

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST  
(CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)**

**COUNTRY:** CROATIA  
**NAME OF PROJECT:** SUSTAINABLE CROATIAN RAILWAYS IN EUROPE PROJECT  
**Loan No.:** 8500-HR  
**Assignment Title:** EUROPEAN RAIL TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SYSTEM – IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

**Reference No.:** SUCRE-HZI-CS-QBS-17

HŽ INFRASTRUKTURA d.o.o. (HŽI) has applied for financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Sustainable Croatian Railways in Europe Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

## **I. BACKGROUND**

The implementation of the European Rail Traffic Management System (ERTMS) is one of the essential priorities of the EU transport policy in the rail sector.

In this context, the Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure and HŽ INFRASTRUKTURA d.o.o. (HŽI) aims at implementing ERTMS as part of the infrastructure rehabilitation and modernisation programme as described in the “*National Implementation Plan for Commission Regulation (EU) 2016/919 of 27 May 2016 on the technical specification for interoperability relating to the ‘control-command and signalling’ subsystems of the rail system in the European Union. Ref. Ares (2018)18239 - 03/01/2018.*”

## **II. OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

Given the complex nature of the main objectives of the assignment, key actions are divided into stages as follows:

### Phase One

- Provide the Implementation Plan for ERTMS in Croatia as a rehabilitation and modernisation programme achieving interoperability of the rail system;
- Establish a way forward in discussion and agreement with HŽI taking into account current and forecasted levels of traffic;

### Phase Two

- Updating and revision of the National Implementation Plan for (EU) 2016/919;
- Provide ERTMS tender documentation for Design-Build Contract(s).

After completion and acceptance of Phase One, HŽI will have the option to not execute Phase Two and terminate the assignment.

The detailed Terms of Reference for the above referenced consulting services are posted on the website of HŽ INFRASTRUKTURA d.o.o. at [www.hzinfra.hr](http://www.hzinfra.hr). /WORLD BANK and EBRD/Sustainable Croatian Railways.

The Duration of Phase One will be: 270 calendar days from commencement.

HŽ INFRASTRUKTURA d.o.o. now invites eligible consulting firms (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the aforementioned Services. Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

**The shortlist criteria are:**

1. Company profile, organization and staffing – global presence and experience in transport sector (within the EU).
2. Qualification requirements that have to be met by every interested Consultant in order to participate in the tender are as follows:
  - Years of experience:  
Minimum of ten (10) years professional experience in project management and a very good understanding of project/programme development.
  - Competencies:  
Prior demonstrated experience in developing programmes and tender documents for Railways and Signalling including ERTMS. Details of experience or similar assignments undertaken in the previous ten years, including a reference list of at least three assignments providing information on the name of the assignment, cost, duration, location, client, and contact details for enquiring references as relevant. The value of each assignment should not be lower than EUR 350,000.00. The assignments should be by type and quantity comparable to the activities which are the object of this REoI and which were provided in 2022 and during the nine (9) years previous to that.
  - Language and other skills:  
The Consultant is expected to have capacity among its team to operate in Croatian and review Croatian language documentation as well as documentation in English.
  - Quality Systems:  
The firm/lead firm in any consortium shall have ISO 9000 certification for Quality Systems Management.
3. Confirmation of availability of the Key Experts with the required qualifications as indicated in detail in the terms of reference.

All firms/consortium members tendering for the assignment will need to meet eligibility requirements for employment as a consultant under World Bank Group financed projects under “Guidelines on Selection and Employment of Consultants Under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers – January 2011 (revised July 2014)<sup>1</sup>.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank’s “Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits and Grants by World Bank Borrowers” dated January 2011 (revised July 2014), (“Consultant Guidelines”), setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest. In addition, please refer to the following specific information on conflict of interest related to this assignment as per paragraph 1.9 of Consultant Guidelines.

Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub-consultancy to enhance their qualifications. The "association" may take the form of a Joint Venture or a sub-consultancy. In case of a Joint Venture (JV), all members of the JV will be evaluated jointly for the purpose of shortlisting and shall be jointly and severally liable for the assignment and shall sign the contract in case it is awarded to that JV group. Interested consultants should clearly indicate the structure of their "association" and the duties of the partners and sub-consultants in their application. Unclear expression of interests in terms of "in association with" and/or "in affiliation with" and etc. may not be considered for shortlisting. Keeping one expression of interest per firm as principle, a consultant firm may decide whether it wishes to participate as a sub-consultant or as an individual consultant or as a partner in a joint venture. Please note that a firm shall submit only one expression of interests in the same selection process, either individually as a consultant, or as a partner in a joint venture. No firm can be a sub-consultant while submitting an expression of interests individually or as a partner of a joint venture in the same selection process. A firm, if acting in the capacity of a sub-consultant in any consultant or JV, may participate in more than one consultant, but only in the capacity of a sub-consultant.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with Selection under a Quality-Based Selection (QBS) method, set out in the Consultant Guidelines.

The Expression of Interest must be accompanied by complete Contact details.

**The Consultant will perform work in compliance with public health guidance and in the physical location(s) allowed by the Government of Croatia and the European Union’s response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. For the avoidance of doubt this may require video conferencing in lieu of face-to-face meeting, wearing of masks if physical meetings are possible, and adherence to social distancing guidelines. If border restrictions do not permit travel to / from the Consultant’s location travel will not be required.**

The Expression of Interest may be submitted via e-mail or in person to the address below **by 15 March, 2023, 2 pm local time**. If submitted in person, one original and two copies and a CD of the Expression of Interest in English shall be submitted to the Client in an envelope marked:

**Expression of Interest for HŽ INFRASTRUKTURA d.o.o. for: EUROPEAN RAIL TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SYSTEM – IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

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<sup>1</sup> See:

<http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/894361459190142673/ProcurementConsultantHiringGuidelinesEngJuly2014.pdf>

*to the following address:*

HŽ INFRASTRUKTURA d.o.o.  
Attn: Josipa Puklin  
Sarajevska cesta 43, Ground Floor, Room 3  
10000 Zagreb, Croatia

or it can be sent via e-mail to all three following addresses: [iva.mrsonastic@hzipfra.hr](mailto:iva.mrsonastic@hzipfra.hr), [bruna.saric@hzipfra.hr](mailto:bruna.saric@hzipfra.hr) and [josipa.puklin@hzipfra.hr](mailto:josipa.puklin@hzipfra.hr).

Based on the evaluation of Expressions of Interest, only shortlisted firms will be invited to submit their technical proposal through a Request for Proposals.

Further information may be obtained at the following e-mail addresses: [iva.mrsonastic@hzipfra.hr](mailto:iva.mrsonastic@hzipfra.hr), [bruna.saric@hzipfra.hr](mailto:bruna.saric@hzipfra.hr) and [josipa.puklin@hzipfra.hr](mailto:josipa.puklin@hzipfra.hr) during office hours: 8 am to 3 pm local time.

HŽ INFRASTRUKTURA d.o.o.