

## **Tender Notice**

### **Consulting Services of the Implementation Consultant for the Project**

#### **“Digitalization of the Energy Transmission System”**

International Public Bidding (with Pre-qualification)

<b>Partner Country:</b>	Albania
<b>Reference-No.:</b>	BMZ-No. 2023 68 256 & 2024 68 049, KfW Procurement No. 513386
<b>Submission Deadline:</b>	Electronic submission via exfitender on 12:00 (UTC) on 19 February 2026
<b>Submission Language</b>	English
<b>Prequalification:</b>	Invitation for Expression of Interest
<b>Reference:</b>	International open tender for Consulting Services for the Project “Digitalization of the Energy Transmission System”.
<b>Employer:</b>	Transmission System Operator (“OST”) Tirana, Albania.
<b>Financing:</b>	The total costs underlying the Project are estimated with EUR 66.4 million. The project will be financed by KfW with a loan of up to EUR 40 million. The EU is expected to provide an investment grant of 20% of works and supplies. Planning and design review fees, land purchase, import taxes and value added tax etc. in the amount of EUR 12 million will be financed by OST by counterpart funds.
<b>Project Objectives:</b>	The Project comprises the rehabilitation of high voltage equipment and the digitalization of the 110 kV switchyards (usually without the transformer bays) of up to 40 substations.
<b>Project Measures:</b>	<p>The following Project activities shall be financed from the loan and the WBIF grant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reinforcement, upgrading and extension of up to 40 substations.</li><li>• Implementation Consultant services (FIDIC Engineer) covering preparation of tender documents, support of tender process and implementation supervision (subject of this prequalification and subsequent tender).</li><li>• Visibility measures to fulfil EU visibility requirements for the WBIF financing.</li></ul>
<b>Requested Consulting Services:</b>	<p>The Implementation Consultant shall support the Employer in its role as FIDIC Employer’s Representative under the FIDIC Yellow Book.</p> <p>The Implementation Consultant (IC) shall support OST in the following activities (non-exhaustive list):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Elaborating the details of the Project design</li><li>• Updating the environmental and social risk assessment conducted as a part of the ESIA-Scoping, preparing the LACP, ESMP and SEP (including GM) according to the applicable environmental and social standards</li></ul>

- Designing and implementing the tender process for up to 40 substations in tentatively 1 tender with 2 lots as FIDIC yellow book according to KfW's Procurement Guidelines and the applicable environmental and social standards
- Supervision of the erection and commissioning of the works according to IEC, ISO, EN and relevant international and national standards
- Monitoring of the environmental and social impacts of the Project, including monitoring of compliance with ESMP, LACP, SEP and the ESCP
- Support the PIU in quality control, impact monitoring and reporting
- Support of the PIU in implementing visibility measures (to be financed from WBIF investment grant)

The Implementation Consultant shall also provide accompanying measures. The accompanying measures include (non-exhaustive list):

- Capacity Building of OST staff on various issues relevant to the present and future investments, such as:
- approval and correct implementation of involuntary economic and/or physical resettlement
- supporting the implementation of the ESCP through capacity building
- practical FIDIC contracts administration and management
- training on corporate governance issues
- Training/exchange with other European TSOs facing similar challenges on the integration of renewable energy sources in the transmission system
- Regular reporting on the implementation of all accompanying measure services incl. financial reporting.

The exact scope of work of the IC will be described in detail in the Terms of Reference. The Terms of Reference will be made available to all pre-qualified bidders.

The award of the contract for consulting services is planned for Q1/2026. The implementation phase is estimated with 5.5 years and envisaged to last until Q2 2031.

The Employer intends to award the requested consulting services to eligible consultants. Eligible Consultants are all independent and qualified consulting companies with more than ten (10) years of experience in the sector and personnel with experience in providing the services as specified above.

The Consultant shall be selected through a two-stage international competitive bidding procedure in accordance with the latest version of the "Guidelines for the Procurement of Consulting Services, Works, Plant, Goods and Non-Consulting Services in Financial Cooperation with Partner Countries" - 3rd update as of July 2024.

<https://www.kfw-entwicklungsbank.de/PDF/Download-Center/PDF-Dokumente-Richtlinien/FZ-Vergaberichtlinien-V-2021-EN.pdf>

It is foreseen to assign the services to an independent consultant firm with proven experience in the implementation of similar projects with similar tasks. Consulting firms with regional experience in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia,

Kosovo<sup>1</sup>, Croatia, Slovenia, Ukraine, Georgia and Armenia are preferred. The Bidder shall show a necessary average annual turnover of EUR 4 million for the last three years. A consortium or joint venture needs to show an average annual turnover of EUR 4 million for the last three years, whereas the lead partner shall show an average annual turnover of at least EUR 2.8 million.

The PQ Document with more detailed information about the project, content and form of the application documents and the scope of services of the Consultant can be downloaded from the electronic procurement system exfitender.

For further information, please go to <https://www.exfitender.de/> and log on (or create a user profile).

The integrated search function of exfitender will allow you to find the tender and to register your interest, access the PQ Document and additional materials (if applicable).

For additional information concerning the use of exfitender, please refer to the website <https://www.exficon/tad/e-procurement>.

Any request for clarification shall be sent through the electronic system exfitender. Once logged in, users can access the tender detail page and select the option "Submit Clarification Request".

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<sup>1</sup> This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence