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EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

2026 BRIDGE PRINCIPAL INSPECTION AND BRIDGE UPGRADE OR REPLACEMENT PRE-FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE VICTORIA FALLS BRIDGE

1. Background

The Victoria Falls Bridge is an indivisible international asset jointly owned by the Republics of Zambia and Zimbabwe through Emerged Railways Properties (Pvt) Limited (ERP), a Special Purpose Vehicle co-owned by Zambia Railways Limited (ZRL) and the National Railways of Zimbabwe (NRZ).

The bridge is a live railway structure of major strategic, economic, and heritage importance, located within a sensitive environmental and tourism setting. As asset owner, ERP is responsible for ensuring that the bridge is managed and maintained in a manner that preserves structural integrity, operational safety, heritage value, and long-term sustainability.

As part of its bridge management regime, ERP undertakes a Principal Inspection every five (5) years. Given the age and long-term strategic importance of the bridge, the 2026 Principal Inspection is also intended to inform forward-looking planning regarding remaining service life and long-term sustainability options.

ERP hereby invites Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from suitably qualified engineering firms from Zambia and Zimbabwe for the 2026 Principal Inspection and Pre-Feasibility Bridge Upgrade Study.

2. Purpose of the EOI

The purpose of this EOI is to:

- Identify suitably qualified and experienced engineering firm(s) or Joint Ventures (JVs); and
- Establish a shortlist of firms to be invited to participate in a subsequent Request for Proposals (RFP).

This EOI is issued for shortlisting purposes only and does not constitute a commitment to award a contract nor a guarantee to be invited to participate in the RFP.

3. Overview of the Assignment

The assignment will comprise two related but distinct components:

a) Principal Inspection (Detailed Technical Component)

A comprehensive and independent Principal Inspection of the bridge to provide a detailed technical assessment of its current condition, risk assessment, and determination of useful remaining, among other requirements.

b) Bridge Upgrade Pre-Feasibility Study

A high-level, non-design pre-feasibility advisory assessment, informed by the Principal Inspection findings, to support strategic decision-making on the bridge's long-term future, including continued operation, life extension, decommissioning planning, or potential replacement pathways, among other options in line with the ERP's Asset Replacement & Succession Policy.

Note that the EOI outcomes will also help to inform whether the two components must be issued together or as separate assignments.

4. Scope

4.1 Principal Inspection – Extent

The Principal Inspection is expected to cover:

- The full bridge structure, including the superstructure, substructure, deck system, bearings, and other primary structural components; and
- The immediate approach and transition zones, insofar as they influence structural performance and safe operation. Other aspects include, but not limited to, road bridge approach expansion joints, safety barriers, drainage systems, among others;
- The specific scope and extent of any intervention, including potential design and implementation documentation, shall be fully defined at the RFP stage.

4.2. Pre-Feasibility Study

A high level pre-feasibility component is expected to:

- Interpret inspection findings in relation to remaining service life considerations;
- Outline potential long-term strategic pathways for the bridge upgrade or replacement; and
- Identify key constraints, risks, and considerations relevant for future planning;
- Provide preliminary concepts with ballpark design & execution estimates.

Exclusions on 4.2:
This component shall not include detailed nor final engineering design (but may include conceptual design illustrations, 3D renderings), feasibility aspects, and indicative ball-pack cost estimates aimed at reinforcing the pre-feasibility recommendations.

5. Local Participation and International Expertise

ERP requires that the assignment be undertaken through a partnership, association, or Joint Venture (JV) between:

- A qualified and experienced locally registered engineering firm; and
- An international engineering firm with relevant experience in major bridge inspections, principal inspections and bridge upgrade or replacement pre-feasibility or feasibility studies.

Respondents must provide a preliminary proposed operational and technical structure of the partnership that will answer the above requirements.

6. Eligibility Requirements

Interested firms must demonstrate:

(i). Professional Registration

- Zambian firms or JV partners: Registration with the Engineering Institution of Zambia (EIZ);
- Zimbabwean firms or JV partners: Registration with the Zimbabwe Institution of Engineers (ZIE) and Engineering Council of Zimbabwe (ECZ;
- International JV partners: Registration with relevant professional bodies as required.

(ii). Relevant Experience

- Demonstrable experience in Principal Inspections of major bridges, preferably steel and/or heritage structures;
- Demonstrable experience in bridge upgrade or replacement feasibility studies.

(iii). Key Expertise

- Availability of suitably qualified bridge inspection and structural engineering experts.

(iv). Independence

- Ability to undertake independent and credible work non-negotiable.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

ERP will not pay for any costs incurred by potential bidders or firms that respond to this advertisement nor will it refund any amounts spend in this regard. However, under conditions of strict confidentiality, ERP will provide any necessary information to enable potential bidders to submit an EOI as required.

7. Submission Requirements

EOI submissions shall comprise one (1) consolidated PDF document containing:

- Company profile;
- Proof of professional registration;
- Summary of relevant experience;
- Brief profiles of key personnel;
- Proposed JV or partnership structure (where applicable); and
- Declaration of independence and conflict of interest.

Note: ERP Provides assurance of the highest confidentiality for any information submitted and that this will not be used for any other purpose except as outlined above.

8. Shortlisting

EOIs will be evaluated based on relevant experience, technical capability, availability of key expertise, and robustness of the proposed partnership structure. A limited number of firms or JVs will be shortlisted and invited to the RFP stage.

9. Submission Details

Submission Format: One (1) PDF via email

Submission Emails:

- chishimba.mutale@zrl.com.zm

Copy to:

- corpaffairs@nrz.co.zw
- claudia.sikaulu@zrl.com.zm

A MANDATORY PRE-SUBMISSION VIRTUAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR 17TH APRIL 2026 AT 10HRS

Closing Date: 30 April 2026 at 16:00 hours. Late submissions will **not** be considered.

ANY QUERIES OR CLARIFICTIONS IN REGARD TO THIS EOI MAY BE DIRECTED TO:

The CEO at Emerged Railways Properties (Pvt) Ltd using the email: <u>logan.nyasulu@emergedrailways.com</u>