REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL: Aggregation Software Development

Background

CBS is a non-profit business consulting organization specialized in innovative solutions and modern business practices provided to agribusinesses, financial institutions, start-ups, local entrepreneurs and large donor organizations. CBS works with banks and Financial Institutions to improve their internal products and farmers and agribusinesses to strengthen their business operations. CBS was recently selected by USAID and Assist Impact for strengthening capacities through a Participatory Institutional Analysis (PIA).

CBS has developed a dynamic on-line web portal platform www.agroweb.org with the main scope to provide relevant information for agro businesses and other stakeholders in agricultural markets, through latest news, articles not only spreading and updating the news, but providing information and guidance as well. Agroweb.org serves as an one-stop user-friendly portal delivering information on agriculture produces; fisheries, horticulture, machineries, research, detailed information on the government policies, national subsidy schemes, agriculture loans, market prices, grants ad credit, bio standardization and new agriculture trends. Marketing department collect the data from farmers, government, market demand and all other news in order to put them at one place and easily accessible to all.

Objective

CBS is seeking web developers or developing IT firms to design a web based aggregation software platform to collect, aggregate and track the latest news, enable information for news, events and articles related to the agriculture and /or business and opportunities in Albanian and in the region. The aggregation will gather valuable information to farmers and agribusinesses, financial institutions, domestic and foreign organizations and interested audience about market trends, financial opportunities, legislation and regulations, new technologies or relevant news in Agriculture. The aggregation software should track and transmit every information in **real time, from diversified information sources** and **a comprehensive search based on many keywords.** The aggregation software will be developed as a web based platform which will have two main important functions:
a) able to track every information, strongly linked to the agroweb target group, such as events, news, development policies, stories, economic developments in Albania and in the region as well. This information will be directly and indirectly related to the target group, having them in the focus and covering all news of agroweb target group.
b) tracking all calls for project proposal launched by national and international donators, government and non- government, organizations located in Albania as well as worldwide organization and foundations.

The software should transmit the latest news, updating information, reliable and in real-time (as it happens) through notifications, email alerts and/or different alerts for everything that happens in the agriculture fields. Notifications for all new call for proposals launched by national and international donator's organizations whose aims projects implementation or seeking consultancy fields. The total development time for aggregation platform development must take no longer than 3 months.

Technical Requirements / Expected outputs. The aggregation platform must accommodate but not limited to the following functionalities, features or elements:

- Conceptualize and designs the aggregator software according to both functional and technical perspective by analyzing information needs
- Develops the aggregator software able to track every information linked to agriculture and environment in Albania and in the region, as well as all calls for project proposal launched by national and international donators, government and non- government organizations located in Albania as well as worldwide organization and foundations
- The software should collect, aggregate news, reports, related articles, agro technologies and links and notify through different alerts for every new event
- Follows good development practices and software development life cycle methodologies throughout product development
- Lead every aspect of the development and implementation
- Keep accurate records of the development process, changes and results
- Produce detailed specifications and writing the program code
- Install a full version of the software and tests the product in real situations before going live
- Train users and prepare of manuals
- Maintain and support systems once they are up and running.

Proposal Guideline

i. The reasons why you are the best candidate to successfully fulfill the service requested. Previous experiences with software development or similar platforms developments (please include names of projects and references) (suggested 300 words)
ii. Technical personnel. CV of project manager (PM) and other key technical personnel
iii. Business technical proposal approach and the methodology or activities you would use to successfully fulfill the service. (suggested max 1 page)
iv. Project management and project plan timeline for the overall project that addresses the planning, initiation, implementation, conduct, monitoring and completion of tasks. (suggested excel table)
v. Budget proposed. (suggested excel table)

Evaluation Criteria

The selection of the software development provider will be based upon the following factors

- Previous experience on design and development of diverse software
- Technical solution, capabilities qualification and expertise of the developer
- Methodology or activities suggested to fulfill the service
- Cost structure
- Capacity for delivery on time

Submission

All proposals in response to this RFP are due no later than 5pm January 30, 2015. Interested candidate should submit their proposals and CV electronically to the following email address info@cbs.al.