RFP No. ASLM/ACDC/03/05/21

Laboratory Audit Assessments Consultant (Genomic Sequencing and Bioinformatics)

March 5, 2021
Contents
I. Background information 3
   ASLM background 3
   Africa CDC background 3
I. Purpose of the role 3
II. Requirements list 4
III. RFP required response format 4
IV. Contractual terms and conditions 5
V. Contacts 5
VI. Point of contact 5
1. Purpose of the role

I. Background information

**ASLM background**

The African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM) is a pan-African professional body working to advocate for the critical role and needs of laboratory medicine and networks throughout Africa. Africa is rapidly growing but faces major health challenges including epidemics of HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria, and new priorities such as Ebola and other global health security threats. Strengthened laboratory capacity and surveillance in Africa are critical to overcoming the burden of disease and ensuring a healthy future for the continent. ASLM addresses these challenges by working collaboratively with governments, local and international organizations, implementing partners, and the private sector. ASLM collaborates with Africa CDC to implement the establishment of the Pathogen Genomic Institute.

**Africa CDC background**

The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) was officially launched in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on January 31, 2017. The Africa CDC is Africa’s first continent-wide public health agency and envisions a safer, healthier, integrated and stronger Africa, where Member States are capable of effectively responding to infectious disease outbreaks and other public health threats. The agency's mission is to strengthen Africa’s public health institutions’ capabilities to detect and respond quickly and effectively to disease outbreaks and other health burdens through an integrated network of continent-wide preparedness and response, surveillance, laboratory, and research programmes. Strengthening laboratory network systems and integrated disease surveillance are the core mandates of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC). As part of these mandates and owing to the benefits of genomic-based surveillance, Africa CDC launched the Institute of Pathogen Genomics (IPG) in November 2019. IPG was launched with a vision to integrate of pathogen genomics and bioinformatics into public health surveillance, outbreak investigations, and improved disease control and prevention in Africa. In seeking to achieve this vision, the IPG is intending to strengthen its capacity to deliver by, among others, the reinforcement of its organizational structure and expertise.

I. Purpose of the role

The Laboratory Audit Assessments consultant (Genomic Sequencing and Bioinformatics) will develop internal and external genomic and bioinformatics assessment and audit tools. In addition, the consultant will adopt a consultative, holistic approach to conduct audit assessments of selected (8) regional genomic sequencing laboratories in Africa.
II. Requirements list

- Master’s degree in molecular epidemiology, genomics, bioinformatics, public health, health sciences or other related science-based discipline from an accredited academic institution with at least 12 years of relevant professional work experience of which 7 years at managerial level. Doctoral degree is an added advantage.

- University degree in molecular epidemiology, genomics, bioinformatics, public health, health sciences or other related science-based discipline from an accredited academic institution with at least 15 years of relevant professional work experience of which 5 years at managerial level

- Managerial level experience in the development, management, implementation and evaluation of public health laboratory or genomic programs with special emphasis on the use of emerging technologies and approaches to inform public health policy and decision making.

- Experience in developing and reviewing operational guidelines/frameworks, strategic plans and technical proposals for advancing public health genomics programmes and initiatives.

- Experience as a laboratory auditor with good knowledge of ISO 15189

- Experience working in large-scale, multi-country, interdisciplinary programs

- Ability to communicate clearly, logically and persuasively on complex topics in public health pathogen genomics

- A good understanding of public health systems in Africa

- Should have excellent oral and written communication skills in English, along with ample experience with scientific writing. Knowledge of other AU working languages would be an added advantage.

III. RFP required response format

**Conduct audit assessments for genomic sequencing and bioinformatics:**

- Develop comprehensive internal and external genomic and bioinformatics audit tools taking into account regional/international standards.

- Plan audit assessments for selected regional genomic sequencing laboratories in consultation with Africa CDC and the regional sequencing network.

- Assess sample referral mechanism in place and identify key gaps.

- Conduct onsite (2 laboratories) and/or virtual audit assessments of selected regional sequencing laboratories including pre-analytical, analytical and post-analytical phases.
o Assess genomic sequencing and bioinformatics infrastructure, systems, workforce and protocols/documentation using standard audit tools.

o Assess capacity and capability for sequencing and bioinformatics.

o Identify opportunities for improvement.

- Prepare laboratory audit reports and develop corrective action plan based on audit assessments.

- In close collaboration with Africa CDC follow-up on the needed corrective and preventive actions following audits.

- Provide virtual training to experts from regional genomic sequencing laboratories to conduct internal audit for genomic sequencing and bioinformatics.

- Provide technical assistance in setting internal audit programme and encourage commitment to establishing a process for internal audits.

- Performs other duties as assigned.

IV. Contractual terms and conditions

- All documents and reports submitted by the firms shall be the property of ASLM.

- The firm shall not re-assign the work to any other firm/entity with ASLM knowledge.

- All costs related to assignments preparation and submission will be borne by the firm.

- The firm may be required to sign a confidentiality (Non-disclosure) agreement before the contract is awarded.

- ASLM reserves the right to (a) reject or accept any proposal from any party, (b) not respond to a request made by any party.

- The vendor will be responsible for all regulatory approvals in case of any legal implication arising out of the implementation of the solution;

V. Contacts

Send your completed application by email to: EShumba@aslm.org and CC rfpsubmission@aslm.org

By: March 22, 2021 (5:30 pm East African Time).

VI. Point of contact:

Direct any written questions or request for information about this RFP to not later than 7 seven days after issuance of this RFP:

Edwin Shumba, AMR Program Manager

Email: EShumba@aslm.org
Appendix I

PAYMENT

- Maximum consultancy fee of ten thousand united states dollars (USD10,000).

-------------------END-----------------