



GCRF Africa Catalyst: Capacity-building of Professional Engineering Institutions in sub- Saharan Africa

Deadline for submissions: 23th October 2017

All submissions to be sent to: louise.olofsson@raeng.org.uk

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The Royal Academy of Engineering

As the UK's national academy for engineering, we bring together the most successful and talented engineers for a shared purpose: to advance and promote excellence in engineering for the benefit of society. Our vision is to position engineering at the heart of a sustainable and prosperous society, improving lives and opportunities.

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The Academy have three strategic objectives, each of which provides a key contribution to a strong and vibrant engineering sector and to the health and wealth of society:

- Make the UK the leading nation for engineering innovation and businesses
- Address the engineering skills crisis
- Position engineering at the heart of society

The Academy's role is to provide leadership for the profession, in the UK and internationally, harnessing Fellow's expertise to provide authoritative policy advice, driving engagement with and communication of engineering and delivering programmes that support engineering excellence for societal benefit.

The values of the Academy are integrity and openness, excellence and continual improvement, inclusivity and equality of opportunity, and partnership working.

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Invitation to tender

This invitation to tender invites proposals to address the research objective of GCRF Africa Catalyst: **To identify how professional engineering bodies can best promote the profession and better understand the current engineering landscape in the benefitting countries.**

The Academy is expecting the leading researcher to work with professional engineering bodies and other relevant stakeholders – at a minimum in countries where grants are provided through this scheme - to map the current engineering landscape, explore which interventions are having the greatest benefit, and build on existing research to evidence the role robust professional engineering bodies can play in driving social and economic national development.

The full scope of the project is outlined below.

Background and requirements

1. Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF)

The Academy launched GCRF Africa Catalyst in September 2016 under its remit as a delivery partner for the [Global Challenges Research Fund](#) (GCRF).

The aim of the GCRF is to ensure UK science takes the lead in addressing the problems faced by developing countries, and to increase research capacity and capability in the UK and in developing countries. It is important that you familiarise yourself with the strategy of the fund by reading the strategy (link above).

2. GCRF Africa Catalyst

The overall aim of GCRF Africa Catalyst is to strengthen professional engineering bodies in sub-Saharan Africa so that they can effectively promote the profession, share best practise and increase local engineering capacity, to help drive development. This is to be supported by high quality research focusing on expanding the evidence base for the importance of robust engineering institutions and the role they play in delivering sustainable growth, and mapping engineering capacity and diversity in the countries where grant funding has been administered.

A cross-cutting objective for the programme areas is diversity. It is a requirement for grant applicants who do not have a gender equality or diversity policy to include the development of such a policy in their project proposal, and the Academy does encourage diversity and inclusion to be considered in the project design as well as in the research element.

- **Objective 1: To create strong professional engineering bodies in the countries where grant funding is being administered.**
A strong professional body is effective, self-sustainable, transparent and provides services to its members. It has good governance, leadership, financial management, and policies and systems in place. The Academy is also looking to support professional engineering bodies working to meet international standards of engineering education and accreditation.
- **Objective 2: To identify how professional engineering bodies can best promote the profession and better understand the current engineering landscape in the benefitting countries.**
The Academy is expecting the leading researcher to work with professional engineering bodies and other relevant stakeholders - in countries where grants are provided through this scheme - to map the current engineering landscape, explore which interventions are having

the greatest benefit, and build on existing research to evidence the role robust professional engineering bodies can play in driving social and economic national development.

The Academy will allocate funding under two closely connected programme areas, both promoting collaboration between countries in sub-Saharan Africa and the UK. In addition, the Academy is encouraging further collaborations, both locally, regionally and internationally.

- The first programme area consists of grants for capacity building which are open to professional engineering bodies, including registered not-for-profit federations, organisations, institutions and associations based in sub-Saharan Africa*, working in collaboration with a UK partner. The Academy is envisaging the grant funded projects to focus on Objective 1 but would also expect successful applicants to support the researchers by sharing reports and responding to ad hoc requests.
- The second programme area is focused on research, and is an open tender for universities and leading researchers, working in collaboration with researchers and professional engineering bodies at a minimum in programme-relevant countries in sub-Saharan Africa. This tender is specifically focusing on objective 2, the research element of the programme.

**For the purposes of the programme, the Academy considers the following 49 countries to be part of sub-Saharan Africa: Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Republic of the Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.*

The remainder of this document is relating to the second programme area, focusing on objective 2.

3. Project management

The Academy is the body responsible for commissioning the report, and Louise Olofsson is the GCRF Programme Manager who will be the main point of contact for the Researchers with support from Meredith Ettridge, Senior International Development Manager. Their role is to provide input to the researcher, help ensure the quality of the study by reacting to work plans, methodology, initial findings and reports as well as making introductions to relevant stakeholders.

4. Research Expectations

- a. The research should be carried out by engaging with all grantees under objective 1 of the GCRF Africa Catalyst programme (introductions will be made by the Academy), as well as other relevant stakeholders. Suggestions for guidance to grantees on monitoring and evaluation will be viewed favourably.
- b. The successful researcher or research team is expected to involve researchers from sub-Saharan Africa.
- c. There would be an expectation that existing data, including UNESCO reports would be mapped, fact checked and incorporated into the research.
- d. Any proposals for intervention should reflect the regional structures in Africa, such as The Federation of African Engineering Organizations (FAEO) and other regional structures that might be useful for the research.
- e. The Academy would expect that the research is mapping the current status of engineers and engineering capacity, with a focus on, but not limited to, the grant receiving countries. There should be a capacity baseline of professional engineering bodies receiving grants carried out, the impact of interventions should be measured, and an analysis of the importance of robust professional engineering bodies in terms of local engineering capacity and socio-economic development is expected.

5. Schedule of tasks, timings and deliverables

Task	Time
The researchers prepare an inception report, including work plan, methodology etc.	December 2017
Meeting with Academy staff	Early December 2017
Updates to the Academy	Monthly
Minimum reports submitted to the Academy (please outline suggested reports in your proposal)	2/year

As seen in the table above, the Academy is open to suggestions from the researcher on types of reports and a schedule for those. Those should be outlined in the tender and approved during the inception meeting in December 2017.

The intended start date is December 2017 and depending on satisfactory reports and good working relationships with the Academy and the grantees, the contract could be renewed yearly to run until March 2021.

Decisions on renewals of contracts will take place in December 2018 and December 2019. Upon decision on termination of contracts, there will be a three-month notice period and the contract should cease in March the following year. Similarly, should the researcher wish to terminate the contract, a three-month notice period is required and any unused funds should be returned to the Academy.

6. Reporting

The Academy expects to see suggested reports produced in the proposal but would expect a minimum of two reports per year. As previously mentioned, the expected outputs should be outlined in the tender and agreed during the inception meeting with the Academy.

The reports should be submitted to Louise Olofsson, and the Academy is responsible for approving the reports.

7. Academic publication rights

The Academy, as the funder, will have rights to publish the final report in its standard format. Authors will be acknowledged on the inside cover with brief biographies. As a publicly funded body, the Academy will also make the report available on an open access basis. The work may be used by the authors to create academic outputs.

8. Submissions of proposals

Respondents must provide an electronic copy of the proposal to louise.olofsson@raeng.org. no later than **4pm 23rd October 2017**.

In the interests of consistency and to enable an efficient and fair evaluation, responses to this ITT must:

- include an executive summary providing an overview of the response and highlighting the most important points
- include a company/organisation profile
- be self-contained
- include terms and conditions

Tender documents should:

- outline the researchers' understanding of the proposal
- provide information on the proposed approach including any known limitations as well as the anticipated benefits and features
- provide a proposed timetable of activities and a staged payments schedule against key deliverables

- provide the names and information on the experience and suitability of staff who will be involved in the project
- identify the tasks each member of staff will carry out
- provide a full budget breakdown
- include two previous client contacts as references, with the addresses, email and telephone number details and a brief description of the project.

9. Proposed costs

Proposals must include information about costs and state whether these do or do not include VAT or any other levies. Costs should be broken down by category and include staff costs broken down by individual FTE. By submission of a proposal, the vendor warrants that the prices in the proposal have been arrived at independently, without consultation or agreement with any other potential vendor.

10. Contractual information

All tenders must remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of submission by the vendor. This ITT and the information contained within it are deemed to be as confidential information. Vendors and/or their agents or business partners responding to this ITT, do so entirely at their own cost.

The Academy operates in compliance with UK Bribery Act 2010, relevant international and local law, and require suppliers to do the same. GCRF Africa Catalyst is funded by the UK Government's Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) budget; all activities must be ODA appropriate.

11. Selection criteria and additional tender requirements

In selecting a researcher/research team, the Academy will use the following criteria (please note that the order of this list is not significant and does not imply the order of importance and that this list is indicative only and is not exhaustive):

- understanding of the objectives and requirements
- proposed methodology and quality of the solution
- comments on the specification/original ideas
- evidence of the appropriate skillsets
- relevant experience of similar projects
- ability to meet the timetable
- overall value for money
- clarity from the researcher on what is expected from the Academy to fulfil the proposal

12. Questions

Any questions in connection with this tender should be directed to:

[Louise Olofsson](#)

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