REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

(INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION AGENT – FIRMS SELECTION)

Assignment Title: Independent Verification Agent (IVA) for Accelerating the Market Transition for Distributed Energy Program

Accelerating the Market Transition for Distributed Energy is a program (the 'Program') agreed between the Republic of Türkiye, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) also known as the World Bank (WB), the Industrial Development Bank of Türkiye (Türkiye Sınai Kalkınma Bankası A.Ş. [TSKB]), and the Development and Investment Bank of Türkiye (Türkiye Kalkınma ve Yatırım Bankası A.Ş. [TKYB])[1]. Program Development Objective (PDO) is to expand Türkiye's distributed solar photovoltaic (DSPV) market and pilot distributed battery energy storage systems (BESS).

PforR Financing proceeds are disbursed upon the achievement of verified results specified as disbursement-linked indicators (DLIs). DLIs are specific, measurable, and verifiable indicators related to and/or derived from the PDO and the Program's results framework.

For this Program, verification for all DLIs is to be carried out by the Independent Verification Agent (IVA).

The IVA services include the following tasks:

- Verification of Data and Supporting Evidence: Verify data and supporting evidence for each Disbursement Linked Indicator (DLI) and Disbursement Linked Result (DLR) in alignment with the verification protocols in Table 3 of the TOR document.
- Preparation and Submission of Verification Reports: Timely preparation and submission of comprehensive verification reports to TSKB and TKYB in accordance with the procedure framed in the verification protocols table.
- Field Visits and Assessments: Execution of field visits and assessments as necessary to verify the information provided by TSKB and TKYB.
- Collaboration with Stakeholders: Collaboration with relevant stakeholders to ensure a thorough and effective verification process.
- Disbursement Reporting: Development of a verification plan at commencement, which includes a detailed methodology for verification and a template for the verification report. The IVA is expected to verify the DLRs three times a year and submit verification reports in line with the time schedules described in the TOR document.

[1] For details of the Program design and context, see the Program Appraisal Document (PAD) and Program Technical Assessment Document (PTAD) available at the World Bank website for the Program: https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/P176375

Expected Qualifications of the IVA and IVA's Key Staff:

- The IVA shall be a company with at least ten years of operation in the consultancy sector with satisfactory performance experience in carrying out assignments similar to the required services.
- Expertise and experience in the field of renewable energy, preferably with a specific focus on engineering and financing of solar photovoltaic and battery energy storage systems.
- Proven track record of conducting independent verification or audit activities.
- Familiarity with the operational context of Türkiye, particularly in the renewable energy sector.
- Strong analytical skills and the ability to conduct thorough investigations.
- Proficiency in English and Turkish.
- Prior working experience in World Bank projects, especially PforRs, is preferred.

The assignment is expected to start in July, 2024 and will last for 2 years unless extended by TSKB and TKYB. If the performance of IVA is satisfactory to TSKB and TKYB, the contract can be renewed until the end of the Program in 2029.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found at the following website: https://www.tskb.com.tr/uploads/file/terms-of-reference.pdf

TSKB and TKYB now invite eligible consulting firms ("Independent Verification Agents") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested IVAs should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

The shortlisting criteria are:

- Proposed approach and methodology that adhere to the procedure in the verification protocol, Overall design of the program, Scalability
- Experience in the field of renewable energy, preferably with a specific focus on solar photovoltaic and battery energy storage systems.
- A proven track record of conducting independent verification or audit activities, demonstrating a high degree of professionalism and objectivity.
- Familiarity with the operational context of Türkiye, particularly in the renewable energy sector, and an understanding of the local regulatory and business environment.
- Strong analytical skills and the ability to conduct thorough investigations, producing detailed, clear, and concise reports.
- Proficiency in English and Turkish, with the capability to effectively communicate and report findings and recommendations to a diverse range of stakeholders.
- Prior working experience in the World Bank projects, especially PForRs, will be preferred.

Key Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage.

The selection of the IVA will be conducted through a competitive and transparent process. This process will be jointly managed by TSKB and TKYB. The comprehensive selection process will include evaluating technical competence, proposed methodology, personnel experience, the ability of the IVA to meet the Program's specific requirements, and the financial proposal.

Further information can be obtained via email given below during office hours from 09:00 to 17:00 hours.

Expressions of interest must be delivered only in electronic form to the e-mail addresses of dspviva@tskb.com.tr and dspviva@kalkinma.com.tr together with an application letter in English including the necessary qualification documents, name, address, phone number of the company by 12 July 2024, accompanied by a signed letter of authorization which can be found at the following website: https://www.tskb.com.tr/uploads/file/letter-of-authorization-tskb.pdf in form and substance provided, authorizing TSKB and TKYB to jointly conduct the procurement.