**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Date: March 12, 2024**

**Introduction**

After certain amendments to it’s initial decision the Government of Armenia (hereinafter – GoA) represented by the Ministry of the Internal Affairs (hereinafter – MIA) is announcing a Private Partner Selection Procedure (RFQ) in order to acquire biometric passport and national ID card issuance services. As a result of the Private Partner Selection Procedure, MIA aims to enter a public – private partnership (PPP) agreement on issuing Biometric Passports and Identity Cards (PPP project).

The main goal of the PPP project is to support Armenia‘s digital transformation and high-quality service delivery to the population via facilitating the establishment of long-term PPP for issuance and distribution of biometric passports and ID cards. Key objectives are focused on the following aspects:

1. Set new world-class standards for the citizen experience and service quality, including reducing waiting time, lead time to issue travel and identity documents, setting new customer service standards in enrolment facilities as well as upgrading physical conditions of the facilities to the best international standards.
2. Increase uptake and usage of secure and global standards compliant travel and identity documents, enabling development of digital society in Armenia, incl. increased uptake of advances eServices and other automation opportunities (e.g., identity verification for voting, automated border crossing, etc.).
3. Replace outdated IT infrastructure to improve process security, efficiency and manage operational risks related to legacy solutions as well as adopting innovative solutions by continuously aligning it with the industry best standards.

Since the initial announcement of a Selection Procedure, certain procedural and legal interpretation issues have occurred, the Contracting Authority has received requests to clarify the RFQ requirements, as well as to prolong the deadline for the submission of Qualification Bids. **GoA has taken decision to amend some clauses of the Request for Qualification (RFQ), and prolong submission deadline.**

This Request for Qualification has been approved by the GoA Decree on Implementation of the Project No 2346-A from 28th of December 2023, its amendments by GOA Decree 350-А from 7th of March 2024 and the dedicated evaluation commission established by the same Decree to carry out the Selection Procedure for the PPP Project. This document is intended solely for use by prospective Applicants in the Selection Procedure for the purposes of preparing and submitting the Qualification Bids.

This Request for Qualification sets out, among other matters, the formal and substantive requirements for Qualification Bids, the procedure for submitting and reviewing the Qualification Bids, as well as the Qualification Criteria and conditions for admission to take part in the bidding process based on the Request for Proposal, as required by Applicable Law.

Prospective Applicants are invited to provide the Qualification Bids **until 18:00 April 11** either (1) electronically via Armenian electronic procurement system (ARMEPS) or (2) in-hand delivery of paper-based Qualification Bid.

**Contact persons for organising the Selection Procedure:**

1. Nelli Davtyan, email: mcs@gov.am

2. Nerses Yeritsyan, email: passidppp@isaa.am and nerses.yeritsyan@isaa.am

3. Lina Petruskeviciute (EY Transaction Advisor for this PPP transaction), email: Lina.Petruskeviciute@lt.ey.com

**Structure of the Request for Qualification**

The announced document package contains the following documentation:

1. **Request for Qualification** document and its annexes:
* ANNEX 1. Data Sheet
* ANNEX 2. Estimated Schedule
* ANNEX 3. Key Provisions of the Project
* ANNEX 4. General Requirements to Applicants
* ANNEX 5. Qualification Criteria
* ANNEX 6. Content of Qualification Bid
* ANNEX 7. Form of Confidentiality Undertaking

For the information purposes the following draft documents are also provided:

1. Draft Technical Requirements and its annexes
2. Draft PPP Contract and its annexes

Please note that draft documents are subject to further revisions and changes. They are not in any form binding and provided solely for informational purposes for potential Applicants. Following results of the evaluation of the applications, selected Applicants will be invited to provide their feedback and recommendations.