Vacancy notice:

Consultant Project manager within the Initiative for Vaccine Research, Department of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals

1. Purpose of the Consultancy

The purpose of the consultancy is to support the activities of the research and product development team within the Initiative for Vaccine Research, including meeting and workgroup planning for projects related to IVB’s Product Development for Vaccines Advisory Committee (PDVAC).

2. Background

WHO’s Department of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals (IVB) includes the Initiative for Vaccine Research (IVR), which provides leadership on research activities to develop new vaccines or improve existing vaccines against diseases of public health importance and to facilitate their introduction and use. The vaccine development group within IVR focuses on facilitation of early stage R&D in disease areas with no available vaccines or sub-optimal vaccines, and where research is needed to optimize public health impact of underutilized existing vaccines.

PDVAC identifies priority pathogens for the vaccine development group within IVR, and its recommendations inform the work plan of the technical unit. The committee meets annually, but has a number of smaller product specific working groups. Currently prioritized diseases include HIV, tuberculosis, malaria, RSV, Group B streptococcus, HSV, enteric diseases, vaccines against antimicrobial resistance.

3. Description of the position

A talented, motivated and experienced consultant is sought to support WHO’s technical work in providing global guidance on vaccine development against global health priority diseases. The consultant will be passionate about global health, protecting vulnerable populations against infectious diseases and vaccine development. On the job experience will include exposure to a wide variety of international vaccine development stakeholders and provide important learning and career development opportunities.

Working closely with staff in WHO’s Department of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals, and with input from technical partners, the consultant will be responsible for: supporting IVR in preparing for subject specific consultations on diseases of priority for vaccine development, including the annual PDVAC meeting; setting up and co-ordinating its various working groups; providing assistance to write technical documents and document management; establish and maintain the website for IVR, PDVAC and its working groups; develop or source the technical background documents required for meetings and communications. The consultant will provide technical assistance to manage the internal WHO processes.

4. Specific requirements

- Qualifications required:
  - Minimal bachelor’s degree in epidemiology, public health, sciences, or related field (preference Masters degree)
  - Project management qualification or experience an advantage.

- Experience required:
  - At least 3 years of experience in a public health organisation, product development partnership or private industry
  - Experience working in the field of project management/product development related to vaccination an advantage

- Skills / Technical skills and knowledge:
- Capability to interact with technical experts in public health organisations, governments, academia, and industry, with respect to vaccination;
- High quality scientific writing, reporting skills and strong experience in developing and editing proposals, documents, technical reports and communication materials;
- Results-oriented management style, self-starter and excellent consultative and organization skills;
- Demonstrated collaborative mindset, adaptable to team environment, willingness to work independently

5. Dates and Duty Station
The position is intended to start by 15th August 2018 and will run through 15th August 2019.

6. How to apply
Please submit applications by e-mail to giersingb@who.int and vekemansj@who.int, indicating “Consultant: IVR project manager” in the subject line. Please include: (i) a cover letter and (ii) your current curriculum vitae. All applications will be acknowledged. The closing date for applications is 29th June 2018.