

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 247/2014 23/12/2014

Contract 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 D. Eardley

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

Fax: +39 0332789540

Internet address(es):

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

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

Additional information can be obtained from:

the abovementioned address

Specifications and additional documents (including documents for competitive dialogue and a dynamic purchasing system) can be obtained from:

the abovementioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted: the abovementioned address

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 attributed to the contract by the contracting authority

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

NUTS code

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

The procurement involves the establishment of a framework agreement

II.1.4. Information about framework agreement

Framework agreement with a single operator

Duration of the framework agreement

Duration in months: 48

Estimated total value of purchases for the entire duration of the framework agreement

Estimated value excluding VAT: 10 500 000 EUR

II.1.5. 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 AGRI 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 a 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: \leq 10 % validated, \geq 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.1.6. CPV code(s)

35631200 Observation satellites, 32533000 Satellite earth stations, 32531000 Satellite communications equipment, 35631100 Communication satellites, 32534000 Satellite platforms , 34712200 Satellites

II.1.7. Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: yes

II.1.8. Lots

This contract is divided into lots: no

II.1.9. Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: no

II.2. Scope of the procurement

II.2.1. Total quantity or scope

Estimated value excluding VAT: total 10 500 000 EUR, including a 10 % contingency.

II.2.2. Information about options

Options: no

II.2.3. Information about renewals

This contract is subject to renewal: no

II.3. Duration of the contract or time limit for completion

Duration in months: 48 (from the award of the contract)

III.1. Conditions related to the contract

III.1.1. Deposits and guarantees required

Please refer to tender documents.

III.1.2. Main financing conditions and payment arrangements and/or reference to the relevant provisions governing them

Please refer to tender documents.

III.1.3. Legal form to be taken by the group of economic operators to whom the contract is to be awarded

Tenders can be submitted by consortia of 2 or more economic operators ('joint tender'). Each legal entity will be required to become a party to the contract in case of award, and shall assume joint and several liability towards the contracting authority for the fulfilment of the terms and conditions of the contract.

The consortium shall nominate 1 legal entity ('the leader') who will have full authority to bind the consortium and each of its members when presenting an offer and signing the contract (proof must be submitted with the offer), and will be responsible for the administrative management of the contract (invoicing, receiving payments, etc.) on behalf of all other entities. It is mandatory that joint offers or offers from groupings include a letter of intent from each member of the grouping including subcontractors confirming their participation as described in the submitted bid in case of award of the contract.

Subcontracting is allowed but the contractor shall retain full liability towards the contracting authority for implementation of the contract.

Applications submitted by consortia, groupings or associations of companies must include a document detailing the proposed composition and constitution of the entity or the legal form of this cooperation in the event they are awarded the contract.

An economic operator may, where appropriate and for a particular contract, rely on the capacities of other entities, regardless of the legal nature of the links which it has with them. It must in that case prove to the contracting authority that it will have at its disposal the resources necessary for performance of the contract, for example by producing an undertaking on the part of those entities to place those resources at its disposal.

Please also see 'Article I.12 Other special conditions' of the draft framework contract.

III.1.4. Contract performance conditions

The performance of the contract is subject to particular conditions: no

III.2. Conditions for participation

III.2.1. Suitability to pursue the professional activity, including requirements relating to enrolment on professional or trade registers

List and brief description of conditions: Tenderers will not be eligible to take part in this contract award procedure if they are in any of the exclusion situations listed in Articles 106 and 107 of Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of 25.10.2012 (OJ L 298 of 26.10.2012).

Should a contract be awarded, the contractor will need to produce the supporting documents required in Article 143(2) in conjunction with Article 143(3) of the Regulation (EU) No 1268 /2012.

In the case of groupings of contractors, the information required under this Section and

Sections III.2.2 and III.2.3 must be supplied by all members of the grouping including subcontractors to whom more than 20 % of the budget may be subcontracted.

III.2.2. Economic and financial ability

List and brief description of conditions: Tenderers must demonstrate that they have sufficient economic and financial resources to be able to carry out the tasks specified in this contract notice:

- (a) appropriate statements from banks as regards current financial standing or professional risk indemnity insurance,
- (b) a statement as to annual turnover and turnover related to the subject of this procurement during the past 3 financial years.

These criteria will be assessed in relation to the combined capacities of all members of the grouping and potential subcontractors.

Minimum level(s) of standards possibly required: (b) The annual turnover for the last financial year (or average turnover of the tenderer for the past 3 years) must exceed 3 500 000 EUR. This criterion will be assessed in relation to the combined capacities of all members of the grouping and potential subcontractors.

III.2.3. Technical and professional ability

List and brief description of conditions:

- (a) Proof that tenderers are authorised to perform the contract under national law, as evidenced by inclusion in a trade or professional register, or a sworn declaration or certificate, membership of a specific organisation, express authorisation, or entry in the VAT register.
- (b) A list of available human resources envisaged for working in execution of the contract, including educational and professional qualifications, CVs (or equivalent), a list of their relevant publications and inclusion in similar project(s), demonstrating that they are in a position to carry out the supplies required for the relevant tender.
- (c) A list of the relevant supplies delivered in the past 3 years, with a brief description, sums, dates and recipients, public or private, showing experience in the subject of the tender, in particular experience in the supply of satellite remote sensing data and services over large amounts of non-contiguous AOIs, as is the case in the common agricultural policy (CAP) checks programme or equivalent.
- (d) A description of the technical equipment and the measures employed to ensure the quality of supplies demonstrating that they are in a position to carry out the supplies required.
- (e) Names of any subcontractors, where applicable, to which suppliers intend to subcontract some of the tasks.

Tenderers shall specify which tasks will be subcontracted. Should tenderers not require any subcontractors, they must submit a statement to this effect.

This criterion will be assessed in relation to the combined capacities of all members of the grouping and potential subcontractors.

Minimum level(s) of standards possibly required:

- (b) The tenderer must prove that the persons allocated to the service have a specific breadth and depth of experience so that the following profiles are fulfilled:

1. Project coordinator:

- a relevant university degree giving access to a PhD degree with a minimum of 5 years of professional experience in an area common to the subject of the tender, including:
- experience of project coordination and management in scientific or industrial projects of a similar size to the tender in the field of earth observation (EO) applications during the last 3 years.

2. Data quality manager:

— a relevant university degree giving access to a PhD degree with a minimum of 5 years' professional experience in an area common to the subject of the tender, including:

- experience in data quality monitoring and management in scientific or industrial projects of a similar size as the tender in the field of earth observation applications during the last 3 years.

3. Project review manager:

— a relevant university degree giving access to a PhD degree with more than 5 years' professional experience in an area that is common to the subject of the tender, including:

- experience of data quality monitoring and management in scientific or industrial projects of similar size in the field of earth observation applications during the last 3 years.

4. Senior scientist:

— a relevant PhD degree with more than 5 years' professional experience or a relevant university degree giving access to a PhD degree with more than 10 years' experience in an area that is common to the subject of the tender, including:

- relevant experience (sensor, image processing and GIS knowledge) to be demonstrated in scientific or industrial projects of a similar size to the tender during the last 3 years, including:
- proven reputation and scientific quality established through a record of scientific publications in the domain of this call for tender.

5. SW engineer (data archives and maintenance of Web browsing systems):

- a relevant bachelor's degree with at least 3 years of professional experience,
- knowledge and experience in XML processing, XML schema creation and automated XML validation, and

use of Web content management systems (e.g. Microsoft.Net, DOTNetNuke or equivalent).

(c) Supply of remote sensing data covering more than 100 AOIs in 1 period of 12 months, with HR imagery, as is the case in the common agricultural policy (CAP) checks programme or equivalent within the last 3 calendar years.

(d)

1. Evidence supporting a capacity to handle satellite remote sensing data programming, and customer service (feedback to customer with problem analysis, solutions of problems, etc.) every working day excluding public holidays. Emphasis on the continuity in the spring–summer crop period is mandatory.

2. Evidence supporting a capacity to track in near real time the status of a satellite remote sensing data acquisition for a customer through the steps: order/acquisition request, uplink /programming, acquisition, reception, delivery. Such systems may include online tools, planning tools, browsing tools, access to catalogues and archives, access to georeferenced quick looks in near real time, etc.

3. Evidence supporting a capacity to deliver acquired data within a maximum of 6 days after data acquisition, on a wide range of distribution media (e.g. statistics over delivery time).

4. Evidence supporting a technical capacity to collect satellite remote sensing data over at least EU-28 plus candidate countries' (Albania, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia, and Turkey) territory (e.g. graphs of programming/receiving facility footprint for the sensors).

5. Proof of legal distribution rights towards the European Union to provide satellite remote sensing data with the sensors proposed over at least EU-28 plus candidate countries' (Albania, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia, and Turkey) territory.

6. Evidence supporting a capacity to cover 150 non-contiguous AOIs (approx. 125 000 km²) spread over a crop season (in this case a 'crop season' shall be taken as a 6-week maximum acquisition window at any time) within the past 3 years as is the case in the common agricultural policy (CAP) checks programme (or equivalent checks programme).

7. Existence and description of programming/receiving facility; a minimum requirement being a centralised satellite operating centre.

These criteria will be assessed in relation to the combined capacities of all members of the grouping and potential subcontractors.

III.2.4. Information about reserved contracts

III.3. Conditions specific to services contracts

III.3.1. Information about a particular profession

III.3.2. Information about staff responsible for the performance of the contract

Section IV: Procedure

IV.1. Type of procedure

IV.1.1. Type of procedure

Open

IV.1.2. Information about the limits on the number of candidates to be invited

IV.1.3. Information about reduction of the number of solutions or tenders during negotiation or dialogue

IV.2. Award criteria

IV.2.1. Award criteria

The most economically advantageous tender in terms of Criteria below

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

IV.2.2. Information about electronic auction

An electronic auction will be used: no

IV.3. Administrative information

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

JRC/IPR/2014/H.6/0034/OC.

IV.3.2. Previous publication concerning this procedure

Prior information notice

Notice number in the OJ S: [2014/S 228-401878](#) of 26.11.2014

IV.3.3. Conditions for obtaining specifications and additional documents or descriptive document

Time limit for receipt of requests for documents or for accessing documents: 11.2.2015

Payable documents: no

IV.3.4. Time limit for receipt of tenders or requests to participate

11.2.2015

IV.3.5. Estimated date of dispatch of invitations to tender or to participate to selected candidates

IV.3.6. Languages in which tenders or requests to participate may be submitted

Any EU official language

IV.3.7. Minimum time frame during which the tenderer must maintain the tender

Duration in months: 9 (from the date stated for receipt of tender)

IV.3.8. Conditions for opening of tenders

Date: 13.2.2015 - 9:00

Place:

JRC Ispra, external building, room 7, via Enrico Fermi 2749, 21027 Ispra VA, ITALY.

Persons authorised to be present at the opening of tenders: yes

Information about authorised persons and opening procedure: Max. 1 authorised representative per tenderer can attend the opening. The request must be sent to jrc-ies-procurement@ec.europa.eu before 11.2.2015, together with a copy of the identity card /passport.

Section VI: Complementary information

VI.1. Information about recurrence

This is a recurrent procurement: no

VI.2. Information about European Union funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: yes

Identification of the project: The regulatory basis for the CAP, Control with Remote Sensing programme and quality assurance of the land parcel identification system (LPIS), is given in Council Regulations (EU) 1305/2013, 1306/2013, and 1307/2013 and the Delegated and Implementing Regulations 639/2014, 640/2014, and 641/2014.

Financing of the programme is in accordance with Council Regulation (EU) 1306/2013 and Commission Implementation Regulation (EU) 908/2014. According to this regulation the Commission services centralise the acquisition of SRS imagery, and their free of charge supply to the MS. This responsibility was transferred to DG JRC in 1998.

VI.3. Additional information

The tender documents and any additional information are available on the contracting authority's website <http://web.jrc.ec.europa.eu/callsfortender>

The tender documents will be provided free of charge.

Contacts between the contracting authority and the tenderers are authorised only in exceptional circumstances.

In exceptional circumstances contacts may be made on the tenderer's initiative not later than 5 working days before the final date for receipt of bids, in order (and only for this reason) to clarify the nature of the contract (see letter of invitation). In so far as it has been requested in good time and in accordance with tender documents, the additional information will be made available simultaneously to tenderers on the contracting authority's website <http://web.jrc.ec.europa.eu/callsfortender>

The tenderers are invited to regularly check this Internet address where answers to requests for additional information and to relevant questions will be made available. It is the responsibility of the tenderers to check updates and modifications during the tendering period. Please note that DG JRC (Ispra) will be closed from 24.12.2014 until 1.1.2015. Any contacts made over this period will be dealt with as soon as possible on return from 2.1.2015 onwards. For exclusion and selection criteria for the economic and financial ability the contracting authority hereby waives the obligation for a tenderer to include documentary evidence if such

evidence has already been submitted in a previous procurement procedure. For exclusion criteria the documents must be issued not more than 1 year earlier and still valid. In such cases, the tenderer making the request will need to declare on his/her honour that the documentary evidence has already been provided in a previous procurement procedure, provide reference to that procedure, and confirm that there has been no change in the situation.

The JRC may start a separate negotiated procedure with the contractor according to the Article 134 paragraph 1(f) of the rules of application applicable to the general budget of the European Union with a view to services related to the supplies that are the subject of this tender.

VI.4. Procedures for review

VI.4.1. 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.4.2. Review procedure

VI.4.3. 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.5. Date of dispatch of this notice

12.12.2014