

**CRDF GLOBAL
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

Deadline: April 2, 2026

Summary:

CRDF Global is seeking an open-source subject matter expert (SME) to conduct research and develop tailored technical materials for an upcoming chemical security technical briefing tour in Europe, which will include countries such as Germany, Switzerland, and Czechia. On behalf of the U.S. Department of State's Office of Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR), CRDF Global will subcontract an SME to provide expert analysis and materials that strengthen European partners' understanding of proliferation-sensitive activities and improve government and industry oversight of chemical supply chains vulnerable to exploitation by state chemical weapons (CW) procurement networks.

Scope:

The subject matter expert (SME), hereby referred to as "The Contractor," will conduct open-source research and prepare tailored, country-specific technical materials in support of CRDF Global's upcoming engagement titled, "Preventing Chemical Precursor Exploitation in Western Europe Through Technical Briefings and Regional Summits".

The Contractor will conduct open-source research on supply chain threats that Europe is facing from Iran, focusing on state-directed efforts to acquire CW-relevant materials, equipment, and expertise through illicit procurement networks. The Contractor will analyze how these activities exploit legitimate commercial trade channels in the chemical, pharmaceutical, and dual-use equipment sectors, and identify typologies, front company structures, and red flags indicative of proliferation-sensitive transactions.

The Contractor will be awarded a contract based on the completion and submission of the following tasks and deliverables:

Tasks and Deliverables:

Task One: Project Coordination and Communication

In coordination with the CRDF Global project team, the Contractor will actively participate in all scheduled coordination meetings and maintain regular communication via email and other designated channels. The Contractor will provide timely updates on progress, address requests for clarification, and coordinate closely with CRDF Global to ensure alignment on research objectives, deliverable expectations, and deadlines.

Task One Deliverables:

- Attendance at all scheduled coordination meetings with CRDF Global and/or CTR representatives.

Task One Level of Effort:

- One monthly meeting with CRDF and/or CTR for data check-ins.
- One meeting to review and provide feedback on the draft product for CTR.
- One final meeting to review the completed product with CTR and CRDF staff.

Task Two: Open-Source Research and Analysis

In coordination with the CRDF Global project team, the Contractor will conduct open-source research and analysis to create a comprehensive report which will include:

- Iranian-linked procurement efforts targeting European chemical and pharmaceutical supply chains, including front companies.
- Identification of indicators of suspicious procurement activities, sensitive precursors and dual-use equipment, and emerging proliferation trends.
- Document relevant vulnerabilities within European trade and regulatory systems being exploited by proliferator networks.
- Assessment of country-specific risk factors relevant to Germany, Switzerland, Finland, and Czechia.

During the inception phase, the Contractor will work with CRDF Global to refine specific research questions and analytical lines of effort within this overall scope, ensuring that final outputs align with available data sources, analytical capabilities, and stakeholder needs.

To ensure methodological rigor and transparency, the Contractor should clearly outline the analytical approach, data sources, and tools used in conducting open-source research. Proposals should describe:

- The open-source or commercial datasets, databases, and screening tools that will be used (e.g., trade databases, corporate registries, sanctions lists, scientific publications).
- Any existing dual-use screening methodologies or frameworks that will be applied or adapted.
- How the research will ensure replicability, transparency, and compliance with export control and data protection regulations.

Preference may be given to applicants who can leverage or adapt proven dual-use screening methodologies and data analysis tools for use in the European context.

Task Two Deliverables:

- One open-source research report meeting the agreed-on requirements.
- Supporting materials (e.g., charts, typology summaries, or red flag matrices) suitable for use in government and industry technical briefings.

Task Two Level of Effort:

- Not to exceed **X hours** without written approval from the CRDF Global Agreement Officer.

Contractor Requirements:

The Contractor will have experience conducting open-source research and developing technical materials related to chemical security, nonproliferation, and supply chain risk analysis. The Contractor should have expertise in identifying and analyzing proliferation-sensitive procurement pathways, dual-use chemicals and equipment, and front company networks supporting state-directed chemical weapons (CW) programs.

The Contractor should also demonstrate familiarity with common open-source and commercial datasets used in dual-use screening and proliferation analysis (e.g., trade data platforms, customs records, sanctions lists, scientific databases, or business registries) and an ability to integrate multiple data streams into actionable analysis.

The Contractor should have prior experience supporting government or international programs focused on chemical nonproliferation, export controls, or supply chain integrity, preferably within the European or broader international context. Experience producing analytical reports, red flag indicators, and tailored risk assessments for both government and industry audiences is highly desirable.

Proposals that demonstrate a tested analytical methodology or proprietary screening framework, as well as prior success in detecting or mapping proliferation-linked procurement behavior, will be considered favorably.

The Contractor will have demonstrated capability in one or more of the following technical areas:

- Open-source research and analysis of Iranian-CW procurement networks
- Identification of dual-use chemicals, precursors, and production equipment relevant to PBA or CW agent synthesis
- Application or adaptation of dual-use screening methodologies and data-driven tools to identify proliferation risks in European supply chains
- Know Your Customer (KYC) and customer due diligence practices for the chemical and pharmaceutical industries
- Analysis of trade and transport vulnerabilities in hazardous chemical supply chains
- Detection of red flags and typologies of high-risk or front companies
- Assessment of state-linked proliferation networks (e.g., Iranian procurement activities in Europe)
- Development of country-specific technical materials and risk communication products for government and industry stakeholders

Subject Matter Experts shall have:

1. Technical Experience: At least 7-10 years of relevant professional experience. Applicable experience can include a combination of the below:
 - a. Knowledge of chemical security and chemical weapons nonproliferation, including familiarity with relevant international frameworks, key threat actors, and proliferation trends in Europe.
 - b. Experience conducting open-source research and analysis related to chemical procurement networks, front companies, and dual-use supply chain vulnerabilities.
 - c. Experience educating on PBA precursors, dual-use chemicals, and production equipment relevant to CW proliferation activities.
 - d. Experience consulting on regulatory and voluntary initiatives to prevent chemical precursor acquisition.
 - e. Knowledge of chemical transportation security, including vulnerabilities and mitigation measures within transnational logistics and distribution networks.
 - f. Experience developing analytical materials or interactive case studies that support government and industry awareness of suspicious procurement patterns, red flags, and compliance best practices.

Experience engaging international audiences including policymakers, government, and regulators, and/or industry leaders in Europe.

Proposal Requirements:

- Statement of Interest and Technical Capabilities
- Cost proposal
- CV(s)
- List of recent experience in the RFP Subject Matter area and applicable references/past performance
- 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

Timetable:

March 13, 2026: RFP Questions due
March 18, 2026: RFP Questions & Answers released
April 2, 2026: RFP submissions due
April 17, 2026: Contract start date

Contractor Selection Criteria:

CRDF Global will select the contractor that provides the best value in terms of overall price and experience. The contractor should have proven experience conducting open-source research on chemical security and supply chain threats facing Europe.

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.

CRDF Global pledges to prioritize sponsorship of diverse events and panels of experts whenever possible.

Selection Criteria and Evaluation Methods:

Evaluation Factors

1. Technical Approach
2. Key Personnel and Qualifications
3. Management Approach
4. Price/Cost
5. Small Business Utilization (if applicable):
6. Risk Management

Evaluation Methods

7. Best Value Trade-Off:

Evaluation Scoring Methodology:

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following scoring system:

8. Excellent (5): Exceeds all requirements and offers superior benefits.
9. Good (4): Meets all requirements with some additional value.
10. Acceptable (3): Meets all minimum requirements.
11. Marginal (2): Meets some requirements but has deficiencies.
12. Unacceptable (1): Fails to meet requirements.

Submission:

Proposals should be submitted to procurement@crdfglobal.org & jrandels@crdfglobal.org , no later than 5:00 PM ET April 2, 2026. Proposals should be submitted as electronic documents in PDF, Word or Excel format.

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.