



**REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS**  
**RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**CHIEF COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE**



**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST  
(CONSULTANCY SERVICES )**

**CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR A FEASIBILITY STUDY ON THE PROPOSED  
NEW RUNWAY AT SIR GAETAN DUVAL AIRPORT IN RODRIGUES**

**1. Background**

The Government of Mauritius is proposing to carry out a feasibility study on the construction of a longer runway at Sir Gaetan Duval Airport, Plaine Corail, Rodrigues, the second largest island of the Republic of Mauritius. Since 2002, following the promulgation of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act 2001, the 108 m<sup>2</sup> island located 560 km east of Mauritius Island, in the middle of the Indian Ocean enjoys an autonomy status in several areas of state responsibilities. The population is currently estimated at 37,000 inhabitants.

Currently, the main economic activities in Rodrigues are tourism, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMES) and handicrafts, agriculture, farming and fishing. With the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), a Sustainable Integrated Development Plan for Rodrigues (SIDPR) (available on website: [www.rra.mu](http://www.rra.mu)) has been elaborated and its implementation has already started. The report elaborates on the huge potential of the tourism sector in order to alleviate poverty by the creation of productive activities. Among the main constraints of the sector are the issues of air access, lack of investment, and high cost of air tickets. In this respect, it has been argued that a longer runway is expected to: (a) enable the landing of larger planes, thereby entailing a decrease in costs per seat; (b) promote regional flights to Rodrigues; (c) attract more tourists to Rodrigues; (d) and encourage many of the prospective promoters to invest in hotel development projects. In order to promote the tourism sector, a series of measures are being implemented concurrently to boost up this sector.

The construction of a longer runway is high on the agenda of the Regional Government. All flights presently being operated to Rodrigues Island are domestic flights from Mauritius. Foreign visitors travelling to Rodrigues have to transit through Mauritius. Air Mauritius operates to Rodrigues with a fleet of two turbo-prop ATR72-500 aircrafts configured with 72 economy class seats. The operation of the turbo-prop fleet is primarily dictated by the services on the Rodrigues route since the runway length of 1278 meters at the airport cannot take bigger sized aircraft. Moreover, for operational reasons, the ATR72-500 has payload penalty on the route so that a maximum of 64 passengers only can be carried to Rodrigues. This constraint entails inefficiency inbuilt in the operation to Rodrigues. The number of

passengers handled at the airport peaked at 117 580 in 2003 and dropped to 95,918 in 2008 following an increase in the price of air tickets due to a rise in fuel prices.

## **2. Services**

In 2000, the Master Plan of the Sir Gaetan Duval Airport was first prepared by Aéroports de Paris International (ADPi). The Master Plan at that point in time proposed three options for the extension of airport runway, namely: (i) the extension of the runway on one side towards Anse Quitor valley; (ii) the extension of the runway on the other side towards the sea and Fregates Island; (iii) and the construction of a new runway of 2100m adjacent to the existing runway. In August 2008, the ADPi undertook the review of the Master Plan and submitted its report. The revised Master Plan proposes the setting up of a new runway close to the current one reaching up to 3000m to facilitate landing of larger aircrafts. The first phase of the new runway would reach 2100m. The current runway will be used as a taxiway and helipad and/or kept as a shorter alternative runway (in case of heavy winds, maintenance, etc). The new alignment for the proposed runway has been worked out with a view to having a reduction cost of the project, by decreasing the earth fill to a minimum; and the utilization of all materials obtained from the earth cuts for other civil works on Rodrigues Island.

## **3. Contract duration**

Following the above review of the Master Plan by the ADPi, the Central Government and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly have agreed that a complete feasibility study would have to be carried out for the construction of a new runway. The consultancy services for the feasibility study will commence by April 2010 and shall be of a duration of about four months. The consultancy team comprising a multi-disciplinary team of Transport Economist and Engineers will be expected to make a technical, economic and financial assessment of the proposals. The scope of services will include( but not limited to): inspection and assessment of the infrastructure and assets; passenger forecast; assessment of possibilities that Rodrigues be served by other airlines; trade offs investigation and (unforeseen) consequences, review of previous Development Plans and studies; consideration of different options, including private sector participation and possibility of third-party funding, for constructing or developing the airport runway and airport facilities to cater for the future development of the airport and state in detail, the economic, socio-economic and environmental impacts, and other consequences of providing the new airport facilities; formulate a strategy for the development of airport facilities based on all relevant aspects and facts and propose any changes to the existing set up; and establish the business plan of the next 20 years, including forecast of passenger, per annum investment cost, the various revenues with variables hypothesis concerning the aeronautical revenues, the various charges and the various positive impacts on the different economic stakeholders.

## **4. Submission of Proposals**

The Rodrigues Regional Assembly (RRA) now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing the above-mentioned services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc). Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications.

The consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's **Guidelines for the selection and Employment of consultants by the World Bank borrowers (Current edition)**. Interested consultants may obtain further information at the addresses below between 08.15 to 15.15 hours on working days. Information may also be sought by email at the address below:

Departmental Head  
Chief Commissioner's Office  
Central Administration  
Port Mathurin  
Rodrigues Island  
REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS  
Tel/ Fax: (230)832 0276  
Email: [pmattan@mail.gov.mu](mailto:pmattan@mail.gov.mu)

**OR**

The Officer in Charge  
Economic Planning & Monitoring  
Unit (EPMU)  
Chief Commissioner's Office  
Central Administration  
Port Mathurin  
Rodrigues Island  
REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS  
Tel: (230) 831 0852/ 831 0673  
Email: [mjeetoo@mail.gov.mu](mailto:mjeetoo@mail.gov.mu)

The Expression of Interest and all documentations, in sealed envelope marked "*Consultancy Services for a Feasibility study on the proposed runway extension at Sir Geatan Duval Airport in Rodrigues*", should be sent to the Departmental Head, Chief Commissioner's Office, Port Mathurin, Rodrigues, Republic of Mauritius by 15.15 hours local time on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2010 at latest.

Chief Commissioner's Office  
Central Administration  
Port Mathurin  
Rodrigues Island  
REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS  
**22 December 2009**