UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC & SOCIAL AFFAIRS

(UN/DESA)

Africa – i-Parliament Action Plan
http://www.parliaments.info

Request for Proposal

For Professional Services in
Python Software Development
for the Bungeni Portal

Introduction

The Bungeni Legislative Information Management System is constructed using Zope3 and SQLAlchemy (via the alchemist framework) with all application data stored in postgresql, and replicated from there to external stores. An important distinction between this and a typical zope3 installation, is that there is no zodb present, application structure is defined at runtime.

The system provides an Application Programming Interface to develop forms to manage the underlying data. Forms can be connected via workflows, and are controlled via access rules and permissions assigned to users who have different roles in parliamentary affairs.

Activities and Modalities

UNDESA is seeking consultancy of a firm/consultant to perform Software Development work for the Bungeni Parliamentary Information System project. Information about the Bungeni Project is available at http://www.bungeni.org. The Software Development work will primarily be in the Python programming language. The consultancy is requested for a period of **up to 80** working days.

The framework for this consultancy includes Software Development, Software Architecture, Testing and Documentation related to the Bungeni project.

The consultancy will be performed under the supervision of the Chief Technical Advisor of the Bungeni project. The consultant will be expected to :

a) Perform all operations related to adding new functionality and features to the Bungeni application.

b) Perform documentation tasks of the system and of any user manuals

c) Cooperate on software development and delivery with various entities in charge of software development both inside and outside the UNDESA offices

d) Identify, report and fix software defects in the Bungeni application

The above mentioned operations may have to be carried out locally in the UNDESA premises so that the consultant may work in close integration with the Bunegni Development Team. The work done must follow existing software development conventions and procedures followed by UNDESA.

Specific tasks to be done by the consultant in the working days of the consultancy will be done via a work request mechanism described as follows:

a) UNDESA will provide a technical description of the development task(s).

b) The consultant will provide a Work Estimate.

c) UNDESA will formally approve the Work Estimate and delivery date.

d) Once delivered UNDESA will review work according to the agreed specifications.

e) Any work that is not provided in respect of (a, b, c, d) above will not be considered as acceptable and UNDESA reserves the right to refuse any payment.

Performance Indicators

- Unit tests must be provided to test specific parts of the system functionality developed by the consultant / firm using standard testing tools

- The application must be buildable and usable in a predictable manner using the buildout environment

- Periodic checkins of the code must be made to the project's subversion repository, and this will be used to monitor progress and conduct code walkthroughs.

References

Bungeni Project:	http://www.bungeni.org
Africa i-Parliaments:	http://www.parliaments.info
Bungeni Portal Google code project:	http://code.google.com/p/bungeni-portal user name / password to access google code project: bungeni.portal / checkout
Bungeni Portal Framework SVN link:	http://code.google.com/p/bungeni-portal/source/browse/bungeni.buildout User name / password to access svn repository: bungeni.portal **/** y8n5h7d9
Bungeni Portal database schema:	http://code.google.com/p/bungeni-portal/source/browse/bungeni.core/trunk/bungeni/core/schema.py
Bungeni developer mailing list:	http://groups.google.com/group/bungeni-dev user name / password to access mailing list: bungeni.portal / checkout

Technical Requirements

- Advanced level skills in using the Python programming language with demonstrated experience in terms of live projects and application development.

- Must be familiar with web application development using Python.

- Familiarity with Linux, use of version control tools is highly desired.

- Good command of English (oral and written) is mandatory.

- The mobilisation of consultant should not take more than 5 working days.

Financial Requirements

The consultant/firm responding this Terms of Reference must provide a **daily cost** for the consultancy period of **up to 80 working days**. UNDESA does **not commit to use all the 80 days** and costs will be charged only for the days agreed and actually committed before the end of 2010.

Please note that proposal from consultants/firms will be evaluated separately.

Liaison and Reporting

The advisory activities and technical coordination will be conducted under the purview of the Chief Technical Adviser "**Africa i-Parliaments Action Plan**" (UNDESA) and will report directly to the Chief Technical Adviser.

The consultant shall exercise all reasonable skill, care and diligence in the performance of the required services and shall carry out all responsibilities in accordance with recognized professional standards.

Security and Confidentiality

The Consultant undertakes to treat in the strictest confidence and not make use of or divulge to third parties any information or documents which are linked to the performance of the Contract. The Consultant shall continue to be bound by this undertaking after completion of the tasks.

The Consultant will treat all material encountered during the duration of this Contract and any specific contract as confidential and will not disclose the material to any third party, except when explicitly authorised. The Consultant may only utilise the information contained in the material for the purposes identified in the Contract. The Consultant shall take all practical steps to keep the material confidential and shall restrict access to the material to the members of the Consultant's team only.

The Consultant shall take all appropriate steps for each product to ensure that the data and the magnetic media upon which they are stored are safely preserved.

Intellectual and Industrial Property

Any results or rights thereon, including copyright and other intellectual or industrial property rights, obtained in performance of the Contract, shall be owned solely by UNDESA, which may use, publish, assign or transfer them as it sees fit, without geographical or other limitation.

Submission procedure

Interested firms/individuals who meet the above requirements should send their proposals to email address mail@parliaments.info on or before **6th April 2010 at 12 noon.**