

Central Bank of Montenegro
TARGET Instant Payment Settlement Clone – TIPS Clone Project

Request for Bids (RFB)

“TIPS Clone Connectivity Services”

Date: October, 30. 2025

Contract Identification No.: **TIPSC-9858-ME-NC-RFB-25-2.12**
World Bank L/C No.: P509405

The Government of Montenegro has received financing from the World Bank toward the costs of the Montenegro Financial Infrastructure Modernization and its Alignment with SEPA Standards Project (**TARGET Instant Payment Settlement Clone – TIPS Clone Project**). The project aims to modernize Montenegro’s digital payments infrastructure, align it with the EU’s Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA) standards, and enable instant payments in real time, 24/7, for both domestic and cross-border transactions. The **Central Bank of Montenegro (CBCG)** is the Project Implementing Entity and will have overall responsibility for project implementation and intends to apply part of the proceeds to payments for the “**TIPS Clone Connectivity Services**” *Software/hardware for network connectivity to TIPS (third party service provider)*

The **CBCG**, through the Technical Service Unit-TSU, invites sealed bids from qualified bidders (Service providers) with the aim to secure Connectivity Services for connecting **CBCG** to the **TIPS Clone platform**, in full compliance with the requirements set by Banca d’Italia, through the network of an authorized TIPS Clone Network Service Provider (NSP) – SWIFT or NEXI – and/or through a third party formally authorized by an NSP to provide connectivity services.

Qualifications requirements will include:

- a. Proof of legal status and place of registration;
- b. The minimum required annual volume of Services for the successful Bidder in any of the last five (5) years shall be: 1 million EUR (VAT excluded)
- c. The bidder must have implemented in the last Five (5) years (until the bid submission deadline) at least one (1) similar contract related to the design, development, implementation and provision of technical support for Information Systems of similar functional characteristics and project complexity, that have been successfully and substantially completed, with contract value of at least EUR 350,000.00 (VAT excluded). The contract, and long-term provision of connectivity services for financial market infrastructures.
- d. Bidder must have previous experience in organizing training for the use of the offered platform. Bidder must have the following ISO quality standards: ISO/IEC 27001, and ISO/IEC 20000 or ISO 9001
- e. The minimum amount of liquid assets and/or credit facilities net of other contractual commitments of the successful Bidder shall be: 300,000EUR.
- f. Key Personnel with Experience, qualifications and skills as required in bidding document.

In case of the Joint Venture, the figures for each of the members of a JV shall be added together to determine the Bidder's compliance with the minimum qualifying criteria of (a), (b) and (e); however, for a joint venture to qualify the member in charge must meet at least 40 percent of those minimum criteria for an individual Bidder and other members at least 25% of the criteria. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in rejection of the joint venture's Bid. Subcontractors' experience and resources will not be taken into account in determining the Bidder's compliance with the qualifying criteria.

The projected term for realization of this project assignment is: Implementation Phase - Ten (10) weeks

Service Phase - five (5) Years, in total.

Procurement process will be conducted through the **Request for Bids-Non-Consulting Services**, procedures as specified in the World Bank's *Procurement Regulations for Investment Project Financing (IPF) Borrowers*, issued in September 2023 and February 2025, and it is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Regulations. In addition, please refer to paragraphs 3.13-3.17 setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

A complete set of bidding documents (SBD) in English may be purchased by interested eligible bidders, and will be sent directly by email, upon the submission of a written letter (Request for bidding document / interested bidders' data), to the email address below. Interested bidders also may obtain further information or review and inspect the bidding document during office hours at the address stated below.

All bids must be accompanied by a **Bid Security declaration**.

Bids **Ref. No: TIPSC-9858-ME-NC-RFB-25-2.12** must be delivered to the address below, on or before **November 28, 2025, 10:00h**. Electronic bidding *will not* be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend at the address below **November 28, 2025, 10:05h**

The address referred to above is:

Ministry of Finance-Technical Service Unit
Att: Zoran Mijović, Senior Procurement officer
Studentska 2A (First floor)
81000 Podgorica
Montenegro
Contact address: zoran.mijovic@mif.gov.me