

**CRDF GLOBAL
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
Subject Matter Experts on Strengthening Due-Diligence Practices to Disrupt Russian
Procurement of ACW Technology in Machine Tools Industry**

Deadline: *July 29, 2024*

Summary:

CRDF Global is seeking subject matter expert(s) (SMEs) with expertise in international sanctions regimes and export controls and experience in the machine tools industry and related networks which are involved in the production and sales of dual-use commercial products that may be exploited by malign actors to contribute to the Russian Federation's defense sector's procurement of Advanced Conventional Weapons (ACW) technology. The SME(s) will develop in-depth research deliverables and analysis to address sanctions evasion activities and to bolster participants' capacity to conduct due diligence and open-source investigations to counter a state proliferator's exploitation of machine tools industry. Research deliverables will be presented during two (2) separate, in-person trainings for audiences in a partner country.

Scope:

The SME will deliver two back-to-back one-day workshops in the partner country for at least 60 total (30 per training) private sector machine tools industry stakeholders and/or related association(s) on preventing proliferation of ACW supply chains through due diligence and protecting dual-use items to increase sanctions awareness and strengthen compliance processes to counter Russia's sanction evasion activities.

Tasks and Deliverables:

CRDF Global is seeking SME(s) which can implement the whole project OR a portion of the deliverables that is best suited to the SME(s) capabilities and past experience.

CRDF will consider proposals from both individuals and institutional teams which can support the following tasks and deliverables:

1. Aid in identification and of communications with key stakeholders throughout project term (6 months);
2. Develop content for and deliver two (2) back-to-back one-day workshops in two different cities in a partner country to train at least a total of 60 participants from the machine tools companies and related associations on conducting enhanced due diligence practices to prevent inadvertent cooperation with Russian Federation's defense procurement networks (anticipated September 2024);
3. Attend bi-weekly and ad-hoc coordination calls as needed until end of project (no later than December 2024);
4. Submit an After Action Report which summarizes observations, successes, lessons learned, and recommendations for future programming based on the training.

Preferred Contractor Requirements:

1. At least five years of relevant experience conducting research, delivering briefings or trainings, and/or implementing policy or capacity-building activities related to counterproliferation finance or Russian Federation's defense sector.
2. Knowledge of the following subject matter areas:
 - a. Methods the Russian Federation's defense sector uses to facilitate and obfuscate the procurement and sale of CNC machine tools and ACW components to evade legal frameworks and sanctions.
 - b. Using open-source investigations and data analysis to identify individuals and companies involved in illicit Russian ACW proliferation networks involving transshipment hubs, including connections to offshore networks and corporate secretarial and management providers.
 - c. Using public records to identify corporate network data and beneficial ownership information related to defense procurement, corruption, and the arms trade.
 - d. US legal frameworks and international sanctions such as the: CAATSA-231 (d) List of Specified Persons (LSP), U.S. Department of Commerce's Military End User List and Entity List, Treasury's Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons (SDN) list, and relevant executive orders.
 - e. Trends and emerging threats related to Russian sanctions evasion activities to obtain dual-use technologies, machine tooling, and microelectronic components.
3. Working with or advising regulatory bodies, export control agencies, law enforcement, multinational corporations, or anti-money laundering and compliance professionals to strengthen compliance programs.
4. Familiarity with suspicious transaction reporting and compliance processes, extensive experience in export controls and risk management, and expertise in ACW component diversion and transshipments.
5. Experience developing public-private partnerships.
6. Experience with virtual and in-person events, capacity building programs, teaching, and/or leading trainings for international audiences.
7. Familiarity with compliance platforms & screening tools.

Timeline:

July 25, 2024	RFP Questions & Answers
July 26, 2024	RFP Response
July 29, 2024:	RFP submissions due

Proposal Requirements:

Each proposal must include:

- Statement of Interest and Technical Capabilities, including the list of recent experience and past performance related to the preferred contractor requirements above.
- CV of the subject matter expert(s);
- Cost proposal: Please structure as costs per deliverable and total project cost; OR include hourly rates, labor hour estimates per deliverable, and the total project cost;
- Applicable references regarding the past performance (if available);

- Any Small or Disadvantaged Business Designations (Veteran Owned, HUB Zone, Women Owned, Disadvantaged Businesses);
- NAICS Codes:
 - 541620 Environmental Consulting Services- Small Business Threshold \$15 million
 - 541690 Other Scientific and Technical Consulting Services – \$15 million
 - 541690 Other Scientific and Technical Consulting Services – \$15 million

Contractor Selection Criteria:

CRDF Global will select the contractor that provides the best value in terms of overall price, knowledge, experience, and availability.

The SMEs must demonstrate through their proposals:

1. Their proven experience in the subject matter expertise
2. Their qualification based on the Mandatory and/or Preferred requirements as listed in the Contractor Requirements Section
3. Their capability to fulfill the assignment described in the Scope, Tasks, and Deliverables section.

Experience working with/in diverse audiences and geographies is preferred, as is experience working in virtual environments.

CRDF Global is committed to not sponsoring single-gender panels whenever possible. We will consider the gender-balance of proposed subject matter expert teams and speakers when evaluating proposals.

CRDF Global prioritizes a safe and collaborative work environment in which diversity, equity, and inclusion is championed and discussed. CRDF Global provides equal employment opportunities to all qualified individuals without regard to age, race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity, national origin, protected veteran, or disabled status. We are dedicated to creating and maintaining a respectful work environment that is safe, engaging, and comfortable for all.

Submission:

Proposals should be submitted to procurement@crdfglobal.org with CC to Mr. Massoud Ahmad (mahmad@crdfglobal.org) and Mr. Conner Surrency (csurrency@crdfglobal.org) no later than 5:00 pm EST on Monday, July 29, 2024. Proposals should be submitted as electronic documents in PDF, Word or Excel format.

The subject line of the email must read:

Response to RFP– Insert name of submitter – Proposal

CRDF Global reserves the right to disqualify any proposal submitted after the submission deadline. In case any clarification is required regarding this RFP, please forward your request to procurement@crdfglobal.org with CC to Mr. Massoud Ahmad (mahmad@crdfglobal.org) and Mr. Conner Surrency (csurrency@crdfglobal.org) before the deadline.

Background:

CRDF Global is an independent nonprofit organization founded in 1995 in response to the collapse of the Soviet Union and the threat of large-scale proliferation of weapons technology from the region. With support authorized by the Nunn-Lugar Act of 1991 and the Freedom Support Act of 1992, as well private foundation contributions, CRDF Global embarked on bolstering the global scientific community and fostering alternatives to weapons research.

In the past 25 years, our work has expanded to address ever-changing global concerns, but our commitment to ensuring the success of our partners remains the same. We are a leading provider of flexible logistical support, program design and management, and strategic capacity building programs in the areas of higher education, CBRNE security and nonproliferation, border security, cybersecurity, global health, technology entrepreneurship, and international professional exchanges.

With offices in Arlington, VA; Kyiv, Ukraine; and Amman, Jordan, CRDF Global's diverse staff and networks of local community and government stakeholders deliver tailored programs that meet specific regional needs in over 100 countries across the globe.

Vision Statement:

Our world, healthy, safe, and sustainable.

Mission Statement:

Safety, security, and sustainability through science, innovation, and collaboration.

Values:

We do the right thing.

We care about each other and the people we work with.

We work together to deliver excellence

CRDF Global provides equal opportunities to all qualified individuals without regard to age, race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, protected veteran, or disabled status. We are committed to prioritizing an inclusive and collaborative space in which diversity and equity is discussed, championed, and supported. We acknowledge and honor the fundamental value and dignity of all individuals. We pledge ourselves to creating and maintaining an environment that respects diverse traditions, heritages, and experiences.

More information is available at www.crdfglobal.org.

Solicitation Terms & Conditions:

Right to Select Suppliers. CRDF Global reserves the right to negotiate with and select all qualified suppliers at its own discretion and is not obligated to inform suppliers of the methods used in the selection process. CRDF Global reserves the right to dismiss any and/or all suppliers from the bid process and reject any and/or all proposals.

Obligation. This RFP does not bind nor obligate CRDF Global in any way. CRDF Global makes no representation, either expressed or implied, that it will accept or approve in whole or in part any proposal submitted in response to this RFP. CRDF Global may reward, in whole or in part, the proposal at its sole discretion.

Notification. CRDF Global will notify bidders following completion of the evaluation process, as to whether or not bidders have been awarded the contract. The only information regarding the status of the evaluation of proposals that will be provided to any inquiring bidder shall be whether or not the inquiring bidder has been awarded the contract. CRDF Global may, at its sole discretion, inform any inquiring bidder of the reason(s) as to why it was not awarded the contract

Binding Period. Following the due date of submission of this Proposal, the pricing included in this RFP shall be binding upon the supplier for the duration of the contract.

Hold Harmless. By submitting a response to the RFP, bidder agrees that CRDF Global has sole discretion to select any and/or all suppliers. During or following the conclusion of this process, bidders waive their rights to damages whatsoever attributable to the selection process, materials provided, supplier selection, or any communication associated with the RFP process and supplier selection.

Transfer to Final Contract. The terms and conditions of the RFP, including the specifications and the completed proposal, will become at CRDF Global's sole discretion, part of the final contract (the "Agreement") between CRDF Global and the selected bidder. In the event that responses to the terms and conditions will materially impair a bidder's ability to respond to the RFP, bidder should notify CRDF Global in writing of the impairment. If bidder fails to object to any condition(s) incorporated herein, it shall mean that bidder agrees with, and will comply with the conditions set forth herein.

Exceptions. Any exceptions to the terms and conditions or any additions, which bidder may wish to include in the RFP, should be made in writing and included in the form of an addendum to the applicable Section in the RFP.

CRDF Global Proprietary Information. Supplier agrees that all non-public information contained in this document and communicated verbally in reference to this RFP by CRDF Global shall be received for the sole discretion and purpose of enabling the supplier to submit an accurate response to this RFP. The information contained in this RFP and disclosed during the course of negotiations and communications are proprietary in nature and under no circumstances to be disclosed to a third party without prior written consent from CRDF Global.

Supplier Proprietary Information. Information contained in the response to this RFP. will be considered proprietary in nature if marked "confidential" or "proprietary". Such marked documents will not be disclosed to third parties outside CRDF Global with the exception of retained consultants under contractual confidentiality agreements.