

Expression of Interest (ARB/24/2022)

Invitation for the Provision of Service of an IT/Crypto/Blockchain Expert for the Asset Recovery Bureau Published on 26/April/2022

1. Introduction

1.1. The Asset Recovery Bureau (hereinafter referred to as the Contracting Authority or the ARB) is a public entity established under Subsidiary Legislation 9.23, known as the Asset Recovery Bureau Regulations.

1.2. The ARB is looking for the services of an IT/Crypto/Blockchain expert to render services in relation to the tracing, identification, recovery, transfer and confiscation of digital property which for the purpose of this call shall include digital assets, virtual assets, virtual financial assets and crypto assets and their respective keys if applicable.

1.3. The expert will be acting on behalf of the ARB, following their specific instructions and will liaise with Police, Court experts, the Attorney General and any other authorised person

2. Requirements and Duties

The ARB Expert must in particular be:

- conversant and familiar with open, live and powered off devices which might be used as custody, wallets or container of digital property;
- able to trace, identify digital property;
- able to assess the possibility of and identify technical means for the secure access, transferring and recovery of crypto assets;
- able to assess, identify document and implement security measures and procedures to be followed in the instances mentioned above.

Duties will also include to:

- Assist ARB in devising and updating the necessary policies.
- Pro-actively advise ARB on how to improve its policies, based on international standards and best-practice.
- Research and investigate with ARB officials, document and report as necessary on the setting up of procedures for the identification, tracing transferring, recovery and handling of digital property , secure handling of keys and other activity within the remit of ARB.
- Training of ARB officials.
- Advise ARB on hardware and/or software that has to be procured in order for tracing, identification and transfers to be effected when ARB are called on scene or on a site by the Police.
- Attend on site, either at Police HQ, third-party premises and/or other location where keys and/or access control devices for the assets are present at the time that the transfer needs to take place) and assist as necessary the Police, Court and ARB experts to perform the transfer from third party assets (hardware or software and whether in physical environments as well as virtual)to ARB wallets in a secure, diligent and effective manner.
- Verify that transfers have been executed successfully.
- Perform such activity in an secure and auditable manner.
- Document and report procedures and outcomes of such activity, and report back to the ARB Director in a formal manner in the form of a written report.

3. Terms and Conditions

- a) The Expert has to assume responsibility for the Technical Report as regards its content and this must be accompanied by an oath. If a corporate body is appointed as a technical expert, it should nonetheless ensure that a natural person within such a body takes over responsibility for the content of the Technical Report on Oath.



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- b) The Expert shall be notified at a reasonable time in advance (at least 48hrs prior to the onsite visit) and furnished with all the required information in writing by the officer responsible from ARB.
- c) The Expert is expected to submit the Technical Report on Oath within ten (10) working days from the date of the onsite visit. The Expert must have the time and the technical tools, devices and means to conduct the assessment within the ARB timetable and in a correct way. Subsequently, he/ she may be required to explain and elaborate on the report presented before a court of law.
- d) The ARB may decide to appoint other experts as may be required. It may also be possible that the expert deems it necessary to obtain a second opinion concerning details outside his/her area of expertise as long as such opinion is provided under oath and in line with the letter of appointment signed in between the Expert and the ARB.
- e) The Expert must possess a suitable qualification and/or license and the necessary experience or skills. The qualification depends on the area of expertise and on the specific task. The requirements regarding the qualification of the Expert therefore vary according to the different job profiles and the assignment of tasks.
- f) The Expert has to remain independent concerning the case under examination. The Expert must declare if there are any conflict of interest with the accused (with the particular case) whenever an assignment is handed to him/her by the ARB. He/she must guarantee in the Technical Report that his/her opinion is given in an objective manner.
- g) The Expert should be able to present his technical opinion in clear and comprehensible language and, where necessary, also in the required official language used in court. He/she should also choose a style of presentation which enables the addressees of the Technical Report to understand the statements not only linguistically but also substantively, and enables the addressees to undertake an assessment of evidence.
- h) The Expert needs to be in possession of a valid VAT number.
- i) Every invoice presented to the ARB should contain an Invoice date, the Expert's general details, the amount in Euro (net of Vat) and the VAT Component together with the total amount due. Invoices should also include a description of service carried out.

4. Eligibility Requirements

- 4.1 Demonstrated knowledge and experience in blockchain, crypto, and decentralized platforms.
- 4.2 Hands-on experience working on DLT-based systems.
- 4.3 Experience in technical and regulatory aspects of crypto assets, including NFTs, DAOs, DeFi and/or other areas within the crypto ecosystem.
- 4.4 Documented certification, knowledge and experience of cybersecurity, including secure handling of keys for digital assets.
- 4.5 Ability to communicate clearly in verbal and written presentation.

5. Submission

- 5.1 Interested parties are to submit their interest by filling in Annex I of this Expression of Interest and attach all relevant documentation. **Submissions are to reach the ARB by not later than Monday 16th May 2022 at 1700hrs via the email address indicated in clause 5.2 below;**
- 5.2 The Expression of Interest including all documents may be submitted to the Asset Recovery Bureau, electronically on the following email address: arbmalta@assetrecovery.mt;
- 5.3 This is an ongoing expression of interest and all interested parties will be included in a list of experts. The conditions related to the provision of these services shall be enshrined in the Letter of Appointment issued by the ARB to the respective expert;
- 5.4 The service shall be required according to the exigency of the ARB and may be terminated by the ARB at any time. The Expert may also terminate their engagement at any time, as long as there is no pending onsite visits;
- 5.5. A Commitment will come about when the Letter of Appointment is issued by the ARB;
- 5.6 By submitting their interest, the expert is accepting that this procedure is regulated by Maltese Law, and are deemed to be aware of all relevant laws; acts



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and regulations of Malta that may in any way affect or govern the operations and activities covered by the procedure.

- 5.7 Applicants shall bear all costs associated with the preparation and submission of their interest. The Asset Recovery Bureau shall not reimburse any fee associated with the preparation of the expression of interest in the event that any or all interest/s is/are rejected.
- 5.8 The ARB reserves the right to cancel this Expression of Interest and reject all interests that had been received and also reserves the right to initiate a new Expression of Interest.



Annex I – Submission Table

<u>General Details</u>	
Name of Expert / Firm	
Area of expertise	
Legal representative/s	
Address	
Email Address	
Contact No. (Mob)	
Website (if applicable)	
VAT Registration No.	
ID Card No.	

Financial Offer

Description	Maximum Number of Hours	Fee € per hour	Total € including any taxes but excl. VAT
Tracing, identification, recovery, transfer and confiscation of digital property including relevant report/s	500		

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Declaration:

I declare that by signing this form I have read, understood and agreed to abide to the Requirements and Duties in Section 2 and Terms and Conditions in Section 3 of this Expression of Interest.