



## **EDUCATION INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CONSULTANT SERVICES**

### **A. Introduction**

The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) is a United States government-owned corporation responsible for the stewardship of the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA). MCC works with developing countries to promote sustainable economic growth to reduce poverty. As part of the due diligence of each country's proposal, MCC conducts cost-benefit analysis to assess the proposed projects' likely economic impact and cost-effectiveness and estimate the share of the population who may benefit from the program. After a Compact is signed, the Department of Compact Implementation, focusing on results during implementation, is responsible among other things to monitor the economic impact of Compact interventions on household income and poverty reduction.

The Government of Georgia (GoG) has identified a lack of educated and skilled people as a critical constraint to economic growth. They have asked MCC for assistance, as part of a second Compact, in improving the quality and relevance of their general education sector with a particular emphasis on rural schools, English, and math and science education. The GoG has also asked for investments in tertiary education, both at the technical and bachelors levels to improve the supply of qualified science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) technicians and professionals.

The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) is seeking short-term, Information Technology (IT) expert consultant services for a proposed education project in the Second Georgia Compact. IT consultant services are needed to support an assessment of the IT education infrastructure and applications, produce detailed design options for investments, and support implementation planning for the proposed education project.

### **B. Scope of Work**

The overall scope of this requirement is to support MCC and the GoG in the due diligence and implementation of the general education, technical vocational education and training (TVET), and higher education areas as they relate to information technology and related applications, facilities and infrastructure.

### **C. Objective**

The consultant will support MCC and the GoG in evaluating the IT education infrastructure, in producing detailed design options for investments, and in supporting implementation planning for a proposed education project.

### **D. Tasks**

Duties will include (but are not limited to) the following:

**Task A:** Evaluate the hardware, software, and network infrastructure, facilities and applications of the general education system, with a focus on secondary schools, and as appropriate at the tertiary

level for specific STEM BS and STEM-related technical/vocational programs of study. Report on the level of connectivity in schools/tertiary institutions, the availability and application of up-to-date computers and other educational IT, the existence of O&M capacity and execution.

**Task B:** Recommend potential investments and draw up technical specifications including both hardware and software aspects needed to implement those recommendations. The specifications should be accompanied by cost estimates for implementation of various recommendations. The consultant should investigate the feasibility and advisability of distance learning, e-learning, and e-textbooks among other possible IT solutions for general education (focused on secondary) and a tertiary level STEM program of study.

**Task C.** Assess the training needs of instructional staff, administrators and others for the effective operation of IT equipment/applications including software and hardware support specialists, server administrators, network operators and others as appropriate, and help prepare training plans, including budgets, to ensure that the required trained staff are in place to effectively operate and maintain IT equipment and systems.

**Task D:** Assess differential access to IT resources and performance across different classes of students with regard to gender, regions, ethnicities, poverty, and school performance, and recommend proactive approaches to reducing inequalities.

**Task E:** Provide implementation support for education IT activities. This entails working with MCC and the GoG to prepare specifications and detailed cost estimates for IT equipment/applications and a procurement plan, including timeline, for purchasing the IT equipment/software and installation and testing. Help prepare terms of reference and other documentation required for the procurement of the equipment, software and its installation.

**Task F:** Perform other related duties as required.

### **E. Deliverables**

- Workplan
- Progress reports
- Evaluation report of the state of IT infrastructure and applications in the Georgian general education and tertiary sectors as related to math and science and STEM-related instruction
- Recommendations for the use of educational IT within Compact investments
- IT system and equipment design needed for investment options
- Training needs assessment and plan for IT equipment and systems operation and maintenance.
- IT equipment cost estimates (software and hardware) for procurement, including timeline and TORs
- Presentation and discussion of all final recommendations with the GoG and MCC.

As implementation proceeds, the consultant will be required to provide:

- IT systems/applications/equipment installation and testing plan
- IT staff training plan, including continuing or refresher training as required for effective O&M

- IT system and equipment O&M plan.

#### **F. Period and Place of Performance**

This consultancy shall be for a one year base period with one renewable option period, if required. The consultant will work from his/her home office and/or MCC headquarters, Georgia, or any MCC eligible country.

*The assignment is expected to include approximately 3-4 weeks in Georgia.*

#### **G. Evaluation Criteria**

- a degree in the area of information systems and technology or appropriate experience to compensate for the lack of a degree in IT sciences or closely related fields;
- extensive experience in developing countries (at least 6 years) designing/implementing IT systems, applications and equipment requirements;
- knowledge of IT in the context of educational systems;
- experience designing IT training programs; and
- strong written and oral English skills.

#### **H. How to Apply**

Interested parties should submit by email to [recruitment@mcc.gov](mailto:recruitment@mcc.gov) the following package: 1) Resume, 2) a brief cover letter that addresses the evaluation criteria and provides three professional references, and 3) Salary history with proposed hourly rate. Please include "IT - Georgia II" in the subject line of your email. **This announcement will expire on February 24, 2012.**