

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (REOI)

Reference No: REOI/CNPC/Consult/QBS/023

*Selection of a partner institution for the development of a master's degree program
in infrastructure management in Cote d'Ivoire*

The United States of America, acting through the Millennium Challenge Corporation (“MCC”), and the Government of Cote d’Ivoire (“**Government**” or “**GoCI**”) have entered into a Millennium Challenge Compact (“**Compact**”) to help facilitate poverty reduction through economic growth in Cote d’Ivoire in the amount of approximately US\$ 524.7 million (“MCC Funding”). The Compact and its related documents can be found on the website of the *Comité National chargé de la mise en œuvre du Programme Compact* (www.cnpc-mcc.ci). The Compact program includes two projects one of which is called the Abidjan Transport Project (ATP). Please refer to Annex I of the [Compact](#)¹ for more details. The ATP aims to reduce vehicle operating costs and travel times along targeted road segments, while improving overall pedestrian and vehicle mobility and safety. A fundamental component of this project is that by Compact-end, the Government’s transport-related agencies will have been trained in and provided the knowledge and experience to maintain, rehabilitate, and improve Côte d’Ivoire’s existing road network.

This REOI concerns a component of the ATP and specifically the establishment of a graduate program in infrastructure management, integrating engineering, economics, environmental, and social elements related to road design, preservation and maintenance.

The Infrastructure Management Graduate Program will have three primary goals:

- i. develop the necessary knowledge and experience in Côte d’Ivoire in the condition assessment, needs determination, design, supervision, construction, quality control and assurance, and management of urban civil infrastructure including economic and environmental lifecycle analysis, economic analysis and asset management;
- ii. improve performance of the transport related agencies in the preservation of road-infrastructure assets at the lowest life cycle cost and environmental footprint with a focus on road maintenance; and,
- iii. provide a longer term, sustainable solution to the continued creation and updating of those skills.

The Graduate Program will be jointly administered by the *Institut National Polytechnique-Houphouët-Boigny* (“INP-HB”) and *École Nationale Supérieure des Statistiques et Économie Appliquée* (“ENSEA”). Both institutions will provide all necessary classroom and administrative space in Abidjan for the program.

Per the Compact, MCC funding will support the engagement of a partner university or institute with the experience and skills to support the establishment of the Graduate Program. The partner institute is being sought to:

- i. Develop and/or refine, in partnership with INP-HB and ENSEA, a curriculum that combines the engineering, economic, environmental and social elements of infrastructure management, preferably focusing on urban environments;
- ii. Provide training and capacity building for INP-HB and ENSEA program staff and faculty to deliver all aspects of the program including training on (i) the use of course and training materials, (ii) laboratory testing, and (iii) information technology equipment and software;
- iii. Support the development and integration of technology-based courseware into the curriculum in partnership with INP-HB and ENSEA;

¹ <https://assets.mcc.gov/content/uploads/compact-cote-divoire.pdf>

- iv. Support the initial steps towards an eventual international accreditation of the program (possibly after the Compact period) by helping to select which accrediting body to seek accreditation from and lay the groundwork from the start of the program to eventually meet the accrediting body's requirements;
- v. Support the development of an operational structure for the master's program that is financially sustainable beyond the Compact period without the need for ongoing donor funding; and,
- vi. Support the establishment of mechanisms for regular engagement with the public and private sector entities in the infrastructure sector to enhance the relevance of the training.

CNPC now invites eligible universities or institutes to indicate their interest in providing these services. Interested universities are requested to provide information indicating their qualifications to perform the services (i.e. brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). The provided information will be used to shortlist approximately **five (5)** universities.

The shortlisting criteria are as follows:

Mandatory criterion:

- the University or Institute shall have full national engineering accreditation in their country of origin for the granting of Bachelors, Master's and PhDs' in Civil Engineering or equivalent;
- the program of the University or Institute shall have demonstrated engagement with the engineering and construction industry particularly with course development and integration; and,
- the University or Institute shall have a graduate level program in civil engineering, with environmental and economic components, that has been running for a minimum of five (5) years, preferably with a focus on transport infrastructure management.

Evaluation criteria:

The Partner Universities meeting the mandatory criteria will then be evaluated as follows:

1) Demonstrate academic experience and coursework in Infrastructure Management, Civil Engineering, Construction Engineering, Urban Engineering or equivalent, with established coursework in the following subject matter(s) or equivalent: **30 points;**

- Note that universities are not expected to match each course, rather demonstrate that the subject matter is covered. The full syllabi can be found in the reference web link below.

Course ID	Subject Matter
1	Legal, Administrative and Financial Management Aspects for Large Infrastructure (Construction) Projects
2	Scheduling and Cost Management of Infrastructure Projects
3	Quality Management, Risk Analysis and Value Engineering in Infrastructure Management
4	Traffic Modelling and Simulation, Urban Deviation and Road Management Safety in Urban Environments during Construction (including Health and Safety Aspects)
5	Pavement Evaluation
6	Pavement Design and Rehabilitation
7	Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Information Technologies (IT) in Infrastructure Management
8	Environmental and Social Assessment of Infrastructure Projects
9	Urban ecosystems – Water Distribution and Sanitation
10	Resettlement in Urban and Rural Environments

2) Demonstrate experience in collaborating and working with universities abroad to develop sustainable programs, preferably in developing countries: **20 points**;

3) Demonstrate that it has a team in place that is robust and fit for purpose for the project. The team description should make note of the number of full-time faculty and administrative/management staff to be engaged in the project and their respective roles and time allocations, as well as the proficiency of team members in French and English: **30 points**;

4) Demonstrate their institution's interest in engaging in the project and vision for potential continued collaboration beyond the Compact period. The Partner Institute's preference and/or options for the granting of degrees should be indicated, recognizing that while local degrees must be provided in the project, joint or double degrees with the Respondent would be preferred but are not required: **20 points**.

Interested universities may submit their REOI as an individual university or form a consortium involving more than one university. All members of any such consortium shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire assignment.

Though this REOI **up to five (5) Universities** or higher education institutions will be shortlisted following the procedures set out in the MCC Program Procurement Guidelines that govern procurements funded under the MCC Compact. These Procurement Guidelines may be found at http://www.mcc.gov/compacts/program_procurement/index.shtml.

Each shortlisted University will be awarded a framework agreement for the Program Conception Phase (Phase I) including a grant of up to **\$20,000 USD** each for the development of full project proposals for program implementation. This will involve and cover one (1) mandatory field visit organized by MCA-CI in partnership with INP-HB and ENSEA in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire. MCA-CI's Procurement Agent will conduct a webinar for the shortlisted universities on how to complete the proposal documents. An approximate **\$2million USD** contract for the Program Implementation Phase (Phase II) may be awarded to **one (1)** of the shortlisted Universities for a period of up to **five (5) years** following the Compact's Entry Into Force. The assignment is planned to start by the Summer 2019, with the first cohort beginning in Fall 2020 or January 2021.

Interested Universities should register their interest and obtain further information regarding this REOI by sending an e-mail, giving full contact details to the **Procurement Agent** of CNPC on MCACotedIvoirePA@cardno.com. A more detailed (draft) scope of the assignment, with more background information on the Compact and the ATP will then be provided.

A pre-Expression of Interest submission informational event may be organized online on **16 November 2018 at 15:00 Abidjan Time**. Please indicate interest in the registration email. Questions and clarifications shall be provided in writing in PDF format via email to the email address below. The deadline for submission of questions is **30 November 2018 at 17:00 Abidjan Time**. Responses will be provided within ten (10) working days of the deadline.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in electronic format (pdf) to the address below by **15:00 (Abidjan) on December 13, 2018**.

Yours Sincerely,

Coordonnateur National du Programme Compact Côte d'Ivoire
Comité National chargé de la mise en œuvre du Programme Compact (CNPC)
Abidjan-Plateau, Cote d'Ivoire