



**RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AGENCY**  
Project Management Unit  
NIGERIA ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT (NEP)

## REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST CONSULTING SERVICES (FIRM SELECTION)

**NIGERIA**  
**NIGERIA ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT**  
IDA Credit No.: 62910

**Assignment Title:** Consultancy Services for Independent Verification Agent (IVA) for Result Based Finance Facilities for Solar Home Systems and Mini Grids

**Reference No.:** REA-NEP/C/QCBS/35/18

The Federal Government of Nigeria has applied for financing from the World Bank for a Credit towards the cost of the Nigeria Electrification Project (NEP) and Rural Electrification Agency, the implementation Agency intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payment under the contract for the Consultancy Services for an Independent Verification Agent (IVA) for Result Based Finance Facilities for Solar Home Systems and for the performance based grant program for Mini Grids.

The consulting services ("the Services") include:

- Conduct an independent verification of claims where actual products supplied under the Solar Home Systems OBF facility are confirmed to exist and be in use by the specified end users. The verifications will serve as a trigger for payments from the PMU to the grantees with the facilitation of the Grants Administrator firm contracted under the project.
  - Establish validity and correctness of sales claims submitted by the grant beneficiaries for products eligible under the program.
  - Verification of customer connections and satisfactory electricity service as required for the mini grid programs (minimum subsidy tender, and performance-based grants).
- The duration of the assignment is 24 months. The assignment is expected to commence in July 2019.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found at the following website: [www.rea.gov.ng/independent-verification-agent-iva/](http://www.rea.gov.ng/independent-verification-agent-iva/)

The Rural Electrification Agency- Project Management Unit (REA-PMU) now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

The short listing criteria are:

- The IVA will be a top tier consulting or audit firm with a minimum of five (5) years operational existence as an organization.
- Minimum of two (2) similar assignments in the last five (5) years
- Capacity to verify transactions:
  - Demonstrated experience in verification exercises, socio-economic studies and field/on-site studies;
  - Proof of accounting, audit and finance background will be essential;
  - Experience in organizational and project assessments including systems review;
  - Past roles in project transaction verification will be an advantage.
- Ability to deploy resource persons in multiple rural locations if and as necessary.
- Experience with the rural economy through past assignments. Familiarity with rural energy interventions will be advantageous including engagement with energy product or service providers.
- Ability to deploy a robust data collection and management system with capacity to track GIS coordinates for the field visits evidence of similar deployment in the past will be essential.

Please note that only the experience of the firm and not that of the Key Experts are required at this stage

Your attention is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" July 2016 and revised November 2018 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub-consultancy. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected.

A Consultant shall be selected in accordance with Consultants Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) Method as set out in World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" dated July 2016, revised November 2017 and August 2018 available on [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org).

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours i.e. 0800 to 1700 hours.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by Monday 15th April, 2019.

**Rural Electrification Agency (REA)**  
Attn: Head, NEPPMU Ground Floor  
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*Signed*  
**Management**

**ENERGY=EMPOWERMENT=EFFICIENCY**

## NEWSEXTRA

# NCC: Nigeria to Hit 70% Broadband Penetration By 2024

● Internet users hit 100m

**Emma Okonji** in Lagos and  
**Oghenevwe Ohwovoriole**  
in Abuja

The Executive Vice Chairman of the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), Prof. Umar Danbatta, has disclosed that the next national Broadband plan will see the country achieving 70 per cent broadband penetration by 2024.

He made this disclosure yesterday at the commission's Headquarters in Abuja.

Danbatta, while addressing the management team of Airtel Africa said that, "We are steadily seeing increase in broadband penetration. As at February, there is a new target of 70 per cent in the next five years. We will come up with new. So, far, no official announcement has been made on that by the minister."

"I am sure government will come up with official announcement on the new national Broadband plan, Phase 2. In the area of data usage, there is also steady increase

in data usage. We are again seeing that from 4G network services.

"It is important to talk about other statistics. As at February 2019, we had 174 million Nigerians who had access to telecom voice services. And the number is steadily rising. Internet penetration too in real terms is 100 million."

He commended Airtel Nigeria for being a major player in the expansion of broadband penetration, saying "it is good to see Airtel providing services, especially 4G services. It is also good to hear the level of expansion because we are seeing remarkable improvement in broadband penetration."

"The figures are increasingly going up. We are at about 33 per cent now. This we can attribute to very ambitious expansion of network operators like Airtel in places like Lagos, Kano, Rivers, Ibadan, Abuja. This lends credence to figures we are seeing from broadband penetration."

"We are seeing increase in broadband subscription,

especially to services provided by Airtel. It is good for Nigerians to hear this that Airtel is helping us to hit the broadband penetration target."

Speaking further he said, "we were supposed to achieve 30 per cent as at December 2018 but we have exceeded that target courtesy of national Broadband Plan."

He added that henceforth, whatever percentage increase NCC will give out in percentage terms will be in reference to the existing Nigerian population, saying all growth parameters are steadily growing courtesy of expansion programme on 4G operators in the country, especially Airtel.

CEO Airtel Nigeria, Mr. Segun Ogunsanya in his reaction said, his organisation was pleased to be at NCC.

"Over the years we have seen various mile stone some been achieved and some been surpassed is due to your vision for the industry and support for the operators in the industry."

## Sustain MSME Funding to Reduce Poverty, Emir Tells World Bank

**Oghenevwe Ohwovoriole**  
in Abuja

The Emir of Bimin Gwari in Kaduna State, Bawan Allah Zubair Jibril Mai Gwari II, has appealed to the World Bank to sustain the training and funding of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) under its Growth and Empowerment (GEM) project in Nigeria, to help the country in its poverty reduction efforts.

The royal father has also urged the government to renegotiate the terms of the World Bank-assisted project, with a view to extending it beyond the planned end date of March 29, 2019, to ensure payment of grants to the 2019 trainees.

This, he said, was imperative, in order for the project to meet its objectives. The objective of the \$160 million GEM project being implemented by the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment and supported by

the World Bank, is to increase firm growth and employment in participating firms in Nigeria.

The project, which focuses on manufacturing and service sectors, Information Communication Technology, entertainment, tourism and hospitality, light manufacturing (and agro-processing industries) and construction became effective in July 2013 and is billed to end March 29.

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) founders trained in 2019 were told the grant/funding component of the project has been discontinued and no reason was given for the decision.

Speaking to journalists in Abuja, the royal father, while commending the initiative, however, said the impact would be better felt with funding to enable business owners train and also empower others.

According to him, "If some people have been trained and empowered, I am appealing

to the government that since the project is coming to an end at the end of this month, the way government was able to do it when the programme was supposed to end sometime last year but it was extended."

"I am appealing to the federal government through the Minister of Finance, and Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment and any other good person in government to please extend the life of this programme so that these young people who have been trained will be able to reach their goal. After the training, they should also be empowered with the promised finance so that they can go ahead."

Continuing, the Emir stated: "From what I've been told, there are thousands of young people who have received the training and what they need now is the empowerment. Those who did it at the beginning of the programme have got the training and empowerment.

## Ruff 'n' Tumble Celebrates Mothers Across Nigeria

Ruff 'n' Tumble, a premium Nigerian children clothing line, is bent on celebrating mothers throughout March with its Iyaniwura collection made from Ankara fabrics across her 17 outlets.

The clothing line is deliberately giving away customised gift items for every purchase of its Iyaniwura collection dedicated to mothers this month of celebrating mothers and motherhood.

To spice up, Ruff n Tumble's concept of Twinning with my mom; Mini me and Slaying with my mom, is available for both boys, girls and moms with the Iyaniwura

collection dedicated to celebrate mother's day.

For Adenike Ogunsles, the role of a mother cannot be over-emphasised, she is a protector, a home maker, in many ways a provider, care-giver, a lover, a leader, a supporter, an inspiration, a challenger, a role model, and a whole lot. Everything in the world revolves around a mother on a daily basis, hence the dedication of a special collection for mothers.

In the words of Mrs. Ogunsles, "Mothers are not celebrated enough" therefore the reason for this dedication of a collection for mothers, across the Ruff n Tumble

stores nationwide. The trendy collection is available in two enchanting variants and styles.

Mothers can rock the styles with their kids alongside full accessories to match.

Today, Ruff n Tumble has 17 stores across five cities in the country since its existence in 1998, where mothers will be celebrated this month in a quintessential style in Kano, Ibadan, Port-Harcourt, Abuja and Lagos among others.

Proudly, Ruff 'n' Tumble, which manufactures children clothing, has employed over 250 people, and has added contract manufacturing to its portfolio of offerings.