Request for Proposal

GPSNR ASSURANCE MODELS REVIEW

28 AUGUST 2019

ISSUED BY
Global Platform for Sustainable Natural Rubber

REPRESENTATIVE
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GPSNR-RFP-A02-001
Introduction & Background

The Global Platform for Sustainable Natural Rubber (GPSNR), is an international Multi-Stakeholder, voluntary membership initiative seeking to lead improvements in the socioeconomic and environmental performance of the natural rubber value chain. Development of the GPSNR was initiated by the CEOs of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) Tire Industry Project (TIP) in 2018. Members of the platform include tire manufacturers, rubber suppliers and processors, vehicle makers and NGOs. Representatives from each of these stakeholder groups have contributed to the development of the Singapore-based platform and the wide-reaching set of priorities that will define GPSNR strategy and objectives.

Through a process led by the Strategy and Objectives Working Group the Platform has developed stated goals that support a strong focus on developing a framework that supports and sustains sustainability claim in the supply chain. Important among the tools to do this is development of an Assurance Model that is credible and smoothly functioning.

In order to achieve this, the Platform is seeking a fixed term consultancy to develop a robust review of the options for various Assurance Models that will support the desired outcomes of the Platform.

The Working Group considers the discussion regarding options for an Assurance Model shall include review and discussion of the structure that will provide a credible claim of participation and progress toward the goals of the organization. It may also provide required activities, methodologies and time frames along with options for verification models. Another important component of an assurance model focuses on the discussion of disclosure of
progress and results to support transparency in actions that will allow credible claims of progress.

The Engagement

The consultant is to develop a robust review and framework for discussion of the options for the Platform to consider when developing an Assurance Model.

The review scope shall include:

- A survey and description of various Assurance Models in use today.
  - This should include both ISEAL members and other systems focusing on incremental improvement of the production of commodities and other raw materials. A discussion of the pros and cons of each approach should be included.

- A discussion of the options and approach GPSNR should take to assess the feasibility of possible recognition of other existing certification systems operating in the Natural Rubber supply chain's context.
  - Presentation of what the factors to be considered are
  - Discussion of the opportunities for leveraging progress and participation in various other systems (ISEAL and others)

- Inclusion of a robust discussion of models that will facilitate credible assessment of impacts by participants
  - This shall include a discussion of how to integrate observation-based assessments in an impact focused model.
• A review of methods to reward progress toward impact goals.
  ○ Claims
  ○ Incentives (including financial)

A second aspect of the engagement is to include a discussion of various models to support progress to scalable financial sustainability for the platform that will, over time, move it from a donor and membership fee model to one that can be anticipated to provide both ongoing support for the development of various initiatives focused on the approximately 6 million small farmers who are producing the raw materials needed, as well as support the appropriate financing of the delivery of these tools. This discussion should go well beyond what current certification systems are doing today regarding this question and explore what “blue sky” thinking could be to forge new partnerships (e.g., including with financial institutions) to support breaking through the current constraints of financial sustainability.

A series of questions to assist the Working Group in developing a chosen approach to the design of the Platform’s Assurance model is also to be included in the output. These should take into consideration and clearly identify the process flow that could result in one decision cascading through the options available so the Working Group may understand fully the impact of the technical choices they will recommend to the GPSNR Executive Committee.

A standalone discussion of possible recommendations for design and implementation should also be included; this will incorporate a possible timeframe and critical path mapping for implementation.
Terms

- The engagement shall begin 1 October 2019 and the report shall be delivered in its final form no later than 20 December 2019
  - Interim dates for Draft submission and review shall be developed with the Secretariat at the time of the engagement and mutually agreed upon.

- The consultant shall conduct a series of interviews with members and other stakeholders to develop a strong understanding of the priorities and needs of the Natural Rubber Industry and Supply Chain members. This shall, of course, include examination of the opinions and realities of the smallholder growers as well as larger entities.

- The consultant should have deep understanding and documented experience in:
  - Assurance Models and approaches (including third party and second party models)
  - Current challenges that limit uptake in the global markets
  - Understanding of the financial flows and operations of the commodity markets globally
  - Understanding of the Natural Rubber industry
  - Understanding of Antitrust regulations and its relevance vis a vis multi stakeholder initiatives
Level of Effort

- The expectation is an engagement that will require significant effort to develop a broad and deep review and discussion of the options for an Assurance Model for the Platform.

- Regular contact and updating of both the Working Group and the Secretariat will be required.

- The decision to award a contract to a consultant shall be based on the level of experience and depth of proven knowledge they have and the assessment of the Secretariat of the viability of the consultants ability to complete the deliverables.
Submission Guidelines & Requirements

The following submission guidelines & requirements apply to this Request for Proposal:

1. Proposals will only be accepted from individuals or firms with experience relevant to this project.

2. Examples of previous relevant work should be provided as well.

3. A technical proposal must be provided that is not more than 4 pages. This technical proposal must provide an overview of the proposed solution as well as resumes of all key personnel performing the work. In addition, the technical proposal should provide a proposed schedule and milestones, as applicable.

4. A price proposal must be provided that is not more than 1 pages. This price proposal should indicate the overall fixed price for the project as well as hourly rates and an estimated total number of days.

5. Proposals must be signed by a representative that is authorized to commit bidder’s company.

6. Proposals must be received prior to 15th September to be considered. Proposals should be submitted to stefano.savi@gpsnr.org for consideration.
7. GPSNR anticipates shortlisting at least two individuals or firms to have more in-depth discussions with, and will make an award to one of these “down-selected” individuals or firms.

8. GPSNR reserves the right to amend the scope and budget of this RFP in order to get the most suitable consultant for each topic.

RFP & Project Timelines

The Request for Proposal timeline is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proposal submitted by consultant to <a href="mailto:stefano.savi@gpsnr.org">stefano.savi@gpsnr.org</a></td>
<td>15/09/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selection of Top Bidders / Notification to Unsuccessful Bidders</td>
<td>20/09/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract Award / Notification to Unsuccessful Bidders</td>
<td>01/10/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work to commence no later than</td>
<td>01/10/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Need-date for project completion</td>
<td>20/12/2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Budget

The Platform is anticipating that a total budget of no more than 30,000 Euros be allocated to this engagement with an additional amount available to support planned and approved travel.

It is estimated that there will be the need for a series of face to face meetings in Singapore and possibly neighboring countries over the course of a one week to 2-week period early in the engagement. Travel plans shall be made by the consultant.

Payment terms shall be:
- 20% at the signing of the contract
- 30% at the midpoint date to be agreed upon and memorialized in the contract based on the submitted work plan
- 50% on delivery of the final report

The allocation of the payment shall be based on the net amount after travel expenses are incurred and documented.
Evaluation Factors

GPSNR will rate proposals based on the following factors, with cost being the most important factor:

1. Responsiveness to the requirements set forth in this Request for Proposal
2. Relevant past performance/experience
3. Samples of work
4. Cost, including an assessment of total cost of ownership.
5. Technical expertise/experience of bidder and the bidder's staff

GPSNR reserves the right to award to the bidder that presents the best value to GPSNR as determined solely by GPSNR in its absolute discretion.