NCI AGENCY

Acquisition

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NCIA/ACQ/2015/1841
22 December 2015

To	:	Distribution List
Subject	:	**INVITATION FOR BID NATO Communications Infrastructure (NCI) – IFB-CO-13735-NCI Amendment 3**
Reference(s)	:	A. AC/4-D/2261 (1996 Edition)
		B. AC/4-D/2261-ADD2 (1996 Edition)
		C. AC/4-D(2008)0002-REV1 and AC/4-D(2009)0002, Best Value Procedures
		D. AC/4-DS(2013)0034
		E. AC/4-DS(2015)0018
		F. IFB-CO-13735-NCI. NCIA/ACQ/2015/1500 dated, 30 September 2015
		G. IFB-CO-13735-NCI-AMD 1, NCIA/ACQ/2015/1573 dated, 28 October 2015
		H. IFB-CO-13735-NCI-AMD 2, NCIA/ACQ/2015/1794, dated, 15 December 2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

1. The purpose of this Amendment is to modify portions of BOOK I and BOOK II of the subject Invitation for Bid (See Attachment A), and to answer Bidder Clarification Questions (See Attachment B).

2. Please be informed that the Bid Closing Date as indicated in the Bidding Instructions, Paragraph 2.6.1, Bid Delivery remains **14:00 HOURS (BRUSSELS TIME) ON 26 January 2016**, at which time and date bidding shall be closed.

3. . The structure of this Amendment is as follows:

   - Cover letter
   - Attachment A: Summary of IFB changes
   - Attachment B: Bidder Clarification Responses
   - Attachment C: Certificate of Security Obligation/Request for SOW SRS

NATO Communications
and Information Agency

Agence OTAN d'information
et de communication

Avenue du Bourget 140
1140 Brussels, Belgium

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- Enclosure 1: Amended IFB Book I Bidding Instructions, and Book II, prospective, contract Special provision and SSS. Contract through the hosted web portal.
- Enclosure 2: Amended IFB Book II Part IV SOW, Book II Part IV SRS and Book II Part IV SRS Core Document, SRS Annex B and SRS Annex C provided upon request through courier.

4. The Bidder Clarification Requests for AMD 3 are included at Attachment B. Clarification Requests answered in this Amendment include Clarifications A1 to A26 and T1 to T63.

5. The Unclassified IFB Amendment No.3 revised Book I documentation is issued via a hosted web portal that Bidders have access to. In order to obtain the amended BOOK II Part IV SOW, Part IV SRS and SRS Annexes B and C, which are classified NATO RESTRICTED, **Bidders are requested to complete and return the enclosed Certificate of Security Obligation at (Attachment C) by 5 January 2016**, to the Point of Contract listed in the attachment. These documents will then be sent to Bidders via commercial courier in CD format. The overall security classification of this bid is NATO RESTRICTED. When Book II Part IV - Statement of Work, and the NATO RESTRICTED References are removed, the security classification of this IFB is "NATO UNCLASSIFIED".

6. Prospective Bidders are advised that the NATO CI Agency reserves the right to cancel this IFB at any time in its entirety and bears no liability for bid preparation costs incurred by firms or any other collateral costs if bid cancellation occurs. Except as provided herein, all other terms and conditions of the Bid documents remain unchanged.

7. The NCI Agency point of contact for all information concerning this IFB is:

NCI Agency
Batiment Z
Boulevard Leopold III
1110 Brussels, Belgium
Attention of: Mr. Joseph Vitale – Senior Contracting Officer
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FOR THE GENERAL MANAGER:

L.T. Herway
Chief of Contracts

Attachement A - Summary of IFB Changes

Attachement B - NCI Agency Clarification Responses

Attachement C - Certificate of Security Obligation/Request for SOW/SRS

Enclosure 1 - Amended IFB Book I Bidding Instructions, and Book II, prospective Contract through the web hosted portal

Enclosure 2- Amended IFB Book II Part IV SOW, Book II Part IV SRS and Book II Part IV SRS Annex B, Annex C provided upon request through courier.

Distribution List for IFB-CO-13735-NCI AMD 3

Prospective Bidders (NU portion downloadable via Portal, NR portion to be sent via commercial courier)

All NATO Delegations Except Albania and Croatia (Attn: Infrastructure Adviser) (NU portion downloadable via Portal upon request, NR portion available on request)

Belgian Ministry of Economic Affairs

All Embassies in Brussels Except Albania and Croatia (Attn: Commercial Attaché): (NU portion downloadable via Portal upon request, NR portion available on request)

NATO HQ

NATO Office of Resources
Management and Implementation Branch – Attn: Deputy Branch Chief

SACTREPEUR

Attn: Infrastructure Assistant

Strategic Commands

ACO/DCOS CIS & Cyber Defence

ACT/DCOS Capability Development

NCI Agency –Internal Distribution

Financial Controller (Ms Anne-Marie Pick)
ACQ Director of Acquisition (Mr Peter Scaruppe)
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Chief of Contracts (Mr L.T. Herway)
ACQ - Principal Contracting Officer (Ms Tiziana Pezzi)
ACQ - Senior Contracting Officer (Mr Joseph Vitale)
ACQ - Senior Contracting Assistant (Ms Viktorija Navikaite)
NSII SL Chief (Mr. Thomas Plachecki)
NSII SL Project Manager (Mr Andre Regtien)
Legal Office (Mr Vincent Roobaert)
NLO (Mr Craig Ulsh & Dan Harman)
Service Strategy (Ms Selma Tatar)
Cost Analyst (Mr Ryan Feeks)
Registry

All NATEXs (NU portion downloadable via Portal, NR portion available on request)

AMD 3 Summary of Changes DOC – Annex A to Cover Letter

Book I Bidding Instructions

2.3.   Bid Delivery and Bid Closing

2.3.1.   All Bids shall be in the possession of the Purchaser at the address given below on/or before 14.00 hours (Brussels Time) on ~~5 January~~ 26 January 2016, at which time and date Bidding shall be closed.

3.6.   Technical Proposal Package

3.6.1.5.   Bidders shall provide a draft Project Management Plan (PMP, which is section 2 of the PIP) including as separate chapters the Project Work Breakdown Structure (PWBS), ~~and the Project Master Schedule (PMS)~~ and the project Risk Management Plan (RMP), in accordance with the requirements as described in paragraph 2.6 of the SoW. The PMP shall not exceed 50 pages.

3.6.1.6.8.   NCI Service Area Engineering Group (NSEG) ~~Contractor Resident Engineering Team (CRET)~~ NATO Embedded Contractor Team (NeCT).

3.6.4.   Risk Approach

3.6.4.1.   Bidders shall provide a draft project Risk Management Plan (RMP), which is a separate chapter of the Project Management Plan (PMP), in accordance with the requirements as described in paragraph 2.6 of the SoW (~~see also paragraph 3.6.1.5 above~~). The draft RMP shall describe an effective and mature risk management approach

4.5.   Evaluation Step 2 - Technical Evaluation

4.5.2.5.8.   NCI Service Area Engineering Group (NSEG) ~~Contractor Resident Engineering Team (CRET)~~ NATO Embedded Contractor Team (NeCT).

Book I Part II Contract Special Provisions

KEY PERSONNEL

13.1 The individuals listed below are considered to be key to the performance of this contract and shall not be replaced by the Contractor with substitute personnel without the prior written approval of the Purchaser. The Key Personnel are as follows:

POSITION	NAME
Project Manager	
Deputy Project Manager	
Technical Lead	
System Design Engineer	
CIS Security Manager	
System Implementation Manager	
Site Installation Team Leader	
NESG ~~Contractor Resident Engineering Team~~ NATO Embedded Contractor Team (NeCT)	
Training Manager	
Test Director	

SoW - Core Document v1.2 AMD 3 – 20151215

2.6.2.5 Section 5: System Implementation Plan (SIP)

PM-155 The System Implementation Plan (SIP) in the PIP shall outline the tasks, durations, dates, documentation products, and milestones, associated with the following ~~four~~ activities:

 [108] All the activities, milestones and actors associated with the System Design stage are guided by System Design Plan (~~SIP~~SDP, Section 3 of the PIP).

SD-15 The NCI design shall cater for the following extensions of the NCI, as non-evaluated opt~~7~~ions in the Contract:

SD-27 The Contractor shall provide an option to furnish and install a NCI node for each of the ~~six (6)~~ eight (8) locations listed in **Error! Reference source not found.** of **Error! Reference source not found.**.

SD-55 The Contractor shall provide his plan to implement the ~~six~~ seven activities in SD-54 above in the System Design Plan (SDP) of the PIP (Section 3). The associated design documents are listed in **Error! Reference source not found.** below (**Error! Reference source not found.**).

SD-200 The Final SDS shall be released not later than ~~two~~four weeks following FDR, and shall incorporate all changed to the SDS Final Draft 3 agreed at FDR.

[311] The Purchaser will review and approve the updated implementation documents within two weeks ~~the periods stated in the Contract Special Provisions~~, at which time the Contractor will also be authorized to resume the Sites Installation sequence with the next Wave.

SI-194 During Wave 1 the Purchaser will configure and activate the following ~~13~~14 NCI sites:

SI-197 Wave 2 shall cover the following 10 ~~Large Node (40G)~~ site installations:

SI-201 Wave 3 shall cover the following 23 ~~Small Node (5G) and 1 Large Node (40G)~~ installations.

SI-202 Wave 4 shall continue with the remaining 23 ~~Small Node (5G) and 1 Large Node (40G)~~ installations.

[340]ST-47b   The Alpha Testing environment shall be configured as follows (refer to **Error! Reference source not found.** which depicts a notional Alpha Testing configuration):

SA-30 The NCI system shall be finally accepted (FSA completion) after ~~the successful completion of the following phases:~~ meeting the FSA conditions and actions stated in the paragraphs **Error! Reference source not found.**, **Error! Reference source not found.** and **Error! Reference source not found.** below.

Table **Error! No text of specified style in document.**-1   Intended Training Courses

Training	Role	Target audience	# Students	Duration	Location	Time
L2 commercial vendor courses	Operators and Administrators	Network Operations Centres and NSEG personnel	max 60	as determined by the TNA	Mons and/or Brunssum	Before pertinent PSAs of the NOC's

Table **Error! No text of specified style in document.**-2   NCI Project CDRL

ID.	CDRL Title	SoW ref.	Delivery Date	Review Event
2.3.1	Draft NeCT Engagement Procedures	2.8	28 WAEDC	PRM-4
2.3.2	Final NeCT Engagement Procedures	2.8	34 WAEDC	PRM-5 (FDR)

SRS - Core Document v1.2 AMD 3 20151215

[SYS-10]

The NCI shall implement the following subsystems, as separate entities, from a physical implementation perspective and from a management perspective:

(1) A Protected Core (PCore) Access Subsystem (PCA);

(2) Multiple Coloured Cloud (CC) Access subsystems (CCA), which in turn is decomposed in:

a) NS IP Access subsystem;

b) NR IP Access subsystem;

c) NU IP Access subsystem;

(3) Ok they were not, just ; and

(4) An NU Multimedia Access subsystem (MMA).

SRS - Annex B Coloured Cloud Access subsystems v1.2 AMD 3 – 20151215

[CCA-89] The number of SIOP-2 interfaces at NCI 40G Locations shall be as follows.

    (1)   2x 1Gbit/s configurable as single or multi-mode and

        a)   For single-mode conform to standard IEEE 802.3z 1000BASE-LX;

        b)   For multi-mode conform to standard IEEE 802.3z 1000BASE-LX and 1000BASE-SX (but not simultaneously); and

        c)   Implement the [LC] Connector

    (2)   2x 1Gbit/s over Copper, and shall

        a)   Conform to standard IEEE 802.3ab 1000BASE-T; and

        b)   Implement the [RJ45] Connector

    (3)   At NCI Nodes at location with LTX Tier = CORE, 2x 10Gbit/s configurable as single and multi-mode fibre, and shall

        a)   For single-mode conform to standard IEEE 802.3ae 10GBASE-LR;

        b)   For multi-mode conform to standard IEEE 802.3ae 10GBASE-SR; and

        c)   Implement the [LC] Connector

[CCA-90] The number of SIOP-2 interfaces at NCI 5G Locations shall be as follows.

    (1) 2x 1Gbit/s configurable as single or multi-mode, and shall

        a)   For single-mode conform to standard IEEE 802.3z 1000BASE-LX;

        b)   For multi-mode conform to standard IEEE 802.3z 1000BASE-LX and 1000BASE-SX (but not simultaneously); and

        c)   Implement the [LC] Connector

    (~~1~~2) 2x 1Gbit/s over Copper, and shall

        a)   Conform to standard IEEE 802.3ab 1000BASE-T; and

        b)   Implement the [RJ45] Connector

SRS - Annex C Multimedia Access subsystem v1.2 AMD 3 – 20151215

[MMA-291] ~~End-user Access Switches~~ Desktop telephones shall implement authentication towards the network access control function of the End-user Access Switch (refer to § **Error! Reference source not found.**) in accordance with [IEEE 802.1X:2010].

[115] The NCI numbering plan is based on [STANAG4705-Ed1:~~2010~~2015], which supersedes STANAG 4214 [STANAG4214-Ed2:2005].

Administration or Contracting

Serial NR	IFB REF	Bidder's Question	NCI Agency Answer	AMD
A.1	Book I 3.2.4, 3.6.1.5 & 3.6.4.1	§3.6.1.5 states that the RMP is a part of the PMP, which is included in the Management Proposal. Besides, §3.2.4.4 states that the RMP is a part of the risk approach proposal. Could you please confirm that the RMP shall be duplicated: one copy in the management proposal, one copy in the risk approach proposal?	Only one copy of the RMP plan shall be provided under the Risk Approach proposal. Only after Contract Award the RMP shall become part of the PMP.	3
A.2	Book I 3.6.1.5	"Bidder's shall provide a draft management plan […] including **as separate chapters** the project work breakdown structure (PWBS), the project Master Schedule (PMS) and the Risk management plan" . Please confirm that "separate chapters" shall be read "annexes" ?	The Project Work Breakdown Structure (PWBS) and the Project Master Schedule (PMS) shall be separate chapters not annexes (see also A.1).	3
A.3	Book I 3.6.1.5	"Bidder's shall provide a draft management plan […] including **as separate chapters** the project work breakdown structure (PWBS), the project Master Schedule (PMS) and the Risk management plan [...]The PMP shall not exceed 50 pages". Do the 50 pages include those separate chapters?	The 50 pages does include the separate chapters of the Project Work Breakdown Structure (PWBS) and the Project Master Schedule (PMS).	3
A.4	Book II Contract special Provisions	"The Intellectual Property Rights to all designed documentation and system operating software shall reside in participating NATO member countries, and no license fee, or royalty charges shall be paid by the Contractor to firms, individuals or governments other than within the NATO member community". Could there be any waiver to this requirement under specific circumstances?	Bidders are invited to note, that Clause 30 of the Contract General Provisions make a distinction between background intellectual property, foreground intellectual property and third party intellectual property.	3

Serial NR	IFB REF	Bidder's Question	NCI Agency Answer	AMD
A.5	Book II Contract special Provisions 7.10	"7.10 In the absence of valid security clearances for the Contractor's personnel at contract signature, the Purchaser reserves the right to terminate the Contract for "Default". Could the Purchaser consider delaying the requirement until the relevant personnel perform activity requiring such clearance (Contractor's personnel visiting of working at Purchaser's facilities (see § 7.4 of Book II Contract Special Provisions)?	See A.21	3
A.6	Book II Contract special Provisions 8.1.1	"8.1.1 Any use of Contractor Background IPR for the purpose of carrying out the Work pursuant to the Contract shall be free of any charge to Purchaser. The Contractor hereby grants to NATO and NATO Nations a non-exclusive, royalty-free and irrevocable licence to use and authorise others to use any Contractor Background IPR for the purpose of exploiting or otherwise using the Foreground IPR". Could you clarify the term "others" and the perimeter of the Foreground use.	See A.4	3
A.7	Book II Contract special Provisions 23.8	"23.8 The Contractor will have no right for any claims in reference to a delay in the Purchaser's confirmation of start of work, as long as the delay does not exceed 90 days. This includes the delivery of all Purchaser Furnished Equipment (PFE)". Could the Purchaser consider managing such delays as contractual changes when relevant?	No, the Purchaser reserves this right in the Contract.	3
A.8	BOOK II, Part III. Contract general provisions 30.1.3	"30.1.3 The Purchaser gives no warranty as to the validity of any Purchaser Background IPR". Could you clarify the meaning of "the validity" in the above sentence? Please confirm that the Purchaser Background IPR will be delivered with the required license for use by the Contractor in the frame of the NCI contract.	The successful bidder is authorized to use the Purchaser Background IPR for the purpose of the contract. The Purchaser Background IPR will provided 'as is'.	3

Serial NR	IFB REF	Bidder's Question	NCI Agency Answer	AMD
A.9	Book II Contract special Provisions	"15.2 The Purchaser shall exercise due care and diligence for Contractor's furnished equipment, tools and materials on site premises. The Purchaser will not assume any liability except for gross negligence and wilful misconduct. The Purchaser will, however, not assume any liability except for gross negligence and wilful misconduct on the part of the Purchaser's personnel or agents". Please indicate which measures and precautions are taken by the Purchaser to limit the risk (securised environment, rooms not exposed to harsh environmental conditions ..) and allow the Contractor to assess it .	Communications Rooms are protected according to NATO policy. Refer to the SRS Annex F for specification of the protection of Communications Rooms. Refer to the SOW § 3.4.3 "Site Access Preparation" for Contractor Access.	3
A.10	Book I - Bidding Instructions. Para 3.6.1.6 Book II - SoW - Core Document. Para 2.3 Book II – Part II Contract Special Provisions. Para 13.1	Given the inconsistency noted between the Bidding Instructions/SOW on the one hand and the Contract Special Provisions in the other hand, please confirm that for bidding purposes the list of Key Personnel specified in the Bidding Instructions and SoW documents prevails over the list indicated in the Contract Special Provision document?	BI and CSP are corrected and now use the same terminology as the SOW: "NATO Embedded Contractor Team (NeCT)" (SOW PM-10(8)).	3
A.11	Book II - Part II Contract Special Provisions. Para 7.12	Could the Purchaser consider allowing the Contractor to perform work requiring processing information higher than NATO RESTRICTED at Contractor's facilities provided that such facilities have obtained the required security accreditation?	This could be allowed on request on a case-by-case basis but only for Contractor internal preparatory activities.	3
A.12	Book II, Part IV, SOW /226	"The Purchaser maintains different Approved Fielded Product Lists (AFPL) for each major network (security domain), such as NS or NU networks. The Purchaser will make the relevant AFPL available to the Bidder". Please confirm that the Purchaser will deliver AFPL updates to the Contractor throughout the contract on a regular basis.	The Purchaser will endeavour to release to the Contractor any updates to the released AFPL.	3

Serial NR	IFB REF	Bidder's Question	NCI Agency Answer	AMD
A.13	Book II, Part IV, SOW /311	"The Purchaser will review and approve the updated implementation documents within the periods stated in the Contract Special Provisions, at which time the Contractor will also be authorized to resume the Sites Installation sequence with the next Wave". Please confirm that the time taken by the Purchaser to review and approve the documentation will be stated in an update of the Contract Special Provisions.	The Contract Special Provisions does not specify a period in which the Purchaser will review and approve. SOW [311] shall read: *"The Purchaser will review and approve the updated implementation documents within two weeks the periods stated in the Contract Special Provisions, at which time the Contractor will also be authorized to resume the Sites Installation sequence with the next Wave."*	3
A.14	Book II, Part IV, SOW /340	Statement 340 is a requirement (includes "shall") that should be identified as such in the document.	This is correctly identified as a SHALL statement. The statement [340] is renumbered to ST-47b in AMD2.	3
A.15	Book II, Part IV, SOW /SA-30	"The NCI system shall be finally accepted (FSA completion) after the successful completion of the following phases:" Please complete the requirement statement above.	SOW SA-30 shall read: *"The NCI system shall be finally accepted (FSA completion) after the successful completion of the following phases meeting the FSA conditions and actions stated in the paragraphs 8.4.1, 8.4.2 and 8.4.3 below."*	3
A.16	Book II, Part IV, SOW /table 9.1 -Intended Training Courses	" L2 commercial vendor courses -Time : Before pertinent PSAs" . Please confirm that " before pertinent PSAs" shall be read "at a pertinent time before Mons/SHAPE and Brunssum PSAs"	The text in the Time column is to read " Before pertinent PSA's of the NOC's"	3
A.17	3.6.1.7 in IFB-CO-13735-NCI BOOK I Instructions to Bidders	The requirement to provide valid certificates for the key personnel with respect to the English language skill : can this be replaced by proof of number of years working in company with English as working language (referring to similar requirement in 3.6.1.7.5. for having completed study in English)	No, this will not be possible.	3
A.18	IFB-CO-13735-NCI BOOKI Instructions to Bidders Annex B-13	What are the different "Labour Categories" that can be used in Annex B-13 (list of Proposed Key Personnel)	The labour categories shall be annotated as either prime or sub contract labour.	3

Serial NR	IFB REF	Bidder's Question	NCI Agency Answer	AMD
A.19	Bidders Conference	Why has NCI defined so many key personnel? Compared with ITM which had 4 named key personnel this seems significantly higher requirement adding cost. Identifying key personnel 12 months at least prior to contract award limits bidders flexibility	ITM's implementation is more aligned with commercial practices, whereas NCI is more bespoke and needs to deal with lots of legacy interfaces and third parties, across the network of 73 sites. Experience shows that the specified key personnel is necessary and continuity of individuals in those posts shall be assured to the highest possible degree.	3
A.20	Bidders Conference	Completion of a PoC during system design will be challenging regarding the short schedule. What level of POC documentation do you expect at the KOM?	The system design phase can last up to 40 weeks, and that includes PoCT. The Purchaser does not consider this as short. The expected level of PoCT-related documentation, to be available at the KOM, is quite advanced, specifically: • The Proof of Concept (PoC) Platform Design Specification (PDS) at the KOM is already advanced when included in the Bid (Bidding Instructions § 3.6.2.2 and § 3.6.2.2.1). • § 4.5.3.2.1 of the Bidding instructions defines that the draft PDS with detailed description and configuration as well as the proposed PoC Inventory list shall be include in the BID • Table 13.3. in the SoW core document defines the Draft Proof of Concept Test (PoCT) Procedures to be provided during the KOM. • The PoCT Procedures are expected to include all procedural and technical details necessary for verification and demonstration that the NCI (sub)system design, as specified in the Draft SDS, meets the functional and non-functional requirements listed in the SRS and its associated annexes (refer to SoW SD-242).	3

Serial NR	IFB REF	Bidder's Question	NCI Agency Answer	AMD
A.21	Bidders Conference SOW 1.4 [31]	According to the Bidding Instructions some of Contractor personnel (NSEG-embedded Contractor team) are required to hold a NATO CTS clearance, which our engineers do not hold, as our National Authority requires valid contract for starting security screening. Does this requirement have to be proved by providing valid security clearance certificates at bid submissions, or relevant NATO CTS clearances can be issued upon contract award and start of execution?	No the requirement does not have to be provided upon Bid closure. Please refer to Section 1.5 of the Bidding Instructions.	3
A.22	Bidders Conference SoW SD-4	A size agnostic design is not directly compatible with cost efficiency. Does it means that the bidder has to foresee all the necessary options for capability extension?	The NCI design and installation shall not limit the system to only the initially procured number of sites. Bidder shall foresee the sizing, scalability and network growth as specified in the IFB, specifically the Bidder must consider: • There are two classes of NCI Nodes, which are: 40G and 5G; • The sizing and scalability requirements specified in the SRS and its Annexes; and • The options for Network, Single Node and Performance growth specified in § 3.3.2 of the SoW.	3
A.23	Bidders Conference SoW SD-166	Extensive Emulation will be needed. How will this be provided? In the CLINS?	This is part of the PoCT (CLIN 2.5).	3
A.24	Bidders Conference	Please specify your understanding of "major" subcontractors and which is the difference between "major" and "minor" subcontractors?	A Major Sub Contractor under the prospective Contract is when the value of the Sub-contract is known or estimated to exceed 15 percent for the total value; or the Sub-contract is one of a number of Sub-contracts with a single Sub-contractor for the same or related Work under the prospective Contract that in the aggregate are known or expected to exceed 15 percent of the total Contract value.	3

Serial NR	IFB REF	Bidder's Question	NCI Agency Answer	AMD
A.25	Bidders Conference	Your description today of project kick-off demonstrated that you will expect a complete re-engineering of the solution without any PM present to ensure schedule and scope compliance. How is that possible? You just introduced 100% risk of the proposed design will not be implemented.	The Configuration Capturing sessions are not intended "re-engineering of the solution", but to refine it to a point that its implementation is viable at the lowest possible risk to both the Contractor and the Purchaser. It is about knowledge transfer to de-risk the project to the maximum extent possible. Tracking of this effort will fall under PM responsibility. Note, the statement of "no PMs during the Configuration Capturing stage", made during the technical presentation, was just a witticism to alert the audience that the intent of the CC is not limited to "management views" only but also to engage in detailed technical discussions. The SoW clearly indicates the broad scope of Contractor individuals that shall attend the Configuration Capturing period, e.g. SD-72 - SD-75.	3
A.26	Bidders Conference	You indicate a major engineering effort post-award. You therefore plan a potential ECP to cover the changes from the bid to the re-engineered solution?	No. The basic design shall be implemented as proposed and contracted. The engineering effort post-award shall not focus on changing the design, but on refining it to the point that implementation and transition risks are kept as low as possible. There will be engineering effort resulting from the site-surveys (and the subsequent production of the Site Installation Data Packages), which again is not to be in the form of ECPs, but as contracted. Refer to CR A.25.	3

Technical

Serial NR	IFB REF	Bidder's Question	NCI Agency Answer	AMD
T.1	SoW 7.5 [372]	Please precise the list of sites that are used 24/7/365.	Unfortunately such a list is not static. There are several factors that influence if a site is to be considered as a 24/7 site or not. Factors such as: • Military operations at the time; • Carrying transit traffic (affected by the NCI migration); and • Hosting of CES and/or FAS. Site access (opening hours) will be adjusted by the Purchaser to allow for access within a 24h/7 schema, based on an operational assessment of that moment in time and for that specific site. Maintenance downtime needs to be granted site-by-site and service-by-service basis by the Purchaser. Scheduled maintenance downtime is typically at night or week-ends; but not necessarily always at those times (depending on the military operations at that time). Coordination with the OPS Centre at Mons (SHAPE) is necessary when planning an actual maintenance outage. For the purpose of bidding, as a minimum, the following locations ought to be considered as 24/7/365: • NCI locations with LTX tier Core, which includes the DC locations; • NCI locations operating a NCI NOC and/or the ITM SOC • AIRCOM, MARCOM, LANDCOM, and CAOC locations. The Bidder shall account in his Subscribers Migration Plan (SMP), and pricing, for possible changes to this list as needed.	3

T.2	SoW 5.6.5 & Appendix 5	In § 5.6.5 of the SoW, Zagreb is listed as a site where the PABX is to be replaced with IP telephony. However, Zagreb is not included in the tables of Appendix 5 which list the sites where the PABX have to be removed. Please clarify.	Appendix 5 prevails for PABX replacement. The PABX replacement in § 5.6.5 for Zagreb is incorrect.	3
T.3	SRS Annex D, [MNG-14]	The MNG-14 requirement states: 'The NCI DSMS shall implement interfaces with the existing enabling services including the existing "LTX" transport network'. Could you please provide the specifications for these interfaces.	The NED, and the Transport Service it provides, is managed through: Alcatel Lucent 5620 Service Aware Manager (SAM), Version 12.0 + Alcatel Lucent 5650 Control Plane Assurance Manager (CPAM), Version 8.0 Build 5 Patch 0. Note that the versions might change over time.	3
T.4	SRS – Core document v1.0 20150928.pdf', page 14 [SYS-10], (3)	This appears to be a copy/paste error. Could NATO clarify this requirement?	Indeed a mistake, [SYS-10] shall read: *[SYS-10] The NCI shall implement the following subsystems, as separate entities, from a physical implementation perspective and from a management perspective:* *(1) A Protected Core (PCore) Access Subsystem (PCA);* *(2) Multiple Coloured Cloud (CC) Access subsystems (CCA), which in turn is decomposed in:* *a) NS IP Access subsystem;* *b) NR IP Access subsystem;* *c) NU IP Access subsystem;* *(3) Ok they were not, just ; and* *(4) An NU Multimedia Access subsystem (MMA).*	3

T.5	SRS for MMA defines wireless phones.	Will the contractor be required to install Wi-Fi as a part of this effort?	No, it is not required for the Contractor to install the WiFi Access Points under this contract; Figure 1 refers to "ports **reserved** for WiFi Access Points (PFE)" at the Local Area Network (NU)". SRS Annex C, § 3.5.1.3 specifies the mobile telephone base stations and telephones to implement DECT (refer to [MMA-317]). Base stations are connected to the network as wired (refer to [MMA-311] + [MMA-312]. The use of WiFi for the wireless telephones is not in line with the requirement for DECT. The Contractor is required to deliver and install the DECT base stations and DECT phones.	3
T.6	SRS - Core Document v1.0 20150928	Req. [SYS-10] (3) We assume this sentence is a typo. If so, please correct.	This is indeed a mistake. Full answer provided in T.4	3
T.7	SRS - Annex C Multimedia Access subsystem v1.0 - 20150928	[MMA-49] Name stating for both ad-hoc AND meet-me?	Yes for both ad-hoc and meet-me voice conferences.	3

T.8	SRS - Annex C Multimedia Access subsystem v1.0 - 20150928	[MMA-83] *For access to the voice mail, through another NCI-VoIP telephone, users shall dial their extension number to reach the voice mail and use the PIN to gain access to the voice:* please confirm if no pilot number has to be dialled.	Correct this is what [MMA-83] states, dialling a pilot number is not required. The requirement specifies a mechanism where the user dials its own number, from another NCI telephone, and through his/her PIN can activate the voice mail menu. The exact mechanism is not specified and subject to design.	3
T.9	Annex D, Table 1	We need a clarification if Change Management is in scope or out of scope. In Annex D says it is out of scope instead of paragraph seems it has to be in scope	In the context of the NCI systems the Change Management process will be supported by the NCI Agency's Enterprise Service Management System (ESMS). Therefore Table 1 states that Change Management process is not in the scope for the NCI. The current implementation of the ESMS is based on the Remedy ITSM suite in which the Change Management module is deployed. The Service Asset & Configuration Management (SACM) process is in scope of the NCI. The SACM process for the NCI assets will be supported by the NCI's Domain Service Management System (DSMS). The SACM module of the NCI DSMS shall provide, through the Northbound Interface (Fig. 2, interface 7), the necessary information to the ESMS in order to relate a change to the affected configuration items.	3
T.10	6.7 DSMS interface	We need clarification from customer expectation about interfaces for incident/event management	In order to detect occurrences of events (as required in [MNG-42]), the DSMS must interface with the NCI subsystems (i.e. PCA, CCA and MMA), and components thereof. The interfaces, between the DSMS and the subsystems/components, are implemented as specified in § 6.7.7. Note that "managed system group" in [MNG-214] relates to the NCI subsystems. Further note that [MNG-214] does not limit the Technical Interfaces to the protocols listed (Syslog, SNMPv3 and/or NMS Web Services); however, § 6.4 specifies technical	3

			constraints in the form of IA requirements, which require secure management protocols. These IA requirements also apply to the Technical Interfaces specified in § 6.7.7.	
			The DSMS Event handling, refer to [MNG-42], must interface to the ESMS' Event and Incident handling functions through the logical DSMS-ESMS interface that is identified in Figure 2 as interface 7.	
			The DSMS-ESMS interface is referred to as the "Northbound Interface". The Northbound Interface is specified in § 6.8.2 to implement MTOSI and OSS/J as defined by TMF. The interface 7, depicted in Figure 2, is a logical part of this Northbound Interface.	
			As specified in § 5.2.6, the DSMS shall reuse the Purchaser's ESMS incident management module. Appendix 3 specifies this as "BMC Remedy ITSM 8.1". (Note that ITSM 8.1 will be implemented in Q1 2016, in the meantime 7.6.4 SP2 is used)	
			Summarizing: The DSMS interfaces with the managed subsystems/components (interface specified in § 6.7.7); The DSMS interfaces with the ESMS through the Northbound Interface (specified in paragraph 6.8.2); At time of implementing of the NCI, the ESMS uses BMC Remedy ITSM 8.1.	
T.11		What service management capability was deployed?	SRS Annex D specifies in Appendix 3 the software that the Purchaser uses to implement the existing ESMS (at time of delivery of the NCI):	3
			COTS:	
			• BMC Remedy ITSM 8.1 for incident management • BMC Atrium CMDB 8.1 for SACM	
			In-house developed: • Service Request Tracking System (SRTS) • Change Management System (CAMS) • CAST: Data Repository for Centrally Provided & Managed CIS services	

			configuration data, circuit configuration database. • IPMGT: IP management SRS Annex G further specifies the tools currently in use to manage the current NGCS (the DSMS function): • HP Network Automation, for configuration management and change management; • Cisco ACS, for access management; • SPLUNK / KIWI, for logging; • Infoblox (IPAM and NetMRI), for IP address management; • nGenius Performance Manager (nGenius ONE), for IP flow monitoring and packet analyses; • Intermapper, for live network mapping and status reporting; and • Voice - Cisco Prime Collaboration Provisioning, for Call Manager & telephony end-point management. Note that the above list of tools, employed as the NGCS DSMS, does not constitute a requirement, nor does the Purchaser consider that these meet the requirements specified in this IFB.	
T.12		What modules are included on the HTSM?	Question not understood; HTSM is not understood. The question is responded to in the assumption that the question refers to BMC ITSM. The incident and change modules are implemented.	3

T.13		Has it customized or that is a standard version of deployment?	Question not fully understood, please define "it". The question is responded to in the assumption that the question refers to BMC ITSM.	3
			BMC ITSM modules (incident and change) are not customized.	
			Custom Remedy frontend forms, inheriting standard functionalities, adding some additional features (i.e. security classification) are implemented.	
T.14		Is there any specific requirement about billing?	Billing only applies to calls established through the MMA subsystem. Specifically:	3
			• SRS Annex D specifies in [MNG-9]/Table 1 the implementation requirement for the Financial Management process to be used for VoIP CDRs only. • [MNG-207] requires the relay of Call Detail Records (CDRs) in the form of events (via interface 7) to the ESMS.	
T.15	[PCA-61] - SRS Annex A	Could NATO specify the bearer services of the PCA -SIOP2 interfaces (electrical/optical MM/SM/BaseT)?	The technical specification of the PCA SIOP-2 interfaces is to match the CCA SIOP-2 interfaces. These are specified in the SRS Annex B.	3
			Electrical or optical is subject to design. The design shall adhere to the Installation Requirements specified in the SRS Core § 3.8.	
			The NS IP Access subsystem employs the TCE-621/B and TCE-621/C of which the SRS Core, Appendix 7 provides the technical details, including specification of the physical interfaces.	
			The TCE-621/B and TCE-621/C physical interfaces pose technical constraints, but so do the Installation Requirements, and the site layouts specified in the SRS Annex F.	
			The NR IP Access subsystem's SIOP-2 is specified in SRS Annex B § 3.2.1.2.3. The types	

			of interfaces required are specified, electrical or optical is subject to design. The NU IP Access subsystem shares the SIOP-2 interfaces with the NR IP Access subsystem, as specified in SRS Annex B § 3.2.1.3.3.	
T.16	[PCA-62] - SRS Annex A	The number of PCA-SIOP-2 interfaces on different Node Type Location is smaller than the sum of SIOP-2 interfaces required by CCA Subsitems	That depends on how, and for what purpose, the required physical interfaces are used. In this context, note: • [CCA-61] states: "All communications interfaces, logical or physical shall support identical features.". [CCA-62] states: "All communications interfaces shall be configurable to be one of the following: (1) IProuted; (2) LANext; (3) Physical SIOP-5; (4) Ethernet switched Logical SIOP-5 (refer to the Ethernet switching function required in [CCA-19]); and (5) SIOP-2." • [PCA-51] states: "All communications interfaces, of the PCA subsystem, shall be configurable to be of the following type: (1) SIOP-2; (2) PCN-1; (3) PCN-2; (4) Bref" The above implies that, subject to design and subject to further evolution of the PCA and CCA subsystems (after FSA), the "additional" interfaces may or may not be used. Further, refer to the answer to T.20; the NR IP Access subsystem's SIOP-2 interfaces is incorrectly specified in [CCA-89]. This will be corrected in a subsequent amendment, which will add additional SIOP-2 interfaces on the side of the SIOP-2.	3

T.17	[PCA-162] - SRS Annex A	In case of dedicated external packet capture probe one of the two M3 interfaces become a PFE, therefore the PCA aggregation router will have only one M3 interface. Could NATO clarify?	The specification of the M3 interface, in Figure 5 of the SRS Annex D, is logical and does not refer to a single physical interface. The distribution **within** the PCA subsystem is subject to design and is to be provided as part of the subsystem. That implies that the Bidder shall provide the appropriate distribution to the PCA subsystem components that are managed though the M3. Furthermore, consider [MNG-247] which requires <u>additional unallocated</u> out-of-band management interfaces, in addition to the once used to manage the PCA subsystems.	3
T.18	[CCA-81] - SRS Annex B	Could NATO speciy the the bearer services of the NS -CCA -SIOP2 interfaces (electrical/optical MM/SM/BaseT)?	Electrical or optical is subject to design. The design shall adhere to the Installation Requirements specified in the SRS Core § 3.8. The NS IP Access subsystem employs the TCE-621/B and TCE-621/C of which the SRS Core, Appendix 7 provides the technical details, including specification of the physical interfaces. The TCE-621/B and TCE-621/C physical interfaces pose technical constraints, but so do the Installation Requirements, and the site layouts specified in the SRS Annex F.	3
T.19	Section 3.2.1.2- SRS Annex B	Could NATO advise if the SATCOM NCI Node has NR/NU Subsystems on its architecture?	There is one CCA subsystem, which in turn consists of an NS, an NR and an NU IP Access subsystem (refer to SRS Annex B, requirement [CCA-5]. That applies to all CCA instances at each NCI node, including those with LTX tier SATCOM. Therefore, yes.	3

| T.20 | [CCA-89]-SRS Annex B | There is no 10000BaseT SIOP-2 GigEthernet ports for NU/NR subsytems for NCI 40G Node, making a NCI 40G Node to have less SIOP-2 interface than NCI-5G Node. Could NATO clarify? | That is a mistake, the 40G and 5G nodes are intended to have both copper and fibre based SIOP-2 interfaces. Furthermore the 10Gbit/s interfaces at LTX Tier = CORE were omitted for the 40G Node.

[CCA-89] will read in AMD3:

[CCA-89] The number of SIOP-2 interfaces at NCI 40G Locations shall be as follows.

(1) 2x 1Gbit/s configurable as single or multi-mode and

    a) For single-mode conform to standard IEEE 802.3z 1000BASE-LX;
    b) For multi-mode conform to standard IEEE 802.3z 1000BASE-LX and 1000BASE-SX (but not simultaneously); and
    c) Implement the [LC] Connector

(2) 2x 1Gbit/s over Copper, and shall

    a) Conform to standard IEEE 802.3ab 1000BASE-T; and
    b) Implement the [RJ45] Connector

(3) At NCI Nodes at location with LTX Tier = CORE, 2x 10Gbit/s configurable as single and multi-mode fibre, and shall

a) For single-mode conform to standard IEEE 802.3ae 10GBASE-LR;
b) For multi-mode conform to standard IEEE 802.3ae 10GBASE-SR; and
c) Implement the [LC] Connector

Note: the LC connector applies for all fibre optic interfaces specified throughout the SRS Annex B. | 3 |

| T.21 | [CCA-88]& [CCA-98]- SRS Annex B | Could NU and NR subsystem share the Control and Forwarding Plane of the same physical network device? | Sharing the same Control and Forwarding Plane of the same physical network device is not explicitly forbidden in the SRS Annex B.

However, Bidder shall prove:

• Compliance to the IP Encryption requirements specified in the SRS Core document § 2.3.2, specifically [SYS-35], in the offered configuration;
• Where VLANs are used, compliance to [NIATC - VLAN - 004.Feb.2013] as required in [SYS-282];
• Full compliance to the CS requirements specified in the SoW Section 4;
• The minimum capacity of both the NR and the NU IP access subsystems (as specified in [SYS-109], [SYS-110], [SYS-111], and [SYS-112]) is provided such that the capacity of the individual NR and NU IP Access subsystems does not degrade below the minimum required when both the NR and the NU are loaded at their maximum load in parallel (i.e. the minimum capacity of the NU shall be sustained if the NR is loaded to its maximum and vice versa);
• The Forwarding plane segregates both classifications, and within a classification segregates the different communities of interest; and
• The Control plane signalling and housekeeping is segregated for both classifications. | 3 |

T.22	Section 3.2.1.2 & Section 3.2.1.3 SRS Aneex B	If NU and NR subsystems are provisioned on the same physical device (that will share SIOP-2 Interfaces as per [CCA-88] & [CCA-98] what will be the total number of the SIOP-5 interface of the physical device ? It will be the sum (NR-SIOP-5 Interfaces + NU-SIOP5 Interfaces ex for NCI-40G :12x1GE MMF, 12x1GE1000Baset and 4x10Ge?)? Or Max(NR-SIOP-5 Interfaces,NU-SIOP5 Interfaces) ex 6x1GE MMF, 6x1GE 1000BaseT and 2x10GE, separation done at the VLAN level	The SIOP-5 interfaces are specified for the NS, the NR and the NU IP Access subsystem separately. The numbers of SIOP-5 interfaces refers to physical interfaces, which is specified per IP Access subsystem (separate for NR and NU). Refer to T.21	3
T.23	Section 3.2.1.2 & Section 3.2.1.3 SRS Aneex B	If NU and NR subsystems are provisioned on the same physical device (that will share the SIOP-2 Interfaces as per [CCA-88] & [CCA-98] what will be the total number of the IProuted and LANext interface? It will be (NR-IProuted and LANext Interfaces + NU-IProuted and LANext Interfaces)? Or Max(NR- IProuted and LANext Interfaces,NU- IProuted and LANext Interfaces) and separation will be done at the VLAN level?	The IProuted and the LANext interfaces are specified for the NS, the NR and the NU IP Access subsystem separately. The numbers of IProuted and LANext interfaces refers to physical interfaces, which is specified per IP Access subsystem (separate for NR and NU). Refer to T.21	3
T.24	Section 3.2.3 SRS Aneex B	What are the bearer services of the M2 Interface (electrical/optical MM/SM/BaseT)?	The physical interface of the TCE-621/A is specified in § 8.3 of Appendix 8 of the SRS Core Document. The actual interface, and distribution, towards the individual NS CCA subsystem components is subject to design, the Installation Requirements, the Physical Implementation Requirements, and the Information Assurance requirements specified in the SRS and the SoW.	3
T.25	[CCA-137]-SRS Annex B	Could NATO advise if full packet capture and long term recording is required for LTX-Access, LTX-None (1G,100M Node) or SATCOM Sites?	CCA-137 requires the implementation of full packet capture and long term recording probes only at LTX tier CORE and LTX tier DISTRIBUTION and not at other LTX tiers.	3

T.26	Section 3.4.2 SRS Annex B	Could NATO advise if full packet capture and long term recording is required for NU and NR sub-systems as well?	No, the full packet capture and long term recording is not required for NU and NR subsystems. However, the traffic mirroring interfaces, as specified in [CCA-130], are required on all CCA classifications.	3
T.27	[CCA-140]- SRS Annex B	If the full packet capture is done by the external device, is this storage capacity delivered by the PFE?	The storage for the full packet capture is not PFE but shall be provided and integrated as part of this procurement.	3
T.28	[CCA-142]- SRS Annex B	In case of dedicated external packet capture probe one of the two M2 interfaces become a PFE, therefore the NS-CCA sub-system will have only one M2 interface. Could NATO clarify?	The specification of the M2 interface, in Figure 5 of the SRS Annex D, is logical and does not refer to a single physical interface. The only limit is the single physical TCE-621/A for use by the NS M2. The distribution **within** the CCA subsystem is subject to design and is to be provided as part of the subsystem. That implies that the Bidder shall provide the appropriate distribution, from the single TCE-621/A interface, to the CCA subsystem components that are managed though the M2. Furthermore, consider [MNG-247] which requires additional unallocated out-of-band management interfaces, in addition to the once used to manage the PCA subsystems.	3

T.29	[MNG-234] - SRS Annex D	NATO call M1/M2/M3 as "out-of-band management interfaces" The out-of-band is usually assigned RSS-232 Local Console-Port. We see that those interfaces carry IP traffic for different protocol therefore are perceived as interfaces for "in-band traffic" therefore should be considered as dedicated 1-Gb Ethernet dedicated management port and not as Local Console port (aka out-of-band interface). Could NATO clarify?	Out of band implies via a different path than the data plane in this context. I.e. the management traffic shall not be carried over the Bref interface across the LTX, but across a dedicated interface referred to as M1, M2 and M3. The Purchaser will provision transport for these separately through the NED. RS-232 is a mere example of an interface that could be carried out-of-band. It is not required to use RS-232 interfaces on the devices for out-of-band management. These may also be Ethernet interfaces segregated from the data plane and dedicated for management traffic only.	3
T.30	SRS Annex D	NS-CCA is the single sub-system is in scope with the existing IFB. We need to propose a DSMS system for the entire NATO secret domain. What are the supported management protocols for the rest of the devices that out of scope in this IFB and we need to consider for NS- DSMS system?	First, the assumption that the IFB has only a NS-CCA in scope is incorrect. The NCI CCA consists of: • NS IP Access subsystem; • NR IP Access subsystem; and • NU IP Access subsystem. Second, the NCI Management subsystem shall manage the NGCS Legacy Infrastructure as specified in the SRS Annex D, § 6.10.4. Note that this applies to all security classifications, not only NS. Refer to the SRS Annex G for specification of the current-state and of the end-state. The platforms currently in use (these are to be managed with the NCI Management subsystem) are specified in SRS Annex G, Section 2, paragraph 2.2. The actual set of protocols to be used is subject to design; accounting for the platforms used in the NLI, and accounting for SRS Annex G [MNG-261] and [MNG-262].	3

T.31		Can we re-use the deployed licences during the migration period?	Whereas the question refers to licenses, delivered as part of the NCI procurement, re-use is permissible during the migration of users from the NGCS to the NCI. Such re-use is considered to be subject to design. Whereas the question refers to licences owned and deployed by the Purchaser in the existing NGCS, for the purpose of bidding, only licenses identified in the IFB as PFE (either explicitly or implicitly as part of PFE hardware) may be considered for re-use. Any use, and re-use, of licenses must be documented in the Bid as appropriate.	3
T.32	3.6.1.5 & 3.6.4 in IFB-CO-13735-NCI BOOKI Instructions to Bidders	The RMP needs to be provided as chapter of PMP (part 1 admin package) and as deliverable of risk approach (part 4 admin package). We assume this is the same RMP, with 2 copies provided. Please confirm assumption is correct or identify if a difference is meant	See A.1	3
T.33	CLIN 2.1.1 & 2.5.2 & 2.5.4 on the Schedule of Supplies and Services	The PoC platform installation and configuration needs to be ready at 7 WAEDC - which is prior to the system requirements review. Is this correct or can it be extended till w10	That is a typo. See SOW 3.4.6 and updated SSS: Supply of POC platform ready at 12 WAEDC Install and Configure PoC platform ready at 16 WAEDC Support Purchaser's CCP Process till FDR at 34 WAEDC	

| T.34 | Appendix 3, section 3.1 [467] in SOW Core Document v1.0 20150928 3.4.5.2 (SD-145) in SOW Core Document v1.0 20150928 CLIN 4.2.5 & 2.5.3 on the Schedule of Supplies and Services | The POC should evolve into RTF but lead times in SSS indicate that both POC & RTF should exist next to each other : STVP testing on the RFT needs to be done one week earlier (week33) then on the POC (week 34) | The question confuses the Proof of Concept and the Platform on which the Proof of Concept is executed. Refer to SoW § 3.4.6.

CLIN 2.5.3 refers to SoW 4.5.1 "Contractor-led Security Testing". This addresses the overall execution of the STVP. The Security Testing is part of the Proof of Concept; but does not apply to the Proof of Concept Platform itself.

The execution of the STVP shall be delivered <u>completed</u> at 34 WAEDC. Complete delivery of the STPV execution includes the Test Report documenting the outcomes of the STVP.

The STVP testing itself for the R&TF shall be delivered <u>complete</u> at 33 WAEDC (CLIN 4.2.5). The same applies to the STVP testing for the Network Operations Centres (CLIN 4.3.5), the Wave 1 (CLIN 4.4.5), the Wave 2 (CLIN 4.5.5), the Wave 3 (CLIN 4.6.5), and the Wave 4 (CLIN 4.7.5) implementations and acceptances.

Completion of the actual tests in 33 WAEDC leaves 1 week to complete the Test Report, referred to above, and complete CLIN 2.5.3 in 34 WAEDC. | 3 |
| T.35 | 3.4.5 (SD-137) & 3.4.7 (SD-200) in SOW Core Document v1.0 20150928 | There's a conflict in required timeline to release the final SDS : SD-137 states 4 weeks after FDR; SD-200 states 2 weeks after FDR. Which one is correct? | CLIN 2.4 "Delivery and Acceptance of System Design Specification (SDS)" prevails, which equates to 40 WAEDC. That is 4 weeks after delivery of CLIN 2.6.5 "Conduct Final Design Review (FDR) during PRM-5" at 36 WAEDC.

SoW SD-200 is incorrect and will be corrected in AMD3. | 3 |

| T.36 | SOW ILS 11.3.2 ILS-11, ILS-12 | Requirement states that contractor will be responsible for all levels of operation, maintenance and support of the NCI infrastructure from PSA (first site) through to FSA. In view of security restrictions, how does NATO envision that this will be effected? With contractor staff working 24X7 within the NATO buildings? Will SLAs apply during this period? | The Contractor is the owner of the equipment until FSA and hence responsible for operation, maintenance and support. In practice, the Purchaser will start operating and maintaining the system from first site PSA, enabled to do so by the L1, L2 and L3 training the Purchaser will receive from the Contractor before site PSA. The Contractor is expected to support the Purchaser in doing this by gradually transferring operation and maintenance activities to the purchaser in the period from first site PSA to FSA. How the Contractor supports this transfer is for the Bidder to propose in the bid. It will certainly not require the Contractor to work 24/7 in NATO buildings. But if equipment fails in this period between PSA and FSA, the Contractor will still be responsible for replacing the faulty equipment (at no additional cost to the Purchaser). There will also not be an SLA for the Contractor, neither during the implementation of NCI (until FSA) nor during the subsequent Warranty and CLS period (starting at FSA). | 3 |
| T.37 | BOOK II Part IV SOW p.19 PM-20 | 2.3.2 Deputy Project Manager "PM-20 The Contractor shall designate a Deputy Project Manager (DPM), who shall direct and coordinate the activities of the Contractor's project team at the Purchaser facilities." Is the presence of the DPM required on a full time basis at the Purchaser facilities and can the location be clarified? | No, it is not required that the DPM is present at the Purchaser's facilities at all times. | 3 |
| T.38 | BOOK II Part IV SOW p.37 PM-131 | 2.6.2.2.2 PMP : Project Master Schedule (PMS) "PM-131   The Contractor shall develop and maintain the PMS using the latest commercial version of Microsoft Project." Microsoft has recently issued a new version (2016), which is announced to be only compatible with Windows 10, 8/8.1 and 7; wouldn't it be safer to use the previous one (2013) ? | MS Project 2010, MS Project 2013 and MS Project 2016 are equally acceptable for the Contractor to use.

The Purchaser predominantly uses MS Project 2010. Obviously sharing project files in 2010 compatible, or exported, format is necessary. | 3 |

T.39	Bidders Conference	NCI Agency requires proven but latest technology. Why there is limitation to Thales TC-621, NS VPN Gateway? There are at least 2 more moderns "NS" VPN Gateways, with full approval of Military Committee, Evaluation through SECAN and MCM number availability and listed within NIAP (Nucleo-SPAIN, SINA-Germany?) Isn't this limitation to Thales product counterproductive in context of technology and competition? Why has the Agency not included late generation cryptos within scope of NCI currently TCE severely limits the solution	The crypto element is PFE. The project was authorized by the Nations, through the Investment Committee, to use the crypto devices quoted in the IFB (TCE-621C) with the requirement to re-use existing inventory. Furthermore, NATO has selected TCE621 as the NICE through an IFB process, and thus the Alliance is bound to use this product as the NATO IP crypto, until NINE-compliant cryptos are available for procurement and fielding. Procurement of the next generation cryptos will occur through NATO's crypto modernization initiatives and capability packages.	3
T.40	Bidders Conference	Is the NED NATO owned and operated infrastructure?	The NED is not NATO owned, but is NATO managed and operated.	3
T.41	Bidders Conference	Is the NED reconfigurable to accommodate NCI solutions?	Yes, but only by the Purchaser, ultimately following the design proposed by the Contractor (e.g. traffic profiles) and subject to the constraints posed by the LTX transmission infrastructure the NED may be re-configured by the Purchaser if required.	3

T.42	Bidders Conference	Does the PICO-NED have to be Alcatel or can we propose functionally compliant alternatives?	The Pico NED shall be from Alcatel in accordance to the specification included in Appendix 7 of the SoW Core document. The rationale is the installed base in the Purchaser's Transport network (implemented either as Pico-NED or as CED). Note that a Pico NED is always implemented in pairs, with one in the so-called "anchor location" and one at the NCI Location with LTX Tier = NONE. The Purchaser expects that, at time of delivery of the NCI, all anchor locations are covered with Pico NED anchors in support of the LTX Tier = NONE locations.	3
T.43	Bidders Conference	Regarding MMA functionality you discussed the requirement for interfaces to local emergency services. Will NCIA test these interfaces?	No, the Contractor will test the interfaces. Site Surveys will allow the Contractor to define the exact details of the requirements on that interface at each location.	3
T.44	Bidders Conference	In your discussion on survivability you mentioned the term PRECEDENCE. In this context, are you re-defining the standard definition of communications PRECEDENCE? Did you not mean to use the term RESTORATION PRIORITY in relation to survivability. Traditionally, PRECEDENCE and SURVIVABILITY have different meaning	We believe our uses of precedence in the SRS does not redefine the definition. We define PRECEDENCE as path-specific priority for given flows, which results in higher availability for those flows. As specified in the SRS Core, the Military Precedence is signalled in each IP packet (per packet, as stated in [SYS-22]. Military Precedence shall be implemented as specified in the SRS Core Appendix 1, and specifically Appendix 1 [163]. Hence flows that signal "Priority" in the IP packet header achieve a higher availability than flows that signal "Routine".	3

T.45	Bidders Conference SRS Annex C MMA-15/[19]	Figure 2 connects MMA aggregation function to NUNI. Figure 1 is showing all MMA functions connecting to SIOP-5. Which is true?	NUNI is the interface between the phone and the LAN switch. SIOP-5 is the interface to the site infrastructure, which in this context starts with a BPD between the MMA and the CCA subsystems.	3
T.46	Bidders Conference	Is it expected to connect LTX on PCA directly in the future?	It is not excluded, but outside the scope of this bid, and it is at the Purchaser's discretion.	3
T.47	Bidders Conference	There should be one CMDB for NCI/ITM … Why are you creating an inherent system of configurations that cannot be managed by not standardizing across these programs?	The CMDB is one logical entity, which aggregates multiple CMDB instances, ITM and NCI ones amongst them, tied together by the SID (Shared Information Data-model).	3
T.48	Bidders Conference	Why are you trying to procure a completely different management subsystem separate from ITM/IaaS? Is this requirement going to be thrown away later?	No, both ITM and NCI procure Element and Domain management systems which are necessarily independent and can run on separate infrastructure. The glue is only provided by the overarching SMC, which is subject of a different project. Furthermore, to clear any strong dependency from NCI on a critical element like network management, NCI specifies its own, dedicated physical infrastructure to host these services.	3

T.49	Bidders Conference Annex C MMA-23	Can we propose an alternative solution that delivers the same results with 5 precedences, while keeping MLPP interoperability with other systems?	No, the standards specified in SRS Annex C (Appendix 1) prevail.	3
T.50	Bidders Conference Annex C MMA-284	May we propose a better solution = better compression + equal quality while keeping G.729 interoperability with other systems?	No	3
T.51	Bidders Conference	Should it be possible to have evidence of the content of following standards: STANAG 4705- Ed 1 2010, STANAG 4214 – Ed.2 2006, STANAG 4705 – ED1 2015	STANAG 4214-Ed.2 2005 and STANAG 4705 Ed.1 2015 will be provided as part of the amendment. The reference in SRS Annex C [115] to STANAG4705-Ed1:2010 is an incorrect reference to the 2010 ratification draft. The SRS Annex C will be corrected to read: "[115] The NCI numbering plan is based on [STANAG4705-Ed1:2015], which supersedes STANAG 4214 [STANAG4214-Ed2:2005]."	3
T.52	Bidders Conference	The public number (E.164) attributed to emergency TDM/GW in site with PBX migration … has to be the same used to reach end-user phone inside the site?	Emergency gateway **function** is only intended for outward dialling. No need for inward dialling through the "emergency TDM/GW" **function**.	3

T.53	Bidders Conference	Is it possible to propose two separate call handling functions? One for European area, a second one for American area?	We see no need for that. There is one area only, the NATO area.	3
T.54	Bidders Conference	Is it possible to better clarify if you're thinking about one single SIP trunk or you'd prefer one SIP trunk connection for each country?	The Purchaser looks for centralized SIP management through centralized SIP Boundary Protection functions in the Data Centre, with potentially local Public Telephone Network access available in each country. Ultimately, full NATO-wide centralized Public Telephone Network access is envisioned. However, the Purchaser is still in the preparation phase of this transition; today to a large extent the Public Telephone Network access relies on local access. With respect to the IFB, after all each site must implement the necessary local elements of the interoperability function. I.e. in order to establish the Emergency Gateway function, the PBX-IP-GW, interconnections with the NDN, or other 3rd party interconnections. These can be used for this purpose.	3
T.55	Bidders Conference	Is it possible to clarify if operator console, with or without IVR, are desirable for you?	No requirement for a central operator. The IFB does require a central Call Centre functionality, which calls for an IVR, as per SRS Annex C.	3

| T.56 | Bidders Conference | Is it possible to have some information about the existing Video infrastructure? | As described in the IFB, the VTC infrastructure is IP based; the NCI is to provide IP transport services with QoS and traffic engineering.

Further details are not considered necessary for bid preparation purposes; but will be disclosed during the Configuration Capturing stage. | 3 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| T.57 | Bidders Conference | Is it possible to have some more details about the characteristics of the IP phone to be delivered (ergonomics, display, video, …) | The information provided in the SRS Annex C is deemed sufficient. | 3 |
| T.58 | Bidders Conference | Is it possible to know if you require the substitution of existing fax machines rather than their integration in the final solution? | Integration of existing assets (FAX machines) is required. | 3 |
| T.59 | Bidders Conference | Is it possible to have some more information bout telephonic traffic to use to dimension the solution (Erlangs, calls per second, call duration …) | The design (and associated investment cost) is only sensitive to the number of licenses required. The number of licenses is expected to correspond to the user population as specified and to the scalability requirements quoted in the SRS (specifically SRS Annex C, paragraph 3.7).

The number of licenses should not influence nor constrain the draft System Design Specification to be included in the Bid.

To facilitate the configuration of the NCI subsystems, representative Call Detail Records | 3 |

| | | | | will be provided during the Configuration Capturing stage.

The SRS Annex C already specifies the blocking probability and Erlang per extension (including scalability) for the Interoperability Services. Furthermore, SRS Annex C specifies the channel capacity of individual D_{ref} and SIP_{if} interfaces (including the scalability requirement for the number of interfaces).

The NCI Internal capacity may only be constrained by the number of telephones (including the specified scaling factor) and the IP capacity provided through the CCA, PCA and the Purchaser's Ethernet Transport Network capacity. | |
|------|-----------------------|--|---|---|
| T.60 | Bidders Conference | What is the NATO definition for Coloured (Cloud/Core Services)? Can you give examples "? | The definition is provided in the SRS Core, Appendix 3 and Appendix 6, paragraph 6.2.

Summarizing, an IP Coloured Cloud is an IP-routed network, operating at a given level of security, implemented as an overlay network across the Protected Core. One example is today's NS WAN. | 3 |
| T.61 | Bidders Conference | Is within of the scope of the tender the provision of the WAN links? | No. The WAN transport links are PFE. | 3 |

| T.62 | SOW | Can Bidders propose a technical solution to include products/items that are not currently on the approved NGCS Fielded Products list? | Yes a product/item not currently on the AFPL may be offered as part of a technical solution.

The AFPL merely reflects what is or has been implemented so far and is not intended to be static.

SOW CS-28 states: "Any products (i.e. Software, Operating Systems, Middleware, and Firmware) used in the NCI shall be listed of the Purchaser's Approved Fielded Product List (AFPL)." This implies that <u>before</u> actual <u>implementation</u> the product shall be included in the AFPL. The Purchaser operates a Configuration Change Process (CCP) that allows validation, and subsequent inclusion, of products in the AFPL.

The Contractor remains responsible for the inclusion of a product in the AFPL through the Purchaser's CCP. The Contractor shall provide the necessary support in order to complete the CCP. Furthermore, if the testing/validation as part of the CCP reveals flaws that would lead to inability of the product or solution to meet the specified IA requirements, the Contractor shall provide a resolution such that the requirements are met and ensure that corrected or alternate products are included in the AFPL. (Refer to CS-35)

The requirement with regards to the AFPL and Security Testing is further elaborated in SOW § 4.4 CS-28 … CS-36 and SOW § 4.5. Also refer to the SOW SD-52, SD-131. | 3 |

| T.63 | SOW | Will the Bidders have an opportunity and ample time to ensure that any proposed products that are not already on the NGCS Approved Fielded Products list will and can be added to the list after contract award? | The schedule allows time for the AFPL Configuration Change Process to complete. Consider SOW CS-33 and CS-34. The Contractor must initiate and support the process as quickly as possible, after contract award, in order to ensure all software and firmware is enlisted in the AFPL not later than FDR (SOW CS-36), which is set in CLIN 2.6.5 to 36 WAEDC. | 3 |

ANNEX C to Cover Letter

CERTIFICATE OF SECURITY OBLIGATION

PROSPECTIVE CONTRACT NUMBER CO-13735-NCI

DURATION OF PROSPECTIVE CONTRACT:

This is to certify that I:

FULL NAME:

MILITARY RANK AND NUMBER (where applicable):

DATE/PLACE OF BIRTH:

NATIONALITY:

WHERE EMPLOYED: `

PASSPORT/IDENTITY CARD NUMBER:

ISSUED AT: DATED:

Have been fully briefed on NATO security procedures relating to the handling, storage and dissemination of NATO RESTRICTED information. In addition, I fully acknowledge my personal security responsibilities and obligations and the consequences that the law or administrative or executive order of my nation provides when classified information passes into unauthorized hands, whether by intent or through personal negligence.

Considering the above, we hereby request an Electronic Soft Copy (on CD ROM) of Book II Part IV SOW Annex C. We hereby confirm that our company shall safeguard such documents in accordance with NATO Security Regulations. Book II Part IV SOW Annex C shall be posted to the following address: _____ .

SIGNED: DATE:

Date   Signature of Authorised Representative

               Printed Name

               Title