

Introducing the National Quality Infrastructure Project for Nigeria (NQIP) Component 3



building trust for trade

THE NATIONAL QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE
PROJECT FOR NIGERIA

The National Quality Infrastructure Project for Nigeria (NQIP) supports the development of missing standards and quality control bodies in Nigeria, with the overall objective of improving the competitiveness of Nigerian goods and services on the domestic, regional and global markets. Component 3 of 5 focuses on the enhancement of metrology services in Nigeria. In particular, it aims to establish a National Metrology Institute (NMI), which would ensure calibration of instruments and traceability of measurement in line with international standards.

National Metrology Institute (NMI)

The primary objective of the NQIP Component 3 is the establishment of the Nigerian National Metrology Institute (NMI) with its statutes, premises, business plan, leadership, internal organization, personnel and resources. The project is also providing capacity-building services to the Weights & Measurement Department of the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment (legal metrology department).

A National Metrology Institute is essential for traceability used in industry, commerce and services, and its standards should in turn be linked to international measuring standards. Such an institute assures the accuracy of measuring instruments, allowing more trust in human activities that use such devices in production processes, tests, trade, health, justice, sports and many other sectors. Before NQIP, there was no nationwide recognized NMI to provide calibration services and traceability which would ensure that Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) in the country have appropriate competencies to carry out their operations.



What is Metrology?

The most basic necessity of a trading system is metrology, without which the ability to determine length, mass, volume, time and temperature, and even make the simplest transactions, would be open to abuse. This would make regulating trade – especially fair trade – impossible, and legislation aimed at protecting health and welfare of citizens would be of no effect. A national measurement or metrology system is therefore the first step in facilitating trade.

The NQIP developed a business plan and organizational structure for the National Metrology Institute as well as a roadmap for the initialization of its operations. Presently, the building which will house the Nigerian National Metrology Institute is under construction in Enugu. Furthermore, the procurement process for relevant temperature/humidity, pressure and electricity equipment is under way. The NMI facilities are expected to be commissioned and the equipment installed in the second half of 2017. Training for 20 metrologists will be offered upon confirmation that all relevant NMI staff have been recruited.

NQIP in Brief

Donor: European Union

Implementer: UNIDO - Department of Trade, Investment and Innovation

Budget: EUR 12,080,000

Duration: 5 years (July 2013 - July 2018)

Website: <http://www.nqi-nigeria.org/>



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