



Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone

Ministry of Mineral Resources and Political Affairs (MMRPA)

Government Gold and Diamond Department Office (GGDO)

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
INDEPENDENT DIAMOND VALUATION SERVICES**

Request No. : MMRPA/GGDO/CS01/10

Issue Date: 7th December 2010

1. BACKGROUND

Diamonds have been a major export commodity and source of revenue for Sierra Leone since the start of diamond mining in the 1930s. Since 2002 diamond exports have improved considerably. In 2009, the Government licensed the export of USD 78.4 million of rough diamonds at an average price of USD 195.76 per carat. The half year diamond export figures for 2010 show that Sierra Leone has exported over USD 72.3 million at an average price of USD 215.63 per carat. It is projected that annual export will increase significantly to the high volumes recorded before the global economic crunch. The projected significant improvements in diamonds exports are expected to be achieved an increasing number of licensed artisanal mining operations. There is also an increasing proportion from small and medium size mechanized mines.

The Government of Sierra Leone has been pursuing a program for accurate valuation of diamond export. It is in pursuance of this and in compliance with the Kimberly Process that an Independent Diamond Valuation (IDV) company was engaged to provide the needed services but the term of contract will soon expire.

In order to continue with the program of Independent Diamond Valuation the Government hereby wishes to invite certified Independent Diamond Valuation companies to apply and submit proposals that will provide independent valuation services of diamond parcels exported through the Government Gold and Diamond Office (GGDO).

The services of the IDV will be required for a period of thirty six (36) months.

2. OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF THE SERVICE

The objective of the IDV is to provide a second and independent valuation of the diamonds produced in Sierra Leone and provide technical support to the Government Gold and Diamond Office.

The main tasks of the assignment shall include but not limited to:

1. Ascertain the international market value of the diamonds produced in Sierra Leone;
2. Review, update where necessary and maintain the existing electronic valuation system being operated by the GGDO;
3. Undertake unbiased market intelligence on the global diamond industry and advice on the effect changes in the world market of rough diamond prices may have on the rough diamond market in Sierra Leone;
4. Prepare and submit reports and statistical information on parcels of diamond presented for valuation as well as suspected anomalies in the price and quality of the diamonds;
5. Carry out Capacity Building of GGDO staff in diamond sorting and valuing, including market assortments and other related diamond matters. The training should cover both rough, cut and polished diamonds;
6. Advice on policy, appropriate frameworks for legislative/ administrative diamond operation;
7. Advice on issues relating to facilities and equipment used by GGDO, methods used to clean diamonds and valuation methods; and
8. Provide independent expert testimony with respect to the valuation of diamonds for any court proceedings when necessary.

The consultant will work closely with the Government Gold and Diamond Office. Close cooperation and consultations with other relevant Government agencies, the private sector diamond operators and other stakeholders may be necessary.

3. SELECTION PROCESS

The Ministry of Mineral Resources and Political Affairs now invites eligible and certified Independent Diamond Valuation (IDV) firms to indicate their interest in providing the above mentioned services by providing information as proof of qualification: i. the specific qualifications of key personnel for the activity including valuation of diamonds; policy advisory and diamonds trading operations; and building capacity in diamond sorting and valuing ii. Recent relevant experience (track record in the international diamond industry in the last 10 years); iii. The experience of rendering independent diamond valuation services for African countries.

The IDV firm will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out for Selection of Consultants under the Sierra Leone Public Procurement Act, 2004.

Interested firms may obtain further information at the addresses indicated below during office hours between **0900 to 1700 hours (GMT)** Monday to Friday before the deadline date for the submission of the Expression.

4. SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Expression of Interest must be submitted to the address below or forwarded using the E-mail addresses shown below at the Ministry of Mineral Resources and Political Affairs, 5th Floor – west Wing, Youyi Building, Freetown:

The Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Mineral Resources and Political Affairs
5th Floor, WEST WING, Youyi Building,
Freetown
Sierra Leone
E-mail: brothermsk@yahoo.com
Copy: salbas_001@yahoo.co.uk

The deadline for submission of Proposals is 29th December, 2010 at 1600 Hrs (GMT).