



NOTICE OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

N° _____ AMI/MINEPAT/SG/DGEPIP/2021 FOR THE SELECTION OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS FOR A PARTNERSHIP AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY FUND FOR THE PRODUCTIVE SECTOR (CAS-COVID), IN A PROCEDURE OF EMERGENCY

I. CONTEXT

Since March 2020, Cameroon like most countries in the world has been facing an unprecedented health crisis linked to the Covid 19 pandemic, with significant consequences for both households and enterprises. This condition has contributed to the weakening of many key sectors of the national economy and has led to a significant slowdown in our dynamic growth.

In response to this crisis, the Government has adopted a “Strategy of response to COVID 19 and economic and social resilience” aimed in particular at mitigating the impact of the pandemic on the population and economic actors in the private sector. This strategy which covers the period 2020-2022, is divided into five main pillars namely: (i) health system strengthening; (ii) economic and financial resilience; (iii) strategic sourcing; (iv) strengthening research and innovation; and (v) social resilience.

In order to facilitate the operationalisation of the said strategy, a Special Appropriation Account (CAS COVID-19) was set up through Ordinance No 2020/001 of 3 June 2020, amending and supplementing certain provisions of Law No 2019/023 of 24 December 2019 to lay down the Financial Law of the Republic of Cameroon for the year 2020. This account, entitled “Special National Solidarity Fund for the fight against the corona virus and its economic and social repercussions”, was endowed with a total amount of FCFA 180 billion for the year 2020.

Following this, an amount of FCFA 10 billion has been allocated to MINEPAT in order to strengthen their support to enterprises affected by the crisis. The aim is to preserve their resilience by facilitating their access to financing so as to secure their cash flow and support their production activities for economic recovery. This initiative complements the financial support and other fiscal and custom measures already put in place by the government.

With this in mind, the Ministry of the Economy, Planning and Regional Development (MINEPAT), with the assistance of certain banks and microfinance institutions, plan to set up several specific mechanisms to facilitate access to financial resources while strengthening relations between affected enterprises and credit institutions.

In operational terms, three financing mechanisms with an endowment of FCFA 7 billion are envisaged, namely (i) a guarantee fund for medium-sized enterprises (ME); (ii) a support fund for very small and small enterprises (TPPE); and (iii) a support fund for start-ups and innovative enterprises.

Thus, the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development is launching a Notice of Expression of Interest to financial intermediaries (Banks and Microfinance Institutions) likely to accompany her in the implementation of the various related windows.

II. PURPOSE OF THE CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The purpose of this call for Expression of Interest is to select local financial institutions (Banks and Microfinance Institutions) to assist MINEPAT in the implementation of the Economy Recovery Fund for the productive sector. The different funds envisaged are as follows:

N°	Financing Schemes
1	Support Funds for Very Small and Small Enterprises (VS-SEs)
2	Support Fund for start-ups innovative enterprises
3	Guarantee Funds for Medium-sized enterprises (ME)

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE FINANCING MECHANISMS

III.1. Support funds for VSEs/SEs

This fund, with an endowment of FCFA 2 billion, aims to strengthen the resilience, structuring and formalization of Cameroonian Very Small and Small Enterprises (VSEs) affected by COVID 19. The sectors concerned are handicrafts, agro pastoral production and the processing of agricultural and livestock products. The amount of credit allocated will be limited to FCFA 5 million, with an interest rate not exceeding 3%. The maximum duration of the loan will be thirty (30) months with a deferment of six (06) months.

For the implementation of this scheme, four (04) Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) will be selected.

III.2 Support funds for start-ups and innovative companies

This fund, with an endowment of FCFA 1 billion, aims to promote the development of the digital economy and innovative tools. The beneficiaries must be start-ups that are part of recognized incubator centers established in Cameroon. Financial support will be capped

FCFA 5 million and will be granted in a mixed form of 50% grant and 50% loan. The interest rate of the loan will not exceed 3%. The maximum duration of the loan will be thirty (30) months with a six (06) month grace period.

For the implementation of this scheme, two (02) Credit Institutions (Bank and/or Microfinance (MFI)) will be selected.

III.3. Guarantee funds for medium-sized enterprises

This fund, with an endowment of FCFA 4 billion, aims to promote access to credit at a subsidized rate for medium-sized enterprises. The fund aims to address problems related to working capital and/or the rehabilitation of production equipments. The main beneficiaries are medium-sized local enterprises in the agri-food processing, chemical industries and hotel sectors affected by COVID 19. The amount of credit allocated should not exceed 25% of the average turnover over the last two years before the crisis, with a ceiling of FCFA 30 million. The interest rate should not exceed 5% and the State guarantee should not exceed 90% of the loan.

For the implementation of this scheme, three (03) banks will be selected.

IV. PARTICIPATION AND ORIGIN

This Call for Expression of Interest is addressed to Banking and Microfinance Institutions having the following characteristics:

For banks, be accessible in at least two (03) regions of the country.

For Microfinance institutions:

- Have a majority of its capital held by Cameroonians;
- Be second category microfinance.

V. COMPOSITION OF THE APPLICATION FILE

Each application must include the following documents presented in two volumes as follows:

V.1. Volume 1 : Administrative documents

The administrative file shall contain the following documents:

- A certificate of registration;
- A certificate of non-taxation dated less than three months;
- A certificate of non-bankruptcy issued by the Court Registry of the place of the registered office;
- A declaration on the honor of the tenderer.

V.2 Volume 2: Technical File

The technical file must include:

1. A letter of motivation;
2. A descriptive summary note on a maximum of three pages (major characteristics, actors, market share, territorial coverage and other relevant indicators);

3. Documents justifying similar experiences in the implementation of this type of scheme
4. A deployment methodology note for the implementation of this scheme, with a specific focus on: (i) procedural deadlines; (ii) territorial coverage; (iii) internal arrangements to be implemented; (iv) proposals for improving interest rates, types and levels of personal contributions by beneficiaries

VI. PRESENTATION OF OFFERS

Each application must be written in French or English in four (04) copies, of which one (01) original and three (03) copies must be marked as such, and submitted in a closed and sealed envelope in two separate inner envelopes:

-Envelope "A" marked "Administrative File" will contain the **administrative file**;

-Envelope "B" marked "Technical File" will contain the **technical file**.

N.B : A credit institution may bid for one (01) or two (02) schemes.

VII. SELECTION AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

VII.1 Eliminary criteria

The main eliminary criteria are:

- Incomplete or non-compliant administrative file;
- Presence of falsified documents or false documents in the application file;
- Technical score **below 70/100**.

VII.2 Essential Criteria

The evaluation of the quality of the technical offers will be made on the basis of 100 points on the bases of the criteria below:

N°	Evaluation Criteria	Points	Points**
1	Quality, credibility and reliability of the proposal for the implementation of the funding scheme, with a particular attention to : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The time required to deploy the scheme following the signature of the agreement ; - The description of the internal organisation (and roles) that will be set up for the territorial coverage and the implementation of the funding scheme. 	60	55
2	Proposals to improve the proposed interest rate for the requested funding scheme.	10	10

3	Similar experiences in the implementation of the type of scheme requested	10	5
4	Processing deadlines of the main beneficiaries' credit applications	10	10
5	Proposal of the type and rate of personal contribution to be required from the beneficiaries	10	10
6	Proposed rate of guarantee to be requested from the state.		10

**** Concerns the guarantee fund for medium-sized enterprises**

Each compliant proposal will be given a technical score. A proposal is rejected at this stage if it does not reach the minimum technical score of **70/100**.

VIII. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS AND OPENING OF TENDERS

Applications must be submitted in a closed and sealed envelope to the following address

“ To the Minister of the Economy, Planning and Regional Development, BP 660 Yaoundé, MINEPAT's main building at Boulevard du 20 mai, 4th floor (MINEPAT's DGEPIP Secretariat), against discharge; mentioning « **MANIFESTATION D'INTERET N° _____ AMI/MINEPAT/SG/DGEPIP/2021 FOR THE SELECTION OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS FOR A PARTNERSHIP AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY FUND FOR THE PRODUCTIVE SECTOR (CAS-COVID), IN A PROCEDURE OF EMERGENCY** »

Latest on 26 April 2021 _____ at 3:30 pm. No file will be accepted after this deadline.

Interested bidders may obtain additional information from the Directorate General of the Economy and Public Investment Programming.

N.B. Only the candidates shortlisted at the end of the file study phase will be contacted.

The Minister of the Economy,
Planning and Regional
Development

