

SOMALI PAYMENT SWITCH (SPS)
TERMS OF REFERENCE – PROJECT CONSULTANT

POSITION TITLE: PROJECT CONSULTANT ICT – PAYMENT SWITCH:
LOCATION: MOGADISHU, SOMALIA (ON-SITE)
DURATION: 1 YEAR (FULL-TIME)
REPORTS TO COMMITTEE: SOMALIA PAYMENT SWITCH PROJECT MANAGER / DIRECTOR

1. Background to the Organization

The Central Bank of Somalia (CBS) is championing the progressive transformation the Somali nation and state is experiencing with a long-term objective of inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction. Its core aims seek to foster price stability and build a robust, stable, up-to-date and sound financial system. The CBS has initiated a forward-looking reform program aimed at formalizing the financial sector, establishing effective monetary policy and building strong banking operations foundation. The reforms also include efforts to promote good governance and increase organizational effectiveness, strengthen reporting and transparency.

Central Bank is currently a key beneficiary of a World Bank (WB)-financed investment lending project, the Somalia Capacity Advancement, Livelihoods and Entrepreneurship through Digital Uplift Project (SCALED-UP). Being implemented by the FGS; the project aims to support progress towards increased access to basic digital financial and government services targeting entrepreneurship and employment, particularly for women. It includes 3 components: (i) Strengthening Institutions, (ii) Enabling Financial and Digital Services, and (iii) Project Management.

2. Somali Payment Switch

The Somali Payment Switch (SPS) is a national project with Interbank card-based switching and clearing services (ATM and EFTPOS). The SPS aims to modernize Somalia's retail payment infrastructure with support from the Central Bank of Somalia. To provide the envisioned service to participating banks and other financial institutions, SPS will implement a shared Interoperable inter-bank retail payments infrastructure, including:

- An EFT platform for driving shared ATM's Point of Sale (POS) devices and Merchant Acquiring services.
- A card processing center for processing payment cards and the clearing and settling of card transactions initiated at relevant ATM and POS acceptance infrastructures.
- Interoperability of mobile wallets.
- A clearing center for cross-border and international remittances.

The SPS will provide all the switching, settlement calculation, and merchant management roles required to connect the banks and the banking industry to the merchant base without handling or managing customer funds, which the registered banks manage.

3. Objective of the assignment

The objective is to provide overall support for technical aspects of the SPS project. It will provide leadership in planning, coordinating, and managing all technical project deliverables with the SPS vendor Head of payment systems, project lead, participants, and the Central Bank of Somalia.

4. The Scope of the Consultancy

- Provide expert advisory services on SPS establishment, implementation, and operationalization.
- Provide expert advisory services on operational rules, procedures, pricing, and standards on a SPS entity.
- Contribute to the structure and content of interparty agreements and service level arrangements.
- Validate and provide clarification on the SPS functional and technical specifications.
- Validate and provide clarification on the SPS bill of materials.
- Own the technical SPS workstream and lead all project engagements as the SPS subject matter technical expert in conjunction with participant's technical leads, the Somali payment systems head of division, the World Bank project lead, Central Bank Somalia, and vendors.
- Undertake participant technical readiness assessments, support the development of their action plan, and coordinate implementation of readiness action plans.
- Coordinate end-to-end testing of the SPS system and supporting infrastructures catering to participants, Central Bank Somalia, and the SPS Company.
- Participate in developing SPS staff induction and training programs in collaboration with the SPS vendor.
- Participate and contribute to deliverables of parallel project working groups.
- Prepare and submit monthly reports on scheduled project technical deliverables in line with the SPS project schedule.
- Participate in establishing the SPS operating environment by the leading installation of required IT Infrastructure and coordinating the installation of SPS DR equipment in the CBS data center.

5. Deliverables

The consultant is required to deliver the below but not limited to during one year.

- Develop the SPS IT security policy and oversee its implementation during the contracted period in collaboration with the SPS vendor.
- Develop the SPS IT change control procedure in conjunction with the SPS vendor to ensure effective governance of system changes.
- Develop procedures for SPS IT production operations in collaboration with the SPS vendor
- Completion of system testing accompanied by reports.
- Prepare monthly/quarterly system integration progress reports.
- Ensure all SPS participant infrastructure meets system specification requirements.
- Draft the system security policy and procedures, risk management framework, and system integration documents.
- Ensure the project GO live is smooth.

6. Proposed contract duration and location of the assignment

The consultancy is for a period of 12 months. This can be renewed for another 12 months subject to satisfactory performance and availability of budget. It is expected that work will start by October 2022.

7. Location of the consultant:

This is a fulltime job and the consultant is expected to be based in Mogadishu. Travel within and outside Somalia will be done on need basis; based on agreed activity schedule.

8. Reporting

The consultant will report to the Somali Payment SWITCH Project Manager / Director of the Central Bank of Somalia.

9. Qualifications and experience

Qualification

- A degree in Computer Science or a related field, postgraduate qualification will be an added advantage.
- 7 + years of technical and delivery experience, preferably in a banking payment system operators/switch operators/PSP, etc.
- Any ITIL certification is an advantage.
- Implemented a payment SWITCH in a Commercial Bank or SWITCH Company and worked with the vendor to successfully deliver the project as per project scope and schedule.
- Managed all processes required to develop and successfully deploy the introduction of Smart Vista.
- Supported ATM/POS switching, Debit Card Issuance/Management, Digital Channels interface, and ISO 8583 messaging standard.
- Worked on EMV Contract/Contactless, VISA, Mastercard Acquiring, and Scheme compliance requirements.
- Supported EFT transaction switching or online banking environment.
- Practical experience in testing ATM/Switching and Card Management.

Key Competencies

- Strong organizational and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to drive and manage progressive technological change.
- Coordination and system management responsibilities
- Functions effectively in a team of professionals
- Focuses on outcomes and thinks strategically
- Involves people in decision-making
- Presentation and Communication Skills
- Demonstrates commitment to organization / corporate decisions
- Ability to prepare plans with clear short and long-term objectives
- Leadership skills