THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

NATIONAL AUTHORISING OFFICE

MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND NATIONAL PLANNING

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Owner's Engineer and Programme Management Advisory Consultant (PMAC) - Railway Sector Support Programme (RSSP)

1. Background

The Government of the Republic of Zambia has received financial assistance from the European Union to implement the Railway Sector Support Programme (RSSP), a strategic investment supporting the rehabilitation of Zambia's railway infrastructure and the implementation of institutional reforms within the railway sector.

The Programme includes railway infrastructure rehabilitation, signalling and telecommunications improvements, removal of Temporary Speed Restrictions (TSRs), rehabilitation of railway yards and implementation of institutional, regulatory and legislative reforms. The Programme combines physical infrastructure investments with institutional reforms and therefore requires close coordination among multiple public institutions, technical consultants, contractors and development partners.

The National Authorising Office shall maintain overall responsibility for programme governance, contractual oversight and compliance with the EU funded Financing Agreement.

The National Authorising Office (NAO), Ministry of Finance and National Planning, as the Contracting Authority, intends to recruit an internationally experienced consulting firm to provide Owner's Engineer and Programme Management Advisory Services during the implementation of the Programme.

The **specific objectives** of the assignment are to provide independent, high-quality advisory support to the Contracting Authority and relevant implementing institutions, including to:

- provide the National Authorising Office with independent programme management, contractual and technical advisory support;

- support the National Authorising Office in preparing, reviewing and consolidating quarterly and annual Programme reports in accordance with applicable reporting requirements;
- monitor implementation progress, identify emerging risks and advise on mitigation measures that may affect the Programme's cost, schedule, quality, compliance or overall objectives;
- provide specialised technical assistance to the Zambia Railways Limited Project Management Unit through the deployment of a senior railway infrastructure specialist working alongside seconded ZRL staff;
- strengthen the PMU's technical capacity to monitor, coordinate and manage railway infrastructure rehabilitation activities effectively;
- undertake independent technical review of information, reports and documentation produced by ZRL, the PMU and the Supervising Engineer;
- provide advisory support to the Ministry of Transport and Logistics for the implementation, monitoring and coordination of railway institutional, regulatory and governance reforms; and
- facilitate effective coordination among the Contracting Authority, ZRL, the PMU, the Ministry of Transport and Logistics, the Supervising Engineer and other relevant Programme stakeholders.

Additional information on the Programme is available on the European Union INTPA, Member States, and NAO website, where the Action Document may be downloaded.

The INTPA link is: https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/countries/zambia_en (download the "Annual Action Plan 2025 for Zambia")

The NAO link is: https://nao.gov.zm

2. Objective of the Assignment

The Consultant shall provide independent technical, contractual, programme management and institutional advisory services to the Contracting Authority in support of the effective implementation of the Programme.

The Consultant shall assist in monitoring programme implementation, reviewing technical and institutional outputs, advising the National Authorising Office, supporting programme governance, and strengthening compliance with the Financing Agreement and applicable EU-funded implementation requirements.

The Consultant shall provide advisory and oversight support without replacing or duplicating the responsibilities of Zambia Railways Limited, the Supervising Engineer, the Ministry of Transport and Logistics, or the Contractors.

3. Scope of Services

The Consultant shall provide comprehensive advisory and technical support services covering, without limitation, the following areas:

- programme management support, including support to the Steering Committee, coordination of implementation activities, and preparation of programme reports;
- technical review and advisory support in relation to railway infrastructure rehabilitation, signalling, telecommunications and associated works;
- advisory services in support of railway institutional, regulatory and governance reforms;
- monitoring of Programme implementation progress, including identification of delays, constraints and corrective actions;
- contract administration advisory support, risk management and compliance monitoring in accordance with applicable financing, procurement and contractual requirements;
- capacity building and knowledge transfer to relevant implementing institutions, including support to strengthen technical, managerial and institutional capabilities.

The expected duration of the services is forty-eight (48) months. The assignment shall be performed in Zambia, primarily in Lusaka, Kabwe and along the relevant railway corridors.

4. Eligibility Requirements

Interested consulting firms shall demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Contracting Authority, that they meet the minimum eligibility requirements set out below.

4.1 Legal Capacity

The Applicant shall:

- be legally established;
- be eligible to participate under the FIDIC applicable procurement rules;
- not be subject to bankruptcy, insolvency or liquidation;
- have no conflict of interest affecting this assignment.

4.2 Financial and Economic Capacity

The Applicant shall demonstrate the following:

- an average annual turnover of not less than **EUR 10,000,000.00** during the last three completed financial years;
- sufficient financial capacity to implement the assignment. The current ratio (current assets/current liabilities) in the last year for which accounts have been closed must be at least 1. In case of a consortium, this criterion must be fulfilled by each member.

4.3 Technical Capacity

The Applicant shall demonstrate :

- at least **ten (10) years** of continuous experience providing professional railway consultancy services;

- successful international experience in railway infrastructure rehabilitation, Owner's Engineer services, programme management, technical advisory services, railway engineering, or FIDIC Engineer/Supervisor/Supervising Engineer services;
- successful international experience in railway institutional, regulatory or governance reforms, as further detailed below:
    - successful completion of at least **four (4)** international railway assignments comparable in complexity during the last ten years;
        - successful completion of at least **two (2)** assignments involving both railway infrastructure rehabilitation and institutional reform during the last ten years;
    - Experience in projects implemented under FIDIC Conditions of Contract shall be evaluated accordingly.

Experience in projects financed by the European Union, the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the European Investment Bank, KfW, JICA or similar development partners shall be considered an advantage.

5. Corporate Capability

The Applicant shall demonstrate that railway consultancy constitutes one of its principal business activities and that it maintains permanent technical resources in railway engineering, programme management and railway institutional advisory services.

Experience obtained solely through external associates or individual experts who are not part of the Applicant’s organisation shall not be considered in the assessment of corporate experience.

6. Joint Ventures

Joint Ventures and Affiliations are permitted.

Where a Joint Venture is proposed, the Lead Member shall demonstrate compliance with at least seventy percent (70%) of the minimum technical requirements specified above. This percentage shall relate to both the required years of experience and the number of successful reference assignments.

Collectively, the Joint Venture shall satisfy all eligibility requirements.

7. Shortlisting Criteria

Eligible Applicants will be evaluated against the following criteria.

Criterion	**Maximum Points**	**Evaluation terms**
International railway infrastructure advisory experience	30	5 points for each successful project
Railway institutional reform experience	30	5 points for each successful project
Owner's Engineer / Programme Management experience	20	2.5 points for each successful project
FIDIC experience	10	1 point for each successful project
Corporate technical capacity	10	Proportion of corporate services in the railway sector
Total	**100 Points**	

Only the highest-ranked Applicants, up to a **maximum of** six (**6**), will be invited to submit Technical and Financial Proposals.

8. Submission Requirements

The NAO will accept written requests for clarification from prospective Respondents by email no later than **11 September 2026 at 16:00 CAT.** Requests shall be submitted **to** infrastructure@nao.gov.zm**.**

Written questions must include the requestor's name and e-mail address. Responses to all timely and appropriate questions will be posted by **18 September 2026** on the NAO website at **https://nao.gov.zm**

Applicants shall submit, in English:

- Letter of Expression of Interest and the Application Form attached to this EOI;
- Company Profile;
- Legal Registration Documents;
- Financial Statements;
- List of Relevant Assignments and Experiences related to the subject of this Service;
- Description of Corporate Railway Capability;
- Details of any proposed Joint Venture, where applicable, including the required letters of intent.

Curricula Vitae of Key Experts shall **not** be submitted at this stage.

The Expression of Interest shall be submitted to the following address:

National Authorising Office
NAO House – Plot 488a/37/0/1/4
Lake Road - Kabulonga
PO Box 50376 – Lusaka
ZAMBIA

The deadline for submitting Expressions of Interest is 28 September 2026 at 16:00 CAT. Late submissions will not be considered.

9. Shortlisting and Subsequent Procurement Stages

This Request for Expressions of Interest is intended solely to establish a shortlist of qualified consulting firms.

The detailed Terms of Reference and Request for Proposals will be issued only to shortlisted Applicants.