Vacancy Notice: WHO R&D Blueprint Consultant

BACKGROUND

The mission of the Department of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals (IVB) is to work towards a world in which all people are vaccinated against vaccine preventable diseases. The overall work of the department is distributed in three main areas:

1. Initiative Vaccine Research Team (IVR) that provides leadership on the research activities to develop new or improved vaccines against diseases of public health importance and to facilitate their introduction and use. For more information, see: http://www.who.int/immunization/research/en/.

2. Immunization policy that provides guidance and norms for vaccine roll-out.

3. The Expanded Programme on Immunization Team (EPI) whose work is aimed at developing strategies for maximizing the use of vaccines and their delivery; supporting regions and countries in acquiring the necessary skills, competence and infrastructure to implement policies and strategies and achieve disease control/elimination and eradication objectives.

The research and development (R&D) Blueprint is a global strategy and preparedness plan to address highly infectious diseases and strengthen the emergency response by bringing medical technologies to patients during epidemics. With WHO as convener and a broad global coalition of experts, it aims to fast-track the availability of effective tests, vaccines and medicines that can be used to save lives and avert large scale crisis. To that end, WHO is coordinating the elaboration of R&D roadmaps, from basic research through to late-stage development, licensure and early use of products, for priority diseases that have the potential of becoming epidemic, such as the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD).

The Global Ebola Vaccine Implementation Team (GEVIT), involves the most affected countries and a range of partners, and was created under WHO leadership to facilitate the collaborative planning for the potential use of Ebola vaccines. The next three major steps are to ensure coordination of updates of the GEVIT practical guidance and tools; to maintain efforts for the integration of GEVIT outcomes with the Ebola preparedness and response activities as well as with the immunization activities at global, regional and country level; and to consolidate Ebola vaccine demand estimates.

PURPOSE OF THE CONSULTANCY

A qualified and experienced consultant is sought to support WHO's work in coordinating the establishment of R&D Blueprint roadmaps for priority pathogens and to provide vaccine expertise and scientific support to WHO's work on GEVIT priority activities.

Working closely with staff in WHO's Department of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals, Initiative for Vaccine Research team as well as in the Health Systems and Innovation (HIS) cluster and in the WHO Health Emergencies Programme (WHE); and with input from technical partners, the consultant will be responsible for:
1. Contributing medical vaccine expertise to GEVIT priority activities, including scientific updates to the GEVIT plans and tools, advice and technical briefings during dedicated activities and consultations in priority countries;

2. Providing expert advice to the development of a generic methodology for the elaboration and harmonization of R&D roadmaps;

3. Conducting and/or critically assessing background baseline situation analyses to map and assess the status of critical gaps and advances in ongoing research and product-development initiatives of diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines for WHO priority pathogens to inform the subsequent development of R&D roadmaps;

4. Supporting WHO’s work in the scientific coordination and interaction with working groups, collaborators and partners, in relation to each roadmap work plan related to WHO priority pathogens.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

Qualifications and experience
1. Doctoral qualifications in a health-related field.
2. At least 20 years of relevant professional experience working in the field of vaccine R&D, including preclinical evaluation and clinical development.
3. Experience working with multiple stakeholders, including health authorities, academic institutions and industry.

Skills and knowledge
1. Capacity to interact with technical experts in public health organisations, governments, academia, and industry; with respect to R&D for vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics.
2. Excellent oral and written communication skills in English, comfort presenting at technical meetings in French.
3. Knowledge and solid analytical skills in vaccines and infectious diseases, including viral vaccine development and evaluation.

DATES AND DUTY STATION

The position will start by 30 April 2017 and will run through 30 March 2018 (subject to confirmation). The consultant will not be expected to work at any given location, but to travel at least monthly to WHO Headquarters in Geneva, at least once to Africa for technical meetings.

HOW TO APPLY

Please submit applications by e-mail to preziosim@who.int, “Consultant: WHO R&D Blueprint” in the subject line.

Please include:
(1) a letter of motivation and
(2) a current curriculum vitae.

All applications will be acknowledged. The closing date for applications is 12 April 2017.