

**CRDF GLOBAL  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

**Deadline: *May 11, 2026***

**Summary:**

CRDF Global seeks qualified contractors, including research organizations, think tanks, consulting firms, and other relevant entities, with demonstrated expertise in open-source intelligence (OSINT), security analysis, and research on private military and security companies (PMSCs), to conduct targeted open-source research and analysis. The selected contractor will support a research effort focused on Chinese PMSC deployments in Africa. The project will generate structured, open-source insights into the activities, capabilities, and operational patterns of Chinese PMSCs, as well as their broader implications for regional security environments and bilateral relationships.

**Scope:**

CRDF Global seeks a qualified contractor to conduct structured open-source research addressing critical gaps in understanding Chinese PMSC deployments across African contexts.

Working under CRDF Global's technical direction, the contractor will:

- Conduct open-source research and analysis on Chinese PMSC activities in Africa, including guarding, training, and any involvement in kinetic or security operations
- Identify and assess the types of equipment, capabilities, and operational models employed by Chinese PMSCs
- Analyze the role of intermediaries, state-linked entities, and commercial actors supporting PMSC deployment
- Examine how PMSC presence aligns with or influences China's bilateral relationships with host countries, including economic, political, and security dimensions
- Assess the relationships between PMSC activity and local security environments, governance structures, and economic conditions
- Develop case studies highlighting specific deployments, operational patterns, or notable incidents
- Synthesize findings into structured analytical outputs designed to support policy and programmatic decision-making

The contractor will collaborate closely with CRDF Global to ensure alignment with project objectives and analytical priorities. All findings shall be supported by verifiable open-source information and clearly sourced where appropriate.

**Intended Outcomes**

By the end of the project, CRDF Global will obtain:

- Improved understanding of Chinese PMSC operational roles and deployment patterns in Africa
- Increased visibility into the capabilities, equipment, and support structures associated with these entities
- Enhanced awareness of how PMSC activity intersects with broader economic and security relationships
- Actionable, open-source insights to inform future programming and risk assessments

## **Tasks and Deliverables:**

*The contractor will be responsible for completing the below tasks, with additional details added based on the specific scope of the activity.*

### **Task One: Research Design and Workplan**

The Contractor shall participate in an initial kick-off meeting with CRDF Global to review project objectives, research questions, and analytical priorities. The Contractor shall develop a detailed research plan outlining methodology, geographic scope, key data sources, and analytical approach.

#### Task One Deliverables:

- Draft and final research workplan for CRDF Global review and approval

### **Task Two: Open-Source Research and Analysis**

The Contractor shall conduct structured open-source research and analysis in accordance with the approved workplan. Research will include identification and evaluation of PMSC activities, operational patterns, and relevant case studies across African contexts.

#### Task Two Deliverables:

- Periodic progress updates or interim analytical summaries (as requested)

### **Task Three: Analytical Report Development**

The Contractor shall prepare a comprehensive analytical report synthesizing research findings. The report will include structured analysis, case studies, and assessment of key trends and implications.

#### Task Three Deliverables:

- Draft analytical report for CRDF Global review
- Final analytical report incorporating CRDF Global feedback

### **Task Four: Final Briefing**

The Contractor shall deliver a final briefing to CRDF Global summarizing key findings, analytical insights, and relevant implications for policy and programming.

#### Task Four Deliverables:

- Presentation and briefing summarizing key findings and recommendations

## **Contractor Requirements:**

CRDF Global seeks qualified contractors, including research organizations, think tanks, consulting firms, and other relevant entities, with demonstrated expertise in open-source intelligence (OSINT), security analysis, and research related to private military and security companies (PMSCs), Chinese security actors, or related fields.

Contractors must demonstrate prior experience conducting structured analytical research and producing high-quality written outputs, including reports and briefings. Required competencies include familiarity with open-source research methodologies, data collection and analysis, and synthesis of complex information into actionable insights. Strong written and oral communication skills in English are required.

Experience working on security-related topics in Africa, or with government counterparts, multilateral institutions, or donor-funded programs, is strongly preferred.

### **Proposal Requirements**

Each proposal must include:

- Statement of Interest and Technical Capabilities
- Description of relevant experience
- Cost proposal
- CV(s) of proposed subject matter expert(s)
- List of recent experience in the relevant subject matter area, including references and/or past performance
- (If applicable) [NAICS Codes](#):

### **Timetable:**

*April 27, 2026: RFP posted*

*May 1, 2026: RFP Questions due*

*May 4, 2026: RFP Questions & Answers released*

*May 11, 2026: RFP submissions due*

*May 15, 2026: Anticipated 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 with open-source intelligence (OSINT), security analysis, and research related to private military and security companies (PMSCs), Chinese security actors, or related fields.

### **Selection Criteria and Evaluation Methods:**

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

8. Best Value Trade-Off:

Evaluation Scoring Methodology:

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following scoring system:

9. Excellent (5): Exceeds all requirements and offers superior benefits.
10. Good (4): Meets all requirements with some additional value.
11. Acceptable (3): Meets all minimum requirements.
12. Marginal (2): Meets some requirements but has deficiencies.
13. Unacceptable (1): Fails to meet requirements.
- 14.

**Basis for Award:**

The award will be made to the offeror whose proposal represents the best value to CRDF Global, considering both technical and cost/price factors. CRDF Global reserves the right to make an award to other than the lowest-priced offeror where a higher-priced proposal is determined to provide superior technical merit, capabilities, or overall value.

**Best Value Trade-Off:**

CRDF Global will evaluate both technical and price factors, weighing them to determine which offer represents the best value. Technical factors, such as experience, innovation, and past performance, may be more heavily weighted than price. CRDF Global reserves the right to select a higher-priced proposal if it offers superior technical benefits or overall value.

**Submission**

Proposals should be submitted electronically to [procurement@crdfglobal.org](mailto:procurement@crdfglobal.org) & [mahmad@crdfglobal.org](mailto:mahmad@crdfglobal.org) no later than **May 11, 2026**. Proposals should be submitted as electronic documents in PDF, Word, or Excel format.

**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; Amman, Jordan; Kyiv, Ukraine; Manila, Philippines; Almaty, Kazakhstan; and Warsaw, Poland; CRDF Global's global staff and networks of local community and government stakeholders deliver programs tailored to specific regions that advance U.S. security interests in over 120 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](http://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.