive understanding of the threats posed by DPRK and Iran-affiliated cryptocurrency theft operations, as well as the tools, expertise, and personnel required to effectively safeguard their organizations. The training will also cover strategies for identifying and removing threat actors from networks, detecting malware, and developing and implementing enterprise-level cybersecurity measures to prevent future attacks. Both segments of the training will feature relevant case studies and incorporate interactive table-top exercises. The workshop will tentatively take place on April 27 – 29, 2026.

Scope:

The expert will carry out one, three-day, in-person workshop with private sector compliance, risk management and AML professionals from cryptocurrency exchanges, fintech firms, payment services providers, and commercial banks as well as financial intelligence units, central bankers, regulators, and law enforcement from government agencies in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan. The expert will be engaged in all stages of the project, including workshop planning and coordination with CRDF Global, follow-up calls with participants, and submission of an after-action report. Travel expenses, including airfare, lodging and per diems will be covered by CRDF Global and should be excluded from proposal budgets.

The primary focus of the training will be on cryptocurrency investigations, cryptocurrency screening and risk identification - particularly of red flag indicators of illicit entity activity, and advanced cryptocurrency sanctions evasion techniques, and open-source research techniques. The workshop and materials will provide public and private sector attendees with greater awareness of illicit cryptocurrency threats and strengthen their cryptocurrency research techniques to better detect, mitigate, and respond to potential sanctions evasion activity.

The SME should be able to speak to cryptocurrency risks specific to Central Asia and help participants understand recent cryptocurrency legislation, trends, and identified risks. The SME should also be able to present case studies and exercises that feature relevant investigations on the DPRK's illicit acquisition of cryptocurrency.

Tasks and Deliverables:

The selected experts will:

1. Develop, lead, and travel to one (1) three-day in-person workshop in Kazakhstan to deliver trainings on cryptocurrency compliance and investigations
 - a. Agendas and curriculum outlines;
 - b. Speaker bios
 - c. Presentations;
 - d. Training materials;

- e. Interactive exercises, guided discussions and Q&A sessions;
- f. Coordination with other experts and local partners, as needed;
- 2. The selected experts will engage in virtual check-ins throughout the duration of the contract to discuss project planning, updates, and coordination on training materials as needed.
- 3. CRDF Global will be responsible for participant and local partner recruitment but may request that experts leverage their networks and contacts to assist with recruitment and selection.
- 4. Expert(s) will submit a brief after action report with feedback and recommendations on next steps using a template provided by CRDF Global following the workshops.

Contractor Requirements:

A successful proposal will highlight some of the following qualifications:

- experience delivering technical training to private sector compliance, fintech, or financial crime professionals on cryptocurrency, blockchain, and virtual asset risks;
- Ability to deliver training for both a public and private sector audience in Central Asia and effectively speak to nuances impacting both sectors.
- demonstrated understanding of sanctioned activity in the cryptocurrency ecosystem;
- knowledge of global AML/CFT standards applicable to virtual assets, including FATF Recommendation 15 and the Travel Rule, with practical application in compliance settings;
- experience localizing training materials and methods for Central Asian regulatory and technological contexts;
- familiarity with advanced demixing techniques;
- demonstrated ability to develop and lead interactive, scenario-based workshops (in-person, hybrid, or virtual), including technical case studies and typologies;
- operational capacity to deliver training in English;
- capacity to conduct pre- and post-training assessments and produce reporting on participant learning and program impact;
- sensitivity to cultural and regional dynamics impacting training delivery across diverse Central Asian contexts;
- flexibility and ability to respond to customer guidance and adapt training content or delivery approach accordingly;
- willingness and ability to travel and deliver in-person training sessions in Central Asian countries, as needed.

Successful proposals may come from experts with professional backgrounds in:

- Financial Crime Compliance (AML/CFT)
- Blockchain and Virtual Asset Regulation
- Threat Intelligence
- Fintech or RegTech Advisory
- Risk Management in Emerging Markets
- Cryptocurrency Investigations or Blockchain Forensics
- International Development and Capacity Building

Proposal Requirements:

- Statement of Interest and Technical Capabilities
- Cost proposal
- 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 \$19 million
541690 Other Scientific and Technical Consulting Services - Small Business Threshold \$19 million

Timetable:

January 9, 2026: RFP Questions due

January 13, 2026: RFP Questions & Answers released

January 15, 2026: RFP submissions

January 20, 2026: Contract start date

Contractor Selection Criteria and Evaluation Methods:

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 the subject matter areas and audience described above.

Evaluation Factors:

1. Technical Approach
2. Key Personnel and Qualifications
3. Management Approach
4. Price/Cost
5. Small Business Utilization (if applicable):
6. Risk Management

Evaluation Methods

7. Best Value Trade-Off:

Evaluation Scoring Methodology:

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following scoring system:

8. Excellent (5): Exceeds all requirements and offers superior benefits.
9. Good (4): Meets all requirements with some additional value.
10. Acceptable (3): Meets all minimum requirements.
11. Marginal (2): Meets some requirements but has deficiencies.
12. Unacceptable (1): Fails to meet requirements.

Submission:

Proposals should be submitted to procurement@crdfglobal.org with CC to gkelly@crdfglobal.org and mahmad@crdfglobal.org no later than 5:00 pm (EST) on **January 15, 2026**.

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.