



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) FOR A MEDICAL LIQUID OXYGEN SYSTEMS CONSULTANT/FIRM IN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Reference	RFP/CHAI/DRC/0524
Posting Date	Monday July 1 2024
Closing date	Friday August 2 2024

Location: Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Country Programs- Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Nature of service: This is a consulting role reporting directly to CHAI and the CHAI Program Manager Technical personnel who will manage and oversee their work.

Duration of Assignment: 6 months Contract

Start Date: September 2024

A. Overview

The Clinton Health Access Initiative, Inc. (CHAI) is a global health organization committed to our mission of saving lives and reducing the burden of disease in low-and middle-income countries. We work at the invitation of governments to support them and the private sector to create and sustain high-quality health systems.

CHAI was founded in 2002 in response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic with the goal of dramatically reducing the price of life-saving drugs and increasing access to these medicines in the countries with the highest burden of the disease. Over the following two decades, CHAI has expanded its focus. Today, along with HIV, we work in conjunction with our partners to prevent and treat infectious diseases such as COVID-19, malaria, tuberculosis, and hepatitis. Our work has also expanded into cancer, diabetes, hypertension, and other non-communicable diseases, and we work to accelerate the rollout of lifesaving vaccines, reduce maternal and child mortality, combat chronic malnutrition, and increase access to assistive technology. We are investing in horizontal approaches to strengthen health systems through programs in human resources for health, digital health, and health financing. With each new and innovative program, our strategy is grounded in maximizing sustainable impact at scale, ensuring that governments lead the solutions, that programs are designed to scale nationally, and learnings are shared globally.

B. Program Overview

CHAI's Essential Medicines team is supporting intensified efforts at both global and country levels to plan, resource, and implement effective interventions for scaling-up access to diagnostics and treatments for these conditions. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Essential Medicines team has expanded its oxygen work to over 20 countries, supporting pandemic response efforts while strengthening long-term oxygen systems planning. Improving health outcomes for vulnerable populations in these countries requires comprehensive investment in oxygen systems, including, but not limited to, increasing oxygen generation capacity, making distribution of oxygen more widespread and reliable, education and mentorship of health care workers in identification and care for patients in need of oxygen treatment, procuring medical devices and associated technologies to facilitate safe oxygen provision, and monitoring the effect of interventions on population health and access to oxygen. CHAI is supporting the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo in strengthening its medical oxygen infrastructure and market shaping by optimizing supply chains, improving governance of the oxygen ecosystem, building capacity of non-clinical and clinical staff across the oxygen ecosystem, and providing evidence for policy and action through advanced analytics. To foster healthcare



reforms across Oxygen Access, CHAI also supports strengthening of health systems in the country to improve availability, accessibility, affordability, acceptability of broader public healthcare services in the country.

C. Scope of Work

CHAI DRC seeks a dynamic and highly motivated individual or firm ('service provider' henceforth) **in the field of Medical Liquid Oxygen systems**). The service provider must be able to function independently and provide project oversight for all medical oxygen infrastructure system design, procurement, installation, testing, commissioning, handover according to quality standards. The Service provider will also supervise and monitor the oxygen infrastructure contracted suppliers/vendors to meet deliverables, working closely with the government Biomed Unit, Oxygen Stakeholders, and CHAI Oxygen team. The service provider must have strong quantitative and analytical skills, excellent verbal, and written communication skills, be self-directed, good understanding of International Organization for Standardization (IOS/ISO) standards, Stringent Regulatory Authorities (SRA) quality assurance and quality control systems, excellent project management skills, and be committed to excellence.

The service provider must be a highly motivated individual with outstanding organizational, analytical, communication and technical skills **(in the field of Cryogenic Medical Liquid Oxygen systems)**. The service provider must be able to function independently and flexibly, have a deep personal commitment to producing results, and have a demonstrated ability to lead challenging and complex projects. CHAI places great value on relevant personal qualities: resourcefulness, entrepreneurialism, tenacity, independence, humility, passion for the mission, and work ethic.

D. Responsibilities include:

Coordination and Technical Guidance:

- Provide technical support in reviewing technical proposals of vendors for VIE Tanks & vaporizer, L2G equipment, SOPs and others guiding documents, civils, installation, commissioning.
- Provide oversight, technical support in reception and deployment of all equipment, and ensure compliance of VIE systems, manifolds and medical gas pipeline systems installation and commissioning with national and international quality standards at the Kinshasa University Clinic, Kinshasa, DRC.
- Provide onsite technical support the operationalization and maintenance of medical oxygen system operations, VIE systems (including Liquid oxygen tanks, vaporizers, liquid to gas filling equipment, and monitoring devices), manifolds, and medical gas pipeline systems.
- Development and review of operational SOPs for medical oxygen system operations, VIE systems (including Liquid oxygen tanks, vaporizers, liquid to gas filling equipment, and monitoring devices), manifolds, and medical gas pipeline systems.
- Ensure the capacity building program for all relevant staff is appropriately designed and delivered
- Mentor Biomedical engineers and technician to enhance the knowledge and skills uptake.
- Support the development and implementation of the pilot oxygen supply chain from source to end user
- Inform CHAI of any project risks and propose mitigation measures
- Ensure effective coordination and open, organized communication, information sharing, and tracking pending items between biomedical engineers/technicians, electrical engineers, architects, and other project stakeholders (i.e., MoH staff, donor, and relevant implementing partners).
- Facilitate and coordinate project meetings between relevant stakeholders.
- Organize, track, and support a wide variety of assessment, repair, system improvement, and training projects on all project sites.
- Carry out any additional responsibilities related to oxygen project assigned by management.



- Provide technical support in reviewing technical proposals from suppliers for VIE tanks and vaporizers, L2G equipment, SOPs and other guidance documents, civil, installation, commissioning.
- Review technical proposals from suppliers and perform technical evaluations.
- Inform CHAI of any project-related risks and propose mitigation measures.
- Ensure effective coordination and open and organized communication, information sharing and tracking of pending items.
- Conduct comprehensive site assessments and risk analyses for CUK' liquid oxygen storage, distribution, and usage systems
- If required recommend appropriate liquid oxygen equipment, including storage tanks, vaporizers, and piping configurations, to meet CUK's specific needs
- Provide hands-on training to CUK personnel on liquid oxygen safety procedures, emergency response protocols, and proper handling techniques
- Monitor CUKs' liquid oxygen usage and inventory, making recommendations for optimizing consumption and replenishment
- Collaborate with CUK to develop tailored liquid oxygen management plans that maximize efficiency, minimize safety risks, and reduce operational costs
- Help CUK staff learn how to stay up to date on the latest liquid oxygen regulations, technologies, and industry best practices, and share this knowledge with CUK staff
- Troubleshoot any issues or problems that arise with CUK's liquid oxygen systems and provide timely, effective solutions
- Maintain detailed records and provide regular performance reports to CUK

Project Scheduling and Tracking:

- Track, schedule and manage activities of vendors, support staff and stakeholders across multiple oxygen access projects.
- Ensuring that projects are appropriately staffed, and that vendors work on agreed schedule and plan.
- Ensure that projects are properly planned, and vendors staff sites efficiently and do not allow competing commitments to override ongoing projects.

Monitoring and Progress Controls:

- Prepare periodic progress reports: providing CHAI progress of works based on the established schedules and plans, encountered problems, solutions, planning for upcoming activities etc. The frequency will be determined upon resumption.
- Consolidation of progress reports every two weeks.

Stakeholder Management:

- Establish solid working relationship with the government, partners and any other stakeholders.
- Manage communications and ensure stakeholders are aware of project activities, progress, exceptions and can accept handover products.
- Advise stakeholders on issues that may impact the achievement of their outcomes (including issues of sustainability and post project requirements such as maintenance)
- Manage the information flows between the project stakeholders.
- Liaise with technical committee and end users.

Professional Experience

A minimum of 5 to 8 years relevant experience in managing or advising ideally on the financing, design, specifications, sourcing, and procurement, installation and commissioning, storage and distribution, maintenance, and use of equipment (and systems) used for generating, storing, and transporting medical oxygen, particularly in Low-Middle-Income-Countries (LMIC), with proof of:



- Experience/expertise in design and specification of medical oxygen equipment and systems in the public and/or private health sector.
- Experience/expertise in oxygen storage and distribution systems.
- Experience/expertise in installation, assembly, and commissioning of oxygen equipment, medical Liquid Oxygen (mLOX), Vacuum Insulated Evaporator (VIE) System and pressure swing adsorption (PSA) plants, with required infrastructure needs, maintenance, and servicing.
- Experience with oxygen telemetry
- A good understanding of the global and/or regional oxygen ecosystem, applicable national and international laws, and recognized quality standards
- Association with relevant professional regulatory body
- Good writing and analytical skills

Advantageous Experience:

- Experience/expertise in the sourcing and procurement of critical oxygen-storage and delivery systems (LOX/VIE systems, LOX tanks, liquid to gas filling equipment, PSA plants, ancillary devices, and equipment) complemented by a sound knowledge of the legal, regulatory, and tendering process involved with the large-scale deployment of medical oxygen infrastructure.
- Experience/expertise in advising on financing of oxygen systems, including total cost of ownership.
- Knowledge of DRCs national and regional health system

Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in biomedical engineering; Electrical engineering, Mechanical engineering/hospital engineering or health technology
- Graduate degree (MSc. /MBA equivalent) preferred, which can be compensated by additional four years of professional experience
- Experience working within the African region.
- Strong ability to review and interpret AutoCAD documents and tendering documents such as equipment P&IDs, PFDs, DWG, BOQs, layout drawings, procurement contracts.
- Previous experience working with Liquid Oxygen (LOX) tanks, liquid to gas filling stations, PSA plants, air compressors or other related mechanical equipment is preferred.
- Project management experience is preferred.
- Ability to multi-task on several projects at once and meet project deadlines.
- Strong communication skills and an interest in collaborating with all project stakeholders.
- Excellent interpersonal skills with ability to interact with diverse individuals across multi-cultural teams.
- Possession of work for DRC (where applicable), and own responsibility for DRC tax remittances

Desirable

- Oxygen industry experience highly preferred
- Familiarity with different Hospital oxygen and/or LOX system configurations is desired.
- Professional training in various medical oxygen plant design, management of oxygen storage hub, procurement, installation/assembly, and maintenance
- Experience in overall system design and delivery of medical oxygen services in hospital.
- Ability to work as part of a multi-disciplinary team.
- Experience in implementing strategic activities especially related to sustainable financing for Government uptake.

Language Competencies: Must have good written and spoken French and English.



E. SUBMISSION PACKAGE:

Please review the table below detailing documentation by type of applicant, and see the submission package list below:

Table 1: Submissions by type of applicant

	Relevant documents	<i>For a Firm</i>	<i>For an Independent Consultant</i>
1	Company registration/or contact person ID (as relevant)	✓	✓
2	Full company profile/CV including address (as relevant)	✓	✓
3	Up-to-date operating/professional license (as relevant)	✓	✓
4	Letters of recommendation from at least 3 clients in the health sector and/or letters of approval from suppliers whose projects have been carried out in DRC or other African countries in the areas of LOX systems.	✓	✓ <i>Letters should be dated within the last 5– 8 years</i>
5	Certificate of discharge from the tax authority	✓	
6	Detailed description of previous work already carried out, including the value of the work	✓	✓
7	Curriculum vitae of the chief engineer who will lead the project	✓	✓

1. [Completed Annex A](#) detailing financial proposal (Budget, daily rate, travel) and workplan (Activities and timeline for completing each task)
2. A technical proposal detailing your understanding of the project and how your supervision/oversight services will be carried out
3. Relevant and supporting documentation as indicated in sections D, E and Table 1 above
4. Candidates can provide additional details, offers and information that they deem appropriate and/or that add value to the proposal;

CHAI reserves the right to select the service provider(s) it deems most suitable, based on the criteria of cost; qualifications, quality guarantees, payment terms, availability, delivery time and previous experience; CHAI reserves the right to reject all or part of the proposal. CHAI reserves the right to select more than one service provider and/or to select only part of a candidate's proposal. This call for proposals is not a purchase order and does not involve CHAI in any legal, or financial commitment.

Only applicants who hold these qualifications are eligible to apply.

F. COMPLIANCE TO CODE OF CONDUCT

The CHAI code of conduct for suppliers is a minimum set of requirements that suppliers must meet to qualify to do business with CHAI and remain in good standing with the organization. Please read the document via this link [Code of Conduct](#) and apply for this solicitation only if you can comply with these requirements.

All suppliers and contractors are expected to adhere to the CHAI EM [Code of Conduct](#) for suppliers.



Any clarifications required on this RFP should be submitted via the email drcprocurement@clintonhealthaccess.org quoting **RFP/CHAI/DRC/LOXCONSULT** in the subject line by **12 midnight WAT, on the 19th of July 2024**. Responses will be shared via all RFP solicitation channels, as well as by email.

Quotations must be submitted on or before **12 midnight WAT on the 2nd of August 2024** via the email: drcprocurement@clintonhealthaccess.org quoting **RFP/CHAI/DRC/LOXCONSULT** in the subject line.

Should your submission exceed 2 MBs and cannot be sent by email, please send an email to request an upload link with the subject 'Requesting upload link for **RFP/CHAI/DRC/LOXCONSULT**' to drcprocurement@clintonhealthaccess.org.

Quotations submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

Please note: Due to CHAI's collaborative relationship with the Government of DRC, we are unable to accept applications from individuals currently working for the government.