**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS REGARDING TENDER& EOI No. 2024-02-050**

Assignment Name: Upgrade and Development of the Electoral Risk

Management Tool (ERMTool) Software

**Based on questions received, the information below is provided for clarification regarding**

**The tender referenced above. Please note if new questions are received, they will be added to this document.**

1. **Question:**

Please provide additional background about ERMT users/ describe the user base, the way of use and the intent to use the tool.

**Response:**

Target users include electoral management bodies (EMBs), civil society organizations and other state and non-state actors. Ideally, users should be able to select if they wish to run the tool on a local computer, local server, or cloud. We encourage suggestions on solutions that can cater for all options. Also, see the response to question 11.

1. **Question:**

Does the update contemplate incorporating platforms like Apple macOS and mobile phones (iOS / Android)?

**Response:**

At a minimum, MS Windows, but we welcome proposals that will allow compatibility with other platforms like Apple macOS and mobile phones (iOS / Android).

1. **Question:**

Is IDEA planning to migrate all existing functionality to the updated version of ERMT? Or are there plans to retire some components? This ties in with the following questions on user feedback.

**Response:**

It is anticipated that:

* Existing Module 1 will see small changes.
* The Risk and Action Register will see major changes and will make the new Module 2.
* Module 3 will include analytical and data management options (similar to how it works now), but the analysis will be linked to select factors (defined in Module 2) and not to analytical models as they are now. It is anticipated that some or all functions and modules will need to be accessed through web interfaces.
* Module 4 will be Options for Action, and constructed somewhat differently from the present module 3.

The Terms of References (ToR) and the specification document will thoroughly explain the paradigm.

1. **Question:**

If there is any recent feedback and suggestions available from the user community, could you please provide them? The more of this is provided, the more aligned with their needs the proposal for the update will be.

**Response:**

Some of this is covered in response to Q3. More will be explained in the specification document.

1. **Question:**

Can you share insight regarding which GIS map formats your stakeholders work with today?

**Response:**

Users work with ESRI Shapefile (SHP), which is the format used by ERMTool. We don’t have a single preference. Therefore, we welcome Expressions of Interest (EOI) that provide and explain options (preferably pros and cons).

1. **Question:**

Is ERMT aiming to provide the complete source code of the updated app as open source? Are you thinking of a particular open source license?

**Response:**

We don’t have a single preference. Therefore, we welcome Expressions of Interest (EOI) that indicate options (preferably pros and cons) of different solutions for sharing source codes.

1. **Question:**

For solutions that have a cloud component, does IDEA have preferences/restrictions on cloud providers?

**Response:**

Users may have different preferences and restrictions, and we wish to give them options. Input (preferably with pros and cons) from interested service providers responding to the call for EOI will be considered when developing the ToR.

1. **Question:**

Do users need a tool to migrate data / models / maps from the current app to the updated one?

**Response:**

Given structural changes, we do not expect that the new application will be able to use data, models or backup files from the earlier version. However, simple solutions that cater to this need should be considered.

1. **Question:**

The document requesting EOI mentions "organizations with strict cyber security policies" as potential users. Could you please provide more detail on this requirement? Perhaps a concrete use case, and which organization you are looking at?

**Response:**

The principal users of the ERMTool will be electoral management bodies (EMBs). These organizations often handle sensitive data and are cyber attack-conscious. The ERMTool needs to be of a standard that allows integration in such environments. More details will be included in the ToR.

1. **Question**

Regarding upgrading the software components, do we have a target version ? If not considering the technical constraints, breaking changes, and efforts required can we suggest a target version that may not be the most recent one (but not obsolete) ?

**Response:**

At the moment, we don’t have a target version, but it could be specified in the ToR. We encourage you to elaborate on the pros and cons of such decisions and solutions.

1. **Question**

Could you please specify the desired technology stack for the development of the online version (ReactJS, Angular, Vue ...)?

**Response:**

At this stage, we don’t have specific preferences in terms of technologies. While we are open to replacing the existing desktop application with a web application, we also wish to retain the ability for the ERMTool to run offline. Therefore, we invite EOIs to propose possible approaches to ensure it. Also, see the response to question one.

1. **Question**

For the new features, can we have access to the PRD or Product Backlog?

**Response:**

It is not available at this stage. New features will be described in the specification that will accompany the ToR.

1. **Question**

If there is any, what's the required team size and project timeline

**Response:**

Service providers who express interest and meet the criteria in the call for expression of interest will receive the ToR and specification. This may happen in late April or May. The ToR will specify timelines for the development and other relevant details. Our goal is to have the work completed by the end of 2024.

1. **Question**

In addition to software development, do you require any other services such as DevOps implementation, cybersecurity measures, UI/UX Design or project management for this project?

**Response:**

The roles and responsibilities of the service provider will be defined in the ToR.