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**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (REOI)**

**CONSULTANCY SERVICES**

Boosting Innovation, Growth and Entrepreneurship Ecosystems (BIGEE) Programme

ASSIGNMENT: Strengthening the Design of the Business Service Intermediaries (BSIs) Programme

PROJECT #: **JA-O0010 /JA-L1085**

**Associated WBS Code #: 2.1.1.2**

**CQS No: DBJ-021/09**

SELECTION METHOD: **Selection Based on the Consultants’ Qualifications (CQS)**

The Development Bank of Jamaica (DBJ) through the Government of Jamaica (GoJ) has received financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) towards the cost of the Boosting Innovation, Growth and Entrepreneurship Ecosystems (BIGEE) Programme, specifically to **Subcomponent II.1** **Stimulating Deal Flow** with sub-activity for. **Strengthening the Design of the Business Service Intermediaries (BSIs) Programme.**

The consulting services (“the Services”) require a consultant (firm) to strengthen the design of the Business Service Intermediaries (BSIs) Programme to support entrepreneurs and Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) in their seed, early and growth stages.

The specific objectives of the assignment, based on preparatory work carried out by DBJ, are to:

1. design a comprehensive BSI Capacity Building Programme, including a Certification Methodology; and
2. a BSI Institutional Strengthening Fund.

The DBJ now invites eligible Consultants (“Firms “) to indicate their interest in providing consultancy services for the specialized area. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

The criteria for qualification are:

* Team leader should have a minimum academic qualification of Master's Degree in Economics, Finance, Business Administration or a related field or equivalent with at least ten (10) years of relevant professional work experience in the required area
* Experience in similar assignments, in terms of nature of the assignment, complexity and scale, for at least seven years
* Demonstrate a number of success cases of start-ups supported by the accelerator
* Demonstrate international networks, including mentors, incubators and accelerators, spanning countries of commercial interest for Jamaica
* Extensive experience in developing innovation ecosystems internationally
* Excellent writing and communication skills in English
* All experience, knowledge and partnerships should be demonstrated through contracts, letters of conformity or any equivalent.

The Terms of Reference may be downloaded from the DBJ’s website: [**http://www.dbankjm.com**](http://www.dbankjm.com) **as of Monday, June 28, 2021.**

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to 1.9 of the IDB’s *Guidelines: Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants financed by the Inter-American Development Bank (GN-2350-9), March 2011* setting forth the IDB’s policy on conflict of interest. The Consultant will be selected in accordance with the **Selection Based on the Consultants’ Qualifications (CQS)** methodset out in the *GN-2350-9, March 2011* on page 20, Item 3.7- 8.

Further information may be obtained by sending an email to: [***thinkbigee@dbankjm.com***](mailto:thinkbigee@dbankjm.com) or Fax (876) 929-6055 or mail to the address below.

Expressions of Interest may be delivered in writing to the address below (in person or by mail) or via email: [***thinkbigee@dbankjm.com***](mailto:thinkbigee@dbankjm.com) **no later than Friday, July 16, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.**

Development Bank of Jamaica

Attn: Procurement Specialist/Project Manager

Design of the Strengthening of Business Service Intermediaries Programme

Boosting Innovation, Growth and Entrepreneurship Ecosystems

(BIGEE) Programme

11a-15 Oxford Road, Kingston 5

Jamaica, West Indies

**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**Strengthening the Design of the Business Service Intermediaries (BSIs) Programme**

**BACKGROUND**

Jamaica’s fiscal and macroeconomic conditions improved in the years immediately preceding the COVID-19 pandemic, after decades of stagnant or negative growth, high debt to GDP ratio and fiscal deficits. The Debt to GDP ratio was reduced from 145% of GDP in 2014 to 104% of GDP in 2019 and immediately prior to the pandemic, Jamaica was experiencing an 11-year low unemployment rate, and had improved its *Ease of Doing Business* and *Poverty* indicators. However, economic growth was 1.1% during 2019. Like many countries, that indicator fell in 2020, to an official estimate of a 10.2 percent decline.

Even more so driven by the pandemic, there is need for government-targeted activities to promote robust, sustained economic growth, including policies to facilitate private sector-led activities, and support for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and entrepreneurship.

The Jamaican Government requested support from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to create new avenues for growth, and this resulted in the loan agreement that supports the Boosting Innovation, Growth and Entrepreneurship Ecosystems (BIGEE) Programme in Jamaica. The IDB BIGEE programme funding of US$25M will support Jamaica’s growth and employment objectives by:

* Providing support and funding for the development and strengthening of a comprehensive innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem that builds on the currently existing initiatives
* Providing effective business services to vulnerable entrepreneurs
* Promoting a culture of entrepreneurship and innovation; and
* Democratizing access to equity through a set of funds, including venture capital (VC)

The Programme is envisioned to promote and democratize access to equity for SMEs with strong potential to grow as well as new promising enterprises through support for the Innovation Ecosystem by strengthening the network of incubators and accelerators and creating an entrepreneurial mindset through technology transfer and capacity building activities, including generating trust and an entrepreneurial mindset and culture, as well as through a Venture Capital (VC) Fund and an Angel Investment-supporting SideCar Fund.

**Objective of the Programme**

The objective of the BIGEE Programme is to improve productivity in Jamaican firms by increasing private sector investment in innovation and, ultimately, growth among startups and MSMEs. The programme is being implemented as four distinct components: (i) Innovation and growth in established MSMEs, (ii) Facilitating growth for scalable startups, (iii) Promoting viable enterprises and (iv) Project Administration and capacity building.

**Component I. Innovation and growth for established SMEs (US$8.35 Million).** This component will target established SMEs (at least seven years old)and is geared to promote efficiency and growth through the development and adoption of innovation. It will allow participant SMEs to use inputs and factors in more productive ways (improving productive processes, creating new products, and adopting more efficient technologies, among others), therefore enabling faster growth. This component has three subcomponents:

**Subcomponent I.1 Investment in Innovation in SMEs (US$5.40 Million)** This subcomponent will promote the increase of inputs for innovation among firms by: (i) supporting innovation in established SMEs through matching grants for investments in innovation in either processes or products; and (ii) financing public and club goods for clusters of collective use that would allow SMEs to increase their efficiency, as well as economies of scale and scope. Also, this subcomponent will finance consulting services to support potential beneficiaries with the elaboration of business or cluster plans for their proposals.

**Subcomponent I.2 Patent Development and Commercialization (US$1.35 Million)** this component is oriented to promote innovation among firms and considers the development of: (i) commercial prospection analysis and (ii) providing matching grants for patenting. This would allow firms to identify global demand for novel products, processes or business models that would have commercial feasibility, supporting them also with appropriate intellectual property protection.

**Subcomponent I.3: Capacity Building for Technology Extension Centers for SMEs (US$1.60 Million)** This subcomponent is intended to promote adoption of cutting-edge technology among SMEs with a global orientation by: (i) strengthening the capability of technical extension and business development centers to support firms to adopt technology and provide matchmaking services with technology suppliers; (ii) providing vouchers for extension services, and (iii) strengthening of service providers. The beneficiaries can be either public or private technology extension providers that will access the matching grants through a competitive process and will finance capacity building activities, training, improvement of existing infrastructure and equipment (laboratory, digital services and prototyping) and specialized consultancies. Services to be financed include professional services in business management, use of cloud computing, use of digital technologies for market product and services, technology development and adoption, among others.

**Component II.** **Facilitating innovation and growth for scalable startups (US$8.99 Million).** This component targets scalable startups, defined as MSMEs that have proven the concept of their business model and commercial viability (and need support for acceleration given their potential for scaling up). Support in this context means both finance to accelerate operations and technical assistance to scale-up services (outreach to markets, mentoring and governance, among others). This component is structured in two subcomponents.

**Subcomponent II.1 Stimulating Deal Flow (US$2.59 Million)** The objective of this subcomponent is to stimulate deal-flow of scalable startups by: (i) strengthening acceleration centers (public and private accelerators in Jamaica can submit proposals for strengthening their services); and (ii) providing acceleration services for scalable startups. Activities to be financed include professional and training services for these accelerators as well as equipment required for the capacity building of the scalable startups. The provision of the services of these accelerators to the startups with most growth potential will be carried out through voucher programs. For high-tech and/or advanced scalable startups, this voucher programme will also include services with international accelerators, the development and adoption costs of new cutting-edge technologies, technological missions abroad, and outreach to international accelerators.

**Subcomponent II.2 Facilitating Access to capital for scalable startups (US$6.40 Million)** This component will allocate resources to: (i) establish a venture capital (VC) fund that will provide equity financing to early stage, scalable and investment-ready startups and (ii) capitalize a Sidecar Fund (SF) that will provide investment for ventures that are supported by an Angel Investor according to the VC policy, the DBJ will provide equity in the role of a Limited Partner.

The Venture Capital Fund (VCF) will be managed by a Fund Management Firm, selected through a competitive process. Some of the required criteria for participation and selection will include: (i) proven experience, expertise and operational capacity for VCF; (ii) professional and managerial skills; (iii) good governance and transparency practices; and (iv) proven use of financial, social and environmental standards. The Fund Management Firm will establish the Venture Capital Fund. Appropriate investment documents such as Limited Partnership agreement, subscription agreement, and other required documents will define the terms and conditions of the DBJ’s participation.

The SF will support scalable start-ups’ access to equity by matching the support from Angel Investors on eligible ventures, that will be selected through calls for proposals and the eligible firms will need to have a financial commitment from the Angel Investors to access the investment. This component will address issues that hinder women’s participation in high tech scalable start-ups. The VC and the SF are independent but complementary instruments.

**Component III:** **Facilitating innovation and growth for high potential startups (US$3.47 Million)**. This component will serve those potential beneficiaries (entrepreneurs and MSMEs) at the early stage that have potentially successful value propositions and that could become scalable startups. It is structured in two subcomponents.

**Subcomponent III.1 Technological Transfer (US$600,000).** This subcomponent will foster the capabilities of the eco-system to assist entrepreneurs in valuing, transferring and commercializing the technology they have developed by: (i) creating and/ or strengthening a Tech-Transfer Office including a gap analysis, action plan and implementation of the action plan. Activities to be financed include: (a) specialized equipment; (b) specialized training; (c) infrastructure improvements; (d) training; (e) specialized services for patenting; and (f) licensing such as legal experts, technology commercialization experts. Also, by (ii) providing vouchers for corporate entrepreneurship services and capacities through open innovation, linking large firms with entrepreneurs to cooperate on innovation challenges for the established company and to provide financial and commercial support for the startup.

**Subcomponent III.2** **Incubator Support (US$2.875 Million)** This subcomponent will support the development of a pipeline of startups with high growth potential by: (i) creating and/ or strengthening current incubators centers; (ii) providing vouchers to be used in incubation centers; (iii) the creation of a Seed Capital Fund that will provide entrepreneurs with innovative ideas early stage matching grants for: ideation, business model discovery phase, prototyping, and commercialization (matching grants will finance prototyping, de-risking emerging technologies, proofs of concepts, testing and certification, access to information and professional services among others). Eligible beneficiaries are public and private incubator centers and entrepreneurs, inventors, or new startups with proposals that show high growth potential. Potential women entrepreneurs will be targeted in diffusion, awareness, mentorship programs and networking.

**OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

**The DBJ is seeking an international incubator, accelerator consulting firm to strengthen the capabilities of Business Service Intermediaries (BSIs) involved in supporting entrepreneurs, start-ups, MSMEs in their seed, early and growth stages:** business pre-incubators, incubators and accelerators, respectively.

Specific objectives of the assignment, based on preparatory work carried out by DBJ, are to:

* 1. design a comprehensive BSI Capacity Building Programme, including a Certification Methodology; and
  2. a BSI Institutional Strengthening Fund

**SCOPE OF WORK**

**The entity or firm is expected to perform *as a minimum* the following tasks, organized by specific objective:**

1. ***Design a BSI capacity building programme, including a certification methodology***, based on BIGEE's Operational Manual and the selected proposal, including:
   1. Assessment of the results of the BSIs operation support grants (currently under implementation)
   2. Elaboration of a strategy for the strengthening of BSIs that supports the direction, alignment with, and fosters commitment to the DBJ/BIGEE Programme’s vision for the ecosystem
   3. Design of a BSI’s certification or accreditation processes
   4. Conduct a needs assessment of BSIs
   5. Identification of candidates to be strengthened as BSIs
2. ***Design a BSI Institutional Strengthening Fund***, with the objective of providing grants to selected BSIs geared to: (i) design/ provide value-added services to their portfolio of start-ups (based on needs assessments); (ii) develop a sustainability plan; and (iii) improve their infrastructure. It includes:   
   1. Writing of the documentation (call for proposals, application forms, evaluation criteria and forms, contract templates) to operationalize the strengthening programs for the different BSIs:
      1. Business pre-incubators
      2. Business incubators
      3. Business accelerators

**QUALIFICATIONS   
The International Accelerator or accelerator consulting firm is expected to meet the following experience and qualifications:**

* Team leader should have a minimum academic qualification of Master's Degree in Economics, Finance, Business Administration or a related field or equivalent with at least ten (10) years of relevant professional work experience in the required area
* Experience in similar assignments, in terms of nature of the assignment, complexity and scale, for at least seven years
* Demonstrate a number of success cases of start-ups supported by the accelerator or consortium members
* Demonstrate international networks, including mentors, incubators and accelerators, spanning countries of commercial interest for Jamaica
* Extensive experience in developing innovation ecosystems internationally
* All experience, knowledge and partnerships should be demonstrated through contracts, letters of conformity or any equivalent.

**EXPECTED DELIVERABLES**

**The deliverables will include the following reports/Programme documents:**

* BSI Needs assessment
* Design of the BSI capacity building programme
* Accreditation/certification of the BSIs
* Operational documents for the BSI Institutional Strengthening Fund

**REPORTING MECHANISMS**

**The International Accelerator will report for day-to-day activities to the Technical Co-ordinator for Intermediary Relationships** and will liaise with IDB staff assigned to contribute to the Programme.

**CONTRACT DURATION AND RATE**

The Contract will last for 5 months

**INDICATIVE PAYMENT TERMS**

Payments will be tied to the approval of deliverables as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Deliverables | Payment Terms |
| BSI Needs Assessment | 20% |
| Design of the BSI Capacity Building Programme | 20% |
| Accreditation / Certification of the BSIs | 20% |
| Draft Operations Manual for BSI Institutional Strengthening Fund | 20% |
| Final Operations Manual for BSI Institutional Strengthening Fund | 20% |

**LOCATION**The consultancy service will be executed in Jamaica (travelling restrictions permitting) and remotely.

**PROPOSAL**   
Candidates should submit a proposal detailing specific methodologies and activities to meet all specific objectives of the consultancy, building on the documents listed as annexes in this RFP. DBJ ownership of copyright in all materials developed for the project and the requirement to record the modules so that we have a permanent course, which may be accessed by future BSIs.

**ANNEXES**

* BIGEE Operations Manual (summary)
* IGNITE Operations Manual
* Operational Manual for the Strengthening of Pre-incubators, Incubators and Accelerators