



Ministry of Education

**Accelerating Higher Education Expansion and Development (AHEAD) Operation**  
Ministry of Education  
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Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

Ministry of Education

Accelerating Higher Education Expansion and Development (AHEAD) Operation

FUNDED BY A LOAN FROM THE INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND  
DEVELOPMENT (IBRD) AND A CREDIT FROM INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
ASSOCIATION (IDA)

LOAN NO. 8743-LK AND CREDIT NO. 6026-LK

PROJECT ID NO. P159995

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Hiring a Consultancy Firm to Carry Out Freedom to Operate Searches on Suitable Technologies Ready for Commercialization Developed by Universities and Non-State Higher Education Institutions working under Accelerating Higher Education Expansion and Development (AHEAD) Operation.

Procurement Plan No. LK-MOHCA-182799-CS-CQS

The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) equivalent to US\$ 67 million and a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) equivalent to US\$ 33 million (total US\$ 100 million) toward the cost of Accelerating Higher Education Expansion and Development (AHEAD) Operation functioning under the Ministry of Education. The AHEAD Operation intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of the loan to eligible payments under the contract for which this Request for Proposal is issued. The total Cost of this Consultancy is SLRs 3 million.

## **1. Purpose and Objective of the Consultancy:**

To produce freedom to operate search reports for technologies developed at universities governed by the Universities Act No. 16 of 1978 and any other non-state higher education institutions supported for research and innovation by AHEAD, once the technology is licensed to a commercial partner to facilitate the use of local expert technology & knowledge without infringing onto someone else's IP. Interested parties may refer to Terms of Reference (TOR) available in <https://ahead.lk/tor-consultancy-services-to-carry-out-freedom-to-operate-searches/>

## **2. Qualification & Experience of the Consultancy firm:**

The Consultancy firm should be a well-established Consultancy firm, with at least 05 years' experience in the Intellectual Property field and at least Sri Lankan Rupees 03 million turnover per annum for the last 03 years.

The Consultancy firm should have at least 03 years' experience in generating freedom to operate search reports (State any freedom to operate search reports generated for Sri Lanka and for foreign jurisdictions).

The Consultancy firm shall have professionals with the relevant skills required to conduct the freedom to operate searches and resources (hardware, software, access to databases, and logistics) at their disposal for conducting this task.

**Key Expert** shall have a University Degree or relevant Higher Educational qualification and expertise required for this consultancy. The expert shall have at least 5 years of experience in managing the work in relation to IP management. He or She should have sufficient time to manage the activities for this task. This includes coordinating with AHEAD/ Operations Monitoring and Support Team (OMST) and relevant state Universities and non-state Higher Education Institutions. Excellent communication and reporting skills are required.

**Expert/s for generating freedom to operate search reports:** Expert/s shall have a University Degree or relevant Higher Educational qualification in the respective field of expertise required for this consultancy. The Expert/s shall be able to contribute to work and have at least 02 years of experience in using non-commercial/commercial patent databases and generating reports. The expert shall have sufficient time to conduct the searches.

## **3. Shortlisting Criteria**

- i. Experience of the firm in Intellectual property field: No. of Years
- ii. Experience in producing freedom to operate search reports: No. of freedom to operate search reports generated within the last 05 years
- iii. The number of clients where the consultancy firm supported in conducting freedom to operate/prior art search reports within the last 05 years

- iv. Key Expert – Coordination: Number of years of experience in managing the work in relation to IP management
- v. Expert/s for generating freedom to operate search reports: No. of Available Experts with Skills and Competencies to produce freedom to operate search reports
- vi. Turnover during the last 3 years: Amount in Sri Lankan Rupees

Relevant documents shall be included in the Expression of Interest (EOI) to justify the above information specified under the Section 03 Shortlisting Criteria.

#### **4. Conflict of Interest**

Prospective Consultancy firms shall refer and adhere to Section 1.9 of the Guidelines on Selection of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits and Grants by World Bank Borrowers issued in 2011 and revised in July 2014.

#### **5. Invitation to Submit Expression of Interest**

The Chairman, Project Consultant Procurement Committee (PCPC) now invites qualified eligible Consultancy Firms to indicate their interest in providing the service.

Interested Consultancy firms must provide their EOI indicating that they are qualified to perform the services specified in the TOR and may obtain further information from the contact details below between 9.00 am – 3.30 pm on working days.

#### **6. Method of Selection**

A consultancy firm will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Guidelines on Selection of Consultants referred to in the section 4 above. **Method: Selection Based on the Consultants' Qualification (CQS).**

#### **7. Submission Details**

Duly completed Expression of Interest, one original and five copies must be delivered under sealed covers by registered post or courier service to the address below by 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022. Please indicate "EOIs to Carry out Freedom to Operate Searches" on the top left-hand corner of the envelope.

**Chairman  
Project Consultant Procurement Committee  
Accelerating Higher Education Expansion and Development (AHEAD) Operation  
Ministry of Education  
No. 79/1, 5th Lane, Colombo 3, Sri Lanka.**

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21, January 2022**