

Italy-Ispra: Framework contract for the supply of satellite remote sensing data and associated services in support to checks within the common agricultural policy (CAP) — ‘topographic’ VHR profile (‘VHR+ profile’)

OJ S 218/2015 11/11/2015

Contract award notice

Supplies

Directive 2004/18/EC

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1. Name and addresses

Official name: European Commission, Joint Research Centre (JRC), Institute for Environment and Sustainability

Postal address: via Enrico Fermi 2749, TP 581

Town: Ispra VA

Postal code: 21027

Country: Italy

For the attention of: Mr David Eardley

E-mail: jrc-ispra-ies-procurement@ec.europa.eu

Fax: +39 0332789540

Internet address(es):

General address of the contracting authority: <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/>

Electronic access to information: <http://web.jrc.ec.europa.eu/callsfortender>

I.2. Type of the contracting authority

European institution/agency or international organisation

I.3. Main activity

General public services

Other: Research.

I.4. Contract award on behalf of other contracting authorities

The contracting authority is purchasing on behalf of other contracting authorities: no

Section II: Object of the contract

II.1. Description

II.1.1. Title

Framework contract for the supply of satellite remote sensing data and associated services in support to checks within the common agricultural policy (CAP) — ‘topographic’ VHR profile (‘VHR+ profile’).

II.1.2. Type of contract and place of performance or delivery

Supplies

Purchase

Main site or place of performance: JRC (Ispra, Italy) and Member States (MS) administrations.

NUTS code

II.1.3. Information about a framework agreement or a dynamic purchasing system (DPS)

The procurement involves the establishment of a framework agreement

II.1.4. Short description of the contract or purchase(s)

Since the control with remote sensing (CwRS) programme began some 20 years ago, the JRC has developed and implemented a process in support to DG Agriculture and Rural Development whereby satellite image data can be used to check declarations made under the common agricultural policy (CAP) concerning crop types and the areas farmed. With the growing availability of better satellite data (in terms of resolution and number of spectral bands), a more efficient acquisition (more agile sensors, and an increased number of sensors) and greatly improved IT technology, these techniques are now in routine, operational use. Key to the success is the timeliness of image supply during the growing season, maintaining an ever-increasing high level of image quality to minimise doubts or disputes during interpretation and ensuring the confidentiality of the operation.

It is an additional contract to the very high resolution (VHR) profile (FWC 389.911) and high resolution (HR) profile (FWC 389.912) framework contracts awarded in early 2014. In these contracts, the imagery to be collected and delivered within the required time specifications is defined as so-called sensor-independent 'profiles'. The high resolution (HR) image, and very high resolution (VHR) image 'profiles' have clearly defined specifications (e.g. on spatial resolution, spectral resolution, number of spectral bands, geometric accuracy, elevation angle, processing levels, etc.) fitting the CAP controls' CwRS programme, and land parcel identification system (LPIS) quality assurance.

The JRC now aims to increase image quality with the addition of a new profile in the VHR domain explicitly asked for by the EU MS administrations to comply with the new CAP legislation starting in 2015, where the application of 'greening' elements to direct payments plays an important part. This will include measurements and identification concerning crop diversification, permanent grassland, and ecological focused areas (EFAs). The new profile to be introduced by this framework contract will be called 'topographic' VHR profile, abbreviated to 'VHR+ profile'. This profile is defined to include imagery acquired at a higher elevation angle in order to provide imagery with less tilt (typically 67–90 deg., or off-nadir-angle 0–20 deg.), imagery of a better ground sampling distance (GSD), and imagery with more spectral bands and higher spectral resolution than the presently accepted 'prime' VHR profile. Elevation angle, resolution, and number of bands are issues crucial for geometric accuracy and for feature interpretation and only such a profile will allow the tolerances on parcel measurement imposed by the new regulation to be reached especially in hilly terrain.

An example profile may therefore have the following characteristics:

- description: bundle (i.e. pan plus multispectral bands),
- spatial resolution: pan GSD $\leq 0,50$ m, multispectral GSD $\leq 2,0$ m (where GSD = ground sampling distance),
- radiometric resolution and bands: minimum 8 bits/pixel (11–12 bits/pixel highly recommended), multispectral 4 bands at least including B, G, R, NIR (where NIR = near infrared),
- absolute geometric accuracy achievable in orthorectification: RMSE, x, y $\leq 2,0$ m (where RMSE = root mean square error),
- programming: priority,
- elevation angle restriction: 67–90 deg.,
- cloud cover threshold categories over AOI: ≤ 10 % validated, ≥ 10 % proposed,
- delivery specification is within 6 days of order.

Management of image acquisition (i.e. to cover the correct areas at the correct times of the growing season) is currently undertaken by the 2 existing contractors under the supervision and quality control (QC) of the JRC. The contractor for the supplies and related services under this call will have to follow the same workflow management, in coordination with the other

framework contractors.

The supplier will be asked to manage VHR+ image acquisition activities necessary after the control zone and window definition all the way to the final image delivery in compliance with the specifications set up. Those activities will include e.g. feasibility assessment, interfacing with stakeholders, final scenario approval, image acquisition, QC and image validation, delivery, archive upload, and reporting, etc. The start date of the contract is estimated to be spring 2015 in order to be introduced in the management of the image acquisition for the 2015 campaign as soon as possible.

The contract is estimated to last for 4 years, and have a value of approx. 10 500 000 EUR including a 10 % contingency. The contract shall be for 24 months renewable once under the same conditions.

II.1.5. CPV code(s)

35631200 Observation satellites, 32533000 Satellite earth stations, 32531000 Satellite communications equipment, 32534000 Satellite platforms, 34711200 Non-piloted aircraft, 35631100 Communication satellites

II.1.6. Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: yes

II.2. Total value of the contract/lot

II.2.1. Total value of the contract/lot

Value: 10 500 000 EUR
excluding VAT

Section IV: Procedure

IV.1. Type of procedure

IV.1.1. Type of procedure

Award of a contract without prior publication of a call for competition in the Official Journal of the European Union in the cases listed below

Justification for the award of the contract without prior publication of a call for competition in the Official Journal of the European Union:

Directive 2004/18/EC

1) Justification for the choice of the negotiated procedure without prior publication of a contract notice in the OJEU in accordance with Directive 2004/18/EC

All tenders submitted in reply to an open procedure, a restricted procedure or competitive dialogue were irregular or unacceptable. Only those tenderers were included in the negotiations which have satisfied the qualitative selection criteria.

IV.2. Award criteria

IV.2.1. Award criteria

The most economically advantageous tender in terms of

1. Price. Weighting 70
2. Technical quality. Weighting 30

IV.2.2. Information about electronic auction

An electronic auction has been used: no

IV.3. Administrative information

IV.3.1. File reference number attributed by the contracting authority

JRC/IPR/2015/H.6/0018/NC.

IV.3.2. Previous publication concerning this procedure

Contract notice

Notice number in the OJ S: [2014/S 247-435307](#) of 23.12.2014

Section V: Award of contract

V.1. Date of conclusion of the contract

30.10.2015

V.2. Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 1

V.3. Name and address of the contractor

Official name: European Space Imaging GmbH

Postal address: Arnulfstraße 199

Town: Munich

Postal code: 80634

Country: Germany

E-mail: info@euspaceimaging.com

Telephone: +49 891301420

Fax: +49 8913014222

Internet address: <http://www.euspaceimaging.com>

V.4. Information on value of the contract/lot

Initial estimated total value of the contract/lot:

Value: 10 500 000 EUR

excluding VAT

Total value of the procurement:

Value: 10 500 000 EUR

excluding VAT

V.5. Information about subcontracting

The contract is likely to be subcontracted: no

Section VI: Complementary information

VI.1. Information about European Union funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds:
no

VI.2. Additional information

This notice is published in accordance with Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268 /2012 of 29.10.2012, Article 123(4). The contracting authority shall not sign the contract or framework contract, covered by Directive 2004/18/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, with the successful tenderer until 14 calendar days have elapsed, running from the day after the notice has been published.

VI.3. Procedures for review

VI.3.1. Review body

Official name: General Court of the European Union
Postal address: rue du Fort Niedergrünwald
Town: Luxembourg
Postal code: 2925
Country: Luxembourg
E-mail: generalcourt.registry@curia.europa.eu
Telephone: +352 4303-1
Fax: +352 4303-2100
Internet address: <http://curia.europa.eu/>

VI.3.2. Review procedure

Precise information on deadline(s) for review procedures: You may submit any observations concerning the award procedure to the contracting authority indicated under heading I.1. If you believe that there was maladministration, you may lodge a complaint to the European Ombudsman within 2 years of the date when you became aware of the facts on which the complaint is based (see <http://www.ombudsman.europa.eu>). Such complaint does not have as an effect either to suspend the time limit to launch an appeal or to open a new period for lodging an appeal.

Within 2 months of the notification of the award decision you may lodge an appeal to the body referred to in VI.3.1.

VI.3.3. Service from which information about the review procedure may be obtained

Official name: General Court of the European Union
Postal address: rue du Fort Niedergrünwald
Town: Luxembourg
Postal code: 2925
Country: Luxembourg
E-mail: generalcourt.registry@curia.europa.eu
Telephone: +352 4303-1
Fax: +352 4303-2100
Internet address: <http://curia.europa.eu/>

VI.4. Date of dispatch of this notice

30.10.2015