

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Procurement Number:	CENTER2023GOV07o
Open Date:	3/21/2023
Questions Deadline:	4/24/2023
Closing Deadline:	4/24/2023
Geographical Area Restrictions:	NA
Point of Contact:	Brittany Lauritzen; blauritzen@iri.org

Background

The International Republican Institute (IRI) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, organization dedicated to advancing freedom and democracy worldwide. Since 1983, IRI has worked to develop democratic institutions and ideals, carrying out a variety of international programs to promote freedom, self-government and the rule of law worldwide. IRI provides technical assistance in the areas of political party strengthening, developing civic institutions and open elections, promoting democratic governance and advancing the rule of law.

To bolster data-driven, coordinated policy responses to kleptocracy, and build political will for anti-kleptocracy reform in source countries, IRI will promote evidence-based approaches to countering transnational kleptocratic networks and work with activists in kleptocratic countries to generate political incentives for reform.

The Contractor will conduct baseline qualitative research in support of an IRI evaluation of Panama effects of its program on anti-kleptocracy advocacy campaigns in Panama. The research will include both key informant interviews and desk research on media sources, organizational documents, and secondary literature. Based on this research the Contractor will produce an analytical report (~5000 words) summarizing major anticorruption narratives in Panama, the recent history of anticorruption advocacy movements, and the skills, resources, strategies, and institutional opportunities available to anticorruption activists, to constitute a baseline evaluation.

Period of Performance

Date of Signature – June 30, 2023

Eligibility:

- Professional fluency in English

Statement of Work

Key deliverables under this contract will include an analytical report (~5000 words) on anticorruption advocacy campaigns in Panama based on qualitative desk research and key informant interviews (KIIs). Before research commences, the contractor will meet with IRI

staff virtually for consult to discuss the project, the interview protocol, and the qualitative research approach and data collection techniques.

The baseline qualitative desk research can be conducted over the full course of the period of performance, and should include, but may not be limited to, journalistic sources, reports by civil society organizations (CSOs) or think tanks, academic books and articles, and state administrative data. Major themes to be covered in the desk research will be determined in consultation with IRI, but example themes may include:

- Summary of themes related to corruption, integrity, and related concepts that are especially salient to citizens, politicians, and civil society organizations. These themes may include, but are not limited to, grand or petty corruption, the financing of political parties, corruption in the public sector, public procurement transparency.
- Summary of recent corruption scandals that have made headlines and any public response to these scandals (protests, for example).
- Any recent changes in policy aimed at increasing transparency in governance or decreasing corruption.
- Any potential new policies or reforms that certain political parties or civil society organizations are advocating.
- Recent historical tracing (e.g., over the last 10 years) of major anticorruption advocacy campaigns, their major successes, failures, opportunities, and challenges.

The baseline interview research will include key informant interviews with IRI program participants and potentially other anticorruption activists. Interviews will be conducted before IRI program activities begin. Responsibilities will include translating interview protocols from English into Spanish, conducting up to 20 total interviews with select respondents in Panama, and providing English and Spanish transcripts of the interviews, and analyzing the interviews for themes including skills, resources, strategies, and institutional opportunities available to anticorruption activists.

During the first (1) week of interviews, the contractor will pilot the interview protocol by completing interviews with two (2) sampled participants. Following those interviews, the Contractor will provide IRI with the interview transcripts translated from Spanish to English and attend a call with IRI staff to discuss these initial interviews and any issues with the protocol and/or interview process. Based on these calls, IRI and the Contractor will make any necessary changes to the interview protocol or process for the remaining interviews. Once all issues are addressed, the Contractor will continue with the remaining interviews. If necessary, the Contractor will attend a second call to discuss any additional issues that arise during these interviews. The Contractor will also provide written weekly updates (via email) on interviews conducted and any issues or challenges the Contractor is facing. The contractor will also conduct analysis of the survey data, which will also inform the analytical report described above.

Deliverables Summary:

- **Initial consultation and research design document (due signature + 1 week):**
Based on an initial meeting between the Contractor and IRI, the Contractor will

prepare a research design document (3-5 single-spaced pages maximum in English language), including, but not limited to, a list of potential themes to investigate, a tentative list of sources, start/end dates for data collection, a research strategy for summarizing salient issues, a description of the proposed analytical process, and an estimated timeline for the completion of each deliverable. IRI will provide a template for the research design document upon request.

- **Translated interview questionnaire and list of prospective respondents (due signature + 2 weeks)**
- **Draft analytical report and clean interview transcripts (due signature + 4 weeks)** Contractor will submit one draft report for review and feedback. The draft report should include a list of salient themes related to anticorruption campaigns, preliminary analysis of sources (newspaper articles, online media articles, television and radio reports, social media posts, etc.), and a representative sample or bibliography of those sources. The format of the draft report will be determined in consultation between IRI and the Contractor. IRI will provide a template for research reports upon request. IRI reserves the right to request revisions to the draft report to be reflected in the final report.
- **Final analytical report (due signature + 6 weeks):** Contractor will prepare a final report of no more than 5,000 words summarizing the recent historical processes of anticorruption advocacy in Panama. The report should also include an assessment of program participants' advocacy knowledge, skills, resources, strategies, and/or opportunities changed as a result of participation in IRI's program. The report should be submitted as a .doc and .pdf file. IRI will provide a template for the final report upon request. IRI reserves the right to request one round of feedback and revisions to the final report.

Technical Proposals

All proposals submitted to IRI must include:

1. Information addressing Bidder's experience in providing each of the services identified in the above Statement of Work and Bidder's proposed specific approach for providing those services to IRI under this contract, including sufficient information to determine a clear definition of services as it relates to other providers that may be involved.
2. The name, address, and telephone and facsimile numbers of the Bidder (and electronic address if available). If the Bidder is a firm, name(s) should be provided for individuals authorized to conduct business on behalf of the firm.
3. Bidders may provide a list of up to three references for work performed of a similar nature during the last three years, along with contact details. IRI may contact the references to evaluate past performance.
4. If the Bidder is a U.S. organization/resident, or a foreign organization/resident which has income effectively connected with the conduct of activities in the U.S. or has an office or a place of business or a fiscal paying agent in the U.S., the information submitted must contain Bidder's Taxpayer Identification Number.
5. Brief writing sample of 5-10 pages which best demonstrates writing and research capabilities. (not including cover page).
6. Proposals submitted by individuals must contain the attached Expert Service Rate Form and a CV/resume with credentials.

7. Desirable: Please include, if possible, any previous publications on the issue of corruption or kleptocracy

Price Proposals

Bidders must propose a firm-fixed Unit Price for each of the deliverables identified below and in the format of the table below. The Bidder's pricing must be valid for at least 60 (sixty) calendar days after the due date for proposal submission. The proposed Unit Price should be fixed and inclusive of all costs to perform, including inspection services, transportation, taxes, import duties (if any), and other levies. To the extent that a Bidder proposed to include any pricing not reflected in the table below, such pricing must be fully described in the proposal. Proposals must be submitted in USD payments under any resulting contract will be made in this currency.

Deliverable	Unit Cost
Deliverable 1: Initial consultation and research design document	Per deliverable
Deliverable 2: Translated interview questionnaire and list of prospective respondents	Per deliverable
Deliverable 3: Draft analytical report and clean interview transcripts	Per deliverable

No reimbursement allowed.

Evaluation and Award Process

1. IRI may contact any Bidder for clarification or additional information, but Bidders are advised that IRI intends to evaluate the offers based on the written proposals, without discussions, and reserves the right to make decisions based solely on the information provided with the initial proposals. IRI may but is not obligated to conduct additional negotiations with the most highly rated Bidders prior to award of a contract, and may at its sole discretion elect to issue contracts to one or more Bidders.
2. Mathematical errors will be corrected in the following manner: If a discrepancy exists between the total price proposed and the total price resulting from multiplying the unit price by the corresponding amounts, then the unit price will prevail and the total price will be corrected. If there is a discrepancy between the numbers written out in words and the amounts in numbers, then the amount expressed in words will prevail. If the Bidder does not accept the correction, the offer will be rejected.
3. IRI may determine that a proposal is unacceptable if the prices proposed are materially unbalanced between line items or sub-line items. Unbalanced pricing exists when, despite an acceptable total evaluated price, the price of one or more contract line items is significantly overstated or understated as indicated by the application of cost or price analysis techniques. A proposal may be rejected if IRI determines that the lack of balance poses an unacceptable risk.
4. IRI will conduct a source selection based as follows:
IRI intends to make an award to the responsible Bidder based on the following evaluation factors:
 - a) Technical evaluation, (including technical capabilities, proposed technical approach, and personnel qualifications) – 30 percent

- b) Past performance and experience in performing similar projects – 40 percent
- c) Compliance with security and other administrative requirements – 10 percent
- e) Price – 20 percent

IRI intends to evaluate Bidders' proposals in accordance with these factors and make an award to the responsible Bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the program.

- 5. If a cost realism analysis is performed, cost realism may be considered in evaluating performance or price.

Submission Instructions

Bids must be submitted via email to Brittany Lauritzen; at blauritzen@iri.org with the subject line "RFP - CENTER2023GOV07o TRACK III Local Researcher Panama " by the deadline listed above.

RFP Terms and Conditions

1. Prospective Bidders are requested to review clauses incorporated by reference in the section "Notice Listing Contract Clauses Incorporated by Reference".
2. IRI may reject any or all proposals if such is within IRI's interest.
3. Proof of costs incurred, such as but not limited to receipts, pictures and financial documents, may be requested during and for up to three years after the end of the contract period.
4. The Bidder's initial proposal should contain the Bidder's best offer.
5. Payment will be made upon receipt of invoices and deliverables/services.
6. Discussions with Bidders following the receipt of a proposal do not constitute a rejection or counteroffer by IRI.
7. IRI will hold all submissions as confidential and submissions shall not be disclosed to third parties. IRI reserves the right to share proposals internally, across divisions, for the purposes of evaluating the proposals.
8. For any currency conversion, the exchange rate to US Dollars listed on oanda.com on the closing date of this solicitation shall be used.
9. Every contract will contain provisions governing termination for cause and termination for convenience.
10. By submitting a proposal, offeror agrees to comply with all terms, conditions, and provisions included in the solicitation and agreement to the services identified above, and will specifically identify any disagreement with or exceptions to the terms, conditions, and provisions.
11. Offerors confirm that the prices in the proposal/proposal/application/quote have been arrived at independently, without any consultation, communication, or agreement with any other Bidder or competitor for the purpose of restricting competition.
12. By applying to this RFP, applicant is certifying that if it is awarded a contract, none of funds payable under the resulting contract will be used to (1) procure or obtain, extend or renew a contract to procure or obtain; (2) enter into a contract (or extend or renew a contract) to procure; or (3) obtain the equipment, services, or systems that uses covered telecommunications equipment or services as a substantial or

essential component of any system, or as critical technology as part of any system in compliance with the National Defense Authorization Act. Covered telecommunications equipment and services mean any of the following:

- i. Telecommunications equipment produced by Huawei Technologies Company or ZTE Corporation (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities).
 - ii. For the purpose of public safety, security of government facilities, physical security surveillance of critical infrastructure, and other national security purposes, video surveillance and telecommunications equipment produced by Hytera Communications Corporation, Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Company, or Dahua Technology Company (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities).
 - iii. Telecommunications or video surveillance services provided by such entities or using such equipment.
 - iv. Telecommunications or video surveillance equipment or services produced or provided by an entity that the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Director of the National Intelligence or the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, reasonably believes to be an entity owned or controlled by, or otherwise connected to, the government of a covered foreign country. ([2 CFR 200.216](#)).
13. Bidders agree to disclose as part of the proposal submission:
- Any close, familial, or financial relationships with IRI staff and agents. For example, the Bidder must disclose if a Bidder's mother conducts volunteer trainings for IRI.
 - Any family or financial relationship with other Bidders submitting proposals. For example, if the Bidder's father owns a company that is submitting another proposal, the Bidder must state this.
 - Any other action that might be interpreted as potential conflict of interest.

Notice Listing Contract Clauses Incorporated by Reference

IRI is required to make the contractor subject to certain flowdown clauses of the prime award. This awarded contract will incorporate one or more clauses by reference, with the same force and effect as if they were given in full text. Where "flow-down" to the contractor is applicable, references to "USAID/Department of State" shall be interpreted to mean "IRI", "Recipient" to mean "Contractor", and "Subrecipient" to mean "lower-tier subcontractor." Included by reference are the applicable provisions contained in Appendix II to 2 CFR Part 200 and USAID Standard Provisions for Non-US Non-governmental Organizations/US Department of State Standard Terms and Conditions.

IRI Obligations

Issuance of this RFP does not constitute an award commitment on the part of IRI, nor does it commit IRI to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of a proposal or quotation.

Required Certifications

The following certificates need to be signed by all Bidders. These certifications are an integral part of the quotation/proposal. Please print them off and send back to us with your proposal after signature on each certificate. They are:

- Certification regarding debarment, suspension, ineligibility and voluntary exclusion lower tier covered transactions
- Authorized Individuals

CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION, INELIGIBILITY AND VOLUNTARY EXCLUSION LOWER TIER COVERED TRANSACTIONS

This certification implements Executive Order 12549, Debarment and Suspension and the requirements set forth in 2.C.F.R. 180, Subpart C.”

Copies of the regulations may be obtained by contacting the person to which this proposal is submitted.

1. By signing and submitting this proposal/application/quote, the prospective lower tier participant is providing the certification set out below.
2. The certification in this clause is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was entered into. If it is later determined that the prospective lower tier participant knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.
3. The prospective lower tier participant shall provide immediate written notice to the person to which this proposal/application/quote is submitted if at any time the prospective lower tier participant learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.
4. The terms "covered transaction," "debarred," "suspended," "ineligible," "lower tier covered transaction," "participant," "person," "primary covered transaction," "principal," "proposal," and "voluntarily excluded," as used in this clause, have the meanings set out in the Definitions and Coverage sections of the rules implementing Executive Order 12549.
5. The prospective lower tier participant agrees by submitting this proposal/application/quote that, should the proposed covered transaction be entered into, it shall not knowingly enter into any lower tier covered transaction with a person who is debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this covered transaction, unless authorized by the IRI.
6. The prospective lower tier participant further agrees by submitting this proposal/application/quote that it will include the clause titled "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion--Lower Tier Covered Transactions," without modification, in all lower tier covered transactions and in all solicitations for lower tier covered transactions.
7. A participant in a covered transaction may rely upon a certification of a prospective participant in a lower tier covered transaction that it is not debarred, suspended, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from the covered transaction, unless it knows that the certification is erroneous. A participant may decide the method and frequency by which it determines the eligibility of its principals.
8. Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require establishment of a system of records in order to render in good faith the certification required by this clause. The knowledge and information of a participant is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.
9. Except for transactions authorized under paragraph 5 above, if a participant in a covered transaction knowingly enters into a lower tier covered transaction with a

person who is suspended, debarred, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.

1. The prospective lower tier participant certifies, by submission of this proposal, that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred, suspended, proposed for disbarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any Federal department or agency.
2. Where the prospective lower tier participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

Signature: _____
Date: _____
Name: _____
Title/Position: _____
Entity Name: _____
Address: _____

Authorized Individuals

The offeror/bidder/applicant represents that the following persons are authorized to negotiate on its behalf with IRI and to bind the recipient in connection with this procurement:

Name	Title	Telephone	Email

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Name: _____

Title/Position: _____

Entity Name: _____

EXPERT RATE INFORMATION

Name (Last, First, Middle)	Proposed Rate:	Daily	Hourly
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Rates should be given for the last three (3) years. If employment history/salary information is applicable, list salaries separate for each year. If expert services is applicable, indicate the type of rate daily/hourly.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY - SALARY

POSITION TITLE	EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS POINT OF CONTACT & TELEPHONE #	Employment Period (M/D/Y)		Annual Salary ¹ U.S. Dollars
		From	To	

SPECIFIC EXPERT SERVICES

SERVICES PERFORMED/TITLE	CLIENTS NAME AND ADDRESS POINT OF CONTACT & TELEPHONE #	Service Period (M/D/Y)		Units at Rate	Daily/Hourly Rate ² In U.S. Dollars
		From	To		

CERTIFICATION: To the best of my knowledge, the above facts as stated are true and correct.

Signature	Date
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¹ Basic periodic payment for services rendered. Exclude bonuses, profit-sharing arrangements, commissions, consultant fees extra or overtime work payments, overseas differential or quarters, cost of living or dependent education allowances.

² A form of management fee whereby the client pays a set fee for providing professional services. Exclude cost reimbursements, bonuses, overtime work payments, overseas differential or quarters, cost of living, and any other allowances.