

NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY (NOFO)

Bureau of Counterterrorism

U.S. Department of State

Announcement Type:	New Announcement
Funding Opportunity Title:	Improving Security, Safety, and Civil Aviation Operations Standards at Aden Adde International Airport (MQG)
Assistance Listing:	19.701
Funding Amount:	Not to Exceed \$1,895,000.
Number of Awards:	One (1)
Cost Sharing Requirement:	Not Required
Assistance Type:	Cooperative Agreement
Funding Type:	Discretionary
Authority:	Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 as amended
Source of Funding	Nonproliferation, Antiterrorism, Demining, and Related Programs (NADR)
Funding Activity Category:	Other
NOFO Issuance Date:	Tuesday, 9 April, 2019
Closing Date for Submission of Applications:	Complete proposal packages must be submitted through www.grants.gov by Monday 10 June, 11:59 pm EST, 2019
Electronic Requirement:	Yes E-mailed, faxed or mailed proposal packages, or individual documents, that failed to transmit during application submission will <u>NOT</u> be considered.
Deadline for Receipt of Questions:	Friday, 19 April, 2019, 5:00 pm, EST
Eligibility Category:	U.S. - based non-profit/non-governmental organizations having a 501(c) (3) status with the IRS; overseas non-governmental non-profit organizations; Foreign Public Entities (FPEs) and Public International Organizations (PIOs).

For-profit commercial firms are eligible to apply in response to this NOFO but may be subject to additional review.

Type of Applicant:	Organizations. Individuals are not eligible to apply.
Number of Applications:	One (1) per applicant organization <u>Note:</u> Organizations may form consortia and submit a combined proposal. However, only one organization may be designated as the lead applicant. The lead applicant must meet the eligibility criteria listed in this NOFO.
Anticipated Award Date:	The successful applicant will receive notification within approximately nine to twelve weeks of the closing of this announcement. The U.S. Department of State is under no obligation to fund any of the proposals submitted under this funding opportunity.
Est. Project Start Date:	August 2019
Est. Project End Date:	July 2021
Project Duration:	24 months

This funding opportunity is posted on www.grants.gov and may be amended. Answers to questions from potential applicants will be posted as an attachment to this NOFO. Applicants should regularly check the www.grants.gov website for the most recent information pertaining to this NOFO. **Department of State bears no responsibility for data errors resulting from transmission or conversion processes associated with electronic submissions via www.grants.gov. Incomplete application packages will not be considered.** Missing e-mailed, faxed or mailed documents will NOT be considered.

Applicants must provide a Unique Entity Identifier, or Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS), when submitting application on www.grants.gov in response to this NOFO.

SAM.gov registration (www.sam.gov) is required. **Applicants that do not have a valid DUNS number and completed www.sam.gov registration will NOT be eligible for consideration.**

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the application package has been received by SAMS Domestic or Grants.gov in its **entirety**. Incomplete applications will be considered **ineligible**. Individual e-mailed or faxed documents that failed to transmit during application submission will **not** be considered.

The decision for the final eligibility and award determination rests with the Grants Officer.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The United States Department of State's Bureau of Counterterrorism (CT) announces a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for a project to assist the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) in strengthening safety, security, and civil aviation operations at Somalia's Aden Adde International Airport (MQG) in line with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standards.

Pending availability of funds and satisfactory performance, including compliance with the award's terms and conditions, CT may consider adding funds to the award. CT intends to support one (1) award as a result of this NOFO.

The Department of State reserves the right to fund any or none of the proposals submitted and reserves the right to reduce, revise, or increase the budget in accordance with the needs of the project and the availability of funds.

The Federal award signed by the State Department Grants Officer is the **only** authorizing document.

This NOFO consists of the following sections:

- I. Funding Opportunity Description
- II. Award Information and Application Evaluation and Scoring
- III. Eligibility Information
- IV. Agency Contacts

Eligible organizations interested in submitting an application are encouraged to review this NOFO thoroughly to understand the type of project sought and the application submission requirements and review process as outlined in this NOFO.

I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

BACKGROUND

The United States remains concerned about terrorist threats to civil aviation. Over the past several years, terrorist groups including al-Qa'ida, al-Shabaab, and ISIS have shown both the interest and capability to attack civilian aircraft, including through the use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) concealed in modified commercial electronic devices such as laptops, printers, and cameras. The United States and the global aviation community face an adaptive and agile enemy. Civil aviation also remains the primary means of transport for terrorists and materiel. We must enhance aviation security on a global scale to constrain terrorist movements and keep the traveling public safe. The 2017 National Security Strategy and 2018 National Strategy for Aviation Security both call for the United States to work with and engage

international industry partners to raise global aviation security by improving the implementation of international standards and modifying existing standards to meet the terrorist threat.

Somalia's Aden Adde International Airport (MGQ) faces numerous, well-documented, and persistent threats to civil aviation. Al-Shabaab, a Somalia-based regional Al-Qa'ida affiliate, has repeatedly attacked both airport infrastructure and aircraft at MGQ. In December 2014, al-Shabaab fighters penetrated an area adjacent to the terminal, engaging in a sustained attack that resulted in several casualties. In February 2016, an IED concealed within a laptop exploded on an aircraft shortly after its departure from MGQ. Though the bomb failed to destroy the plane, which was able to return to MIA, killing only the perpetrator himself, the attack underscored the severity of the terrorist threat to MGQ and brought wider worldwide focus on mitigating such threats. In July 2016, a vehicle-borne IED detonated on a perimeter road between two airport gates, killing 13 and significantly damaging the perimeter wall, a security tower, and other infrastructure. MGQ has significantly expanded service in the last year, both domestically to other Somali airports and internationally to other destinations, including flights from Mogadishu to Kenya and Ethiopia, which have direct flights to the United States.

Supporting Somalia's efforts to raise its aviation security baseline in line with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) certification standards has the potential to realize practical, tangible progress toward a safer and more secure global aviation sector. MGQ and the areas immediately surrounding areas are important both as a key commercial and transportation hub for Somalia's capital on the one hand, and as a home to a U.S. diplomatic presence, foreign embassies, and African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) Force Headquarters on the other. Technical assistance aimed at raising safety, security, and operations standards at MGQ will reinforce a key U.S. ally in the fight against terrorism.

PROJECT GOALS

This project aims to develop the Federal Government of Somalia's (FGS's) capabilities and capacity to achieve international aviation security, safety, and operational standards. Through the specialized training, advice, mentoring, and equipment, this project will help the FGS achieve an ICAO rating for MGQ, strengthen the FGS's oversight of MGQ and operations of Somalia's regional airports, and thwart terrorist efforts to attack MGQ and its aircraft.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

"Improving Security, Safety, and Civil Aviation Operations Standards at Aden Adde International Airport (MQG)" has three key objectives:

- Work with Somali authorities to: develop standard operating procedures (SOPs) and related guidelines, manuals, or similar materials for use and/or training; demonstrably increase technical knowledge and capacity to achieve and sustain ICAO certification within one year; and institutionalize plans to achieve higher-level ICAO certification status within the following two years.

- Provide on-site advice, training, modest renovations of workspaces, and equipment (e.g., manuals and/or other necessary materials) to enhance the skills of Somali government representatives of the Ministry of Transportation and Civil Aviation (MoT), the Somali Civil Aviation Authority (SCAA), and other stakeholders to oversee airport management, security, safety, and civil aviation operations at MGQ.
- Help FGS authorities mentor and train Somali government employees assigned to MGQ's Airport Operations Center (AOC) to establish and exercise emergency operations plans for responding to and managing critical incidents at the airport within four months of AOC space allocation, in direct coordination with Somali law enforcement and other relevant Somali authorities.

II. AWARD INFORMATION AND APPLICATION EVALUATION AND SCORING

The Department of State will issue an award to the applicant whose proposal represents the best value to the U.S. Government on the basis of technical merit, efficient use of U.S. Government funds, and satisfactory organizational capacity.

The Department of State reserves the right to make an award on the basis of initial application received with or without discussion or negotiations. Therefore, applications should contain the applicants' best terms from both cost and technical standpoints.

Leahy vetting is required when training or assistance is provided to foreign security forces, including when such assistance is provided under a grant or cooperative agreement. Leahy Vetting requirements will be fully outlined in the award Agreement for recipients.

It is Department of State policy that English is the official language and U.S. dollar is the controlling currency. Proposal and related supporting documents must be English and accompanying budget in U.S. dollars.

Eligible applications will be evaluated by an independent review panel consisting of subject matter experts from other DOS bureaus/or offices or other USG agencies.

Bureau will conduct a merit review of all eligible applications as outlined in this NOFO. Applications will be reviewed by an independent review panel consisting of qualified subject matter experts from other DOS bureaus and offices, U.S. Embassies, or other USG agencies. Final approval resides with the DOS Grants Office.

The independent review panel will evaluate each application individually against the following criteria, listed below in order of importance.

The review panel will apply the following criteria when rating proposals:

1. Quality of Project Idea

- The proposal responds to the NOFO and is appropriate in the country context;
- The proposal exhibits originality but is feasible;
- The proposal directly connects proposed activities with the desired outcomes (goals and objectives).

2. Project Planning/Ability to Achieve Objectives

- The proposal provides a detailed work plan of proposed project activities and includes a clear articulation of how these activities will contribute to the overall project's goals and objectives;
- The proposal-articulated the project activities are specific, measurable, attainable, and placed in a reasonable time frame (SMART).

3. Organizational Capability and Record of Performance

- The proposal demonstrates an institutional record of previous successfully-implemented projects in target regions outlined in this NOFO;
- The proposal articulates past performance and experience in working with relevant host governments, local organizations, and communities. The proposal clearly defines the roles and responsibilities of primary staff under this project;
- The proposal describes the division of labor among the Recipient organization and potential implementing partner organization(s) and identifies local partner organization(s) that would assist with implementation, where appropriate;
- Proposal addresses how the project will engage or obtain support from relevant stakeholders.

4. Cost Effectiveness

- The administration of the proposal budget, including salaries and honoraria, are explained and justified for the work involved;
- Proposed costs are reasonable and necessary and linked to program objectives and demonstrate efficient use of U.S. Government funds.

NOTE: This NOFO does not require cost-share. Applicants may voluntarily offer cost share; however, cost share will not be factored in during proposal review.

5. Project Monitoring and Evaluation

- The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan includes narrative explaining how monitoring and evaluation will be carried out and who will be responsible for monitoring and evaluation activities (including potential contracted M&E experts, if applicable).

6. Sustainability of Impact

- Clearly delineates how impact will be sustainable beyond the life of the grant.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

Please refer to the Proposal Submission Instructions (PSI) for additional application submission instructions, including information on required documents and format.

Please follow both, the PSI and the NOFO, to ensure that the proposal package submission is in full compliance with the requirements. Proposal submissions that do not meet all of the requirements outlined in this NOFO and PSI will **not** be considered.

FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION:

Issuance of this NOFO does **not** constitute a commitment on the part of the Department of State to issue an award nor does it commit the U.S. Government to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of an application. Furthermore, award cannot be issued until funds have been fully appropriated, allocated, and committed through internal DOS procedures. While it is anticipated that these procedures will be successfully completed, potential applicants are hereby notified of these requirements. All preparation and submission costs are at the applicant's expense.

Pursuant to 2 CFR 200.400 g, it is U.S. Department of State policy **not** to award profit under assistance instruments.

2 CFR §200.501 requires domestic/US non-federal entities that *expend* \$750,000, or more, in federal assistance during organization's fiscal year to have a single or program-specific audit conducted for that year. In addition, the entity must report the collected audit data elements on the form SF-SAC and submit it to the FAC. Any findings such as material weaknesses, significant deficiencies, or material noncompliance are reported on the SF-SAC.

The Federal award signed by the Grants Officer is the only authorizing document.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Recipient will be required to submit Quarterly Progress and Quarterly Financial Reports (SF-425), unless special conditions apply, describing key activities undertaken during the reporting period towards accomplishment of the stated objectives. Financial Reports provide a means of monitoring expenditures.

NOTE: It is Department's of State policy that English is the official language of all award documents. If reports or any other supporting documents are provided in both English and a foreign language, it must be stated in each version that the **English language version is the controlling version. U.S. dollar is the controlling currency.** Financial reports must be submitted in U.S. dollars.

OTHER INFORMATION:

Mandatory disclosures (2 CFR 200.113)

Non-federal entity, recipient or applicant for a federal award must disclose, in a timely manner, in writing to the federal awarding agency or pass-through entity all violations of federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the federal award. Non-federal entities that have received a Federal award including the term and condition outlined in Appendix XII of the 2 CFR 200—Award Terms and Conditions for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters -- are required to report certain civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings to www.sam.gov.

Failure to make required disclosures can result in any of the remedies described in §200.338 Remedies for Noncompliance, including suspension or debarment.

Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS)

A federal awarding agency, prior to making a federal award, will review and consider any information about the applicant that is in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through www.sam.gov (currently FAPIIS) (see 41 U.S.C. 2313). Applicant, at its option, may review information in the designated integrity and performance systems accessible through www.sam.gov and comment on any information about itself that a Federal awarding agency previously entered and is currently in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through www.sam.gov. Federal awarding agency will consider any comments by the applicant, in addition to the other information in the designated integrity and performance system. Applicant organizations must demonstrate adherence to equal opportunity employment practices and commitment to non-discrimination with respect to beneficiaries. Non-discrimination includes equal treatment without regard to race, religion, ethnicity, gender, and political affiliation. Applicants are reminded that U.S. Executive Orders and U.S. law prohibits transactions with or support to individuals or organizations associated with terrorism.

Proposals that reflect any type of support for any member, affiliate, or representative or a designate to terrorist organization or narcotics trafficker, including elected members of government, will NOT be considered. This provision must be included in any sub-awards/sub-contracts issued under this award.

III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

See the cover page, Eligibility Category.

Applicants should demonstrate expertise with training in sensitive environments, particularly in regions prone to terrorist activity. Applicants should also demonstrate in-depth understanding of Somali cultural contexts and governance structures.

IV. AGENCY CONTACTS

Any prospective applicant desiring an explanation or interpretation of this NOFO must request it in writing by the *deadline for questions* specified on page 1 (cover page). Information given to a prospective applicant concerning this NOFO will be furnished promptly to all other prospective applicants as a 'Questions and Answers' attachment to this NOFO.

Any questions concerning this NOFO should be submitted in writing, by email, to Ian Platz (PlatzIC@state.gov) and Jim Loucks (LoucksJ@state.gov) along with the project's title as outlined in the NOFO; the funding opportunity number; and applicant's legal name and organizational status.