

**Acquisition**

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NCIA/ACQ/2016/1306

24 June 2016

Notification of Intent
Project Title:
Replace Submarine Broadcast Control Authority Communications
Equipment
Serial 2015/1CM03027
IFB-CO-14311-BCA

€2.1 Million

The Broadcast Control Authority (BCA) is a portion of the NATO Very Low Frequency Minimum Shift Keying NATO (VLF MSK system), which is a 'Mission Critical System'. This system directly supports or escalates command, control or intelligence functions essential for the successful execution of the operational mission. It is particularly vital for dissemination of Water Space Management (WSM) and Prevention of Mutual Interference (PMI) information.

Contracting Officer: Mr. Joseph Vitale

E-mail: joseph.vitale@ncia.nato.int

To: Distribution List

Subject: Notification of Intent to Invite International Competitive Bids for the Project: Procurement of Hardware and Software under NATO Project "Replace NATO VLF MSK Broadcast Control Authority (BCA)" **IFB-CO-14311-BCA**



NATO Communications
and Information Agency
Agence OTAN d'information
et de communication

Avenue du Bourget 140
1110 Brussels, Belgium

www.ncia.nato.int

N A T O U N C L A S S I F I E D

- References:
- A. AC/4-D/2261 (1996 Edition)
 - B. AC/4-D(2011)0009-FINAL-AS1 (Non Article 5 NATO-LED Operations alliance Operation and Missions NSIP Procurement Regulations)
 - C. 2015/1CM03027
 - D. AC/4/(PP)D/27480-ADD1
 - E. AC/4-DS(2016)0002

1. In accordance with Ref. A through E, notice is hereby given of the intent of the NCI AGENCY, as the Host Nation, to issue an Invitation for Bid (IFB) to provide enhanced broadcast communications between Submarine Operating Authorities (SUBOPAETH) and submarines at sea delivering reliable and flexible communications within the NATO operational Area of Responsibility (AOR) with a 365, 24/7 availability.
2. The contract resulting from the Invitation for Bid (IFB) shall replace the Broadcast Control Authority (BCA) hardware and software portion of the NATO Very Low Frequency Minimum Shift Keying (VLF MSK) broadcast system with modern and upgradeable equipment. The replacement BCA must be interoperable with the Broadcast Control Station (BCS) and current STANAG 5030 crypto equipment.
3. Attached in this letter at Annex A is a summary of the project requirements. These requirements are being further refined and will be detailed as part of the upcoming IFB.
4. The reference for the Invitation for Bid is IFB-CO-14311-BCA, and all correspondence concerning the IFB should reference this number.
5. The estimated investment cost for the services and deliverables included within the scope of the intended contract is EUR 2,100,000. Funding for this project is provided by the Investment Committee "at 28". Estimated costs for Operations and Maintenance (O&M) are unknown at this time.
6. The NCI Agency has been authorised to use the Alliance Operations and Missions (AOM) International Competitive Bidding (ICB) Procedure, lowest price technically compliant bid. The successful bid, pursuant to the IFB following this NOI, will be that bid which is the lowest price and technically compliant in accordance with the evaluation criteria. It is planned to place a single contract for the entire scope of work. No partial bidding shall be allowed.
7. The formal IFB is planned to be issued the beginning of Q3 2016 with contract award anticipated in Q4 2016.
8. Attached in this letter at Annex B is a prospective Bidders List of firms that appear to be able to potentially provide the equipment and applicable to this

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IFB. The compilation of firms was made from the Agency BOA list of firms, as per the regulations at reference B.

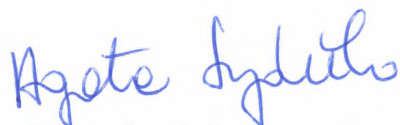
9. It is requested that all additional firms interested in participating in this procurement be introduced by their National Authorities with the required "Declaration of Eligibility" not later than 6 July 2016, to the below Agency Point of contact. Requests for participation received directly from firms cannot be considered.
10. The Point of contact for this procurement is:

NATO CI Agency
Boulevard Leopold III
1110 Brussels, Belgium
Attention: Joseph Vitale – Senior Contracting Officer

Fax: +32 (2) 707 8321
E-mail: joseph.vitale@ncia.nato.int

11. Bidders will be required to provide date for receipt of bids, supported by a Bid Guarantee of EUR 100,000 (one hundred thousand Euro). Should the selection and award procedure exceed the Bid Closing Date by more than twelve (12) months, firms will be requested to voluntarily extend the validity of their bids and Bid Guarantee accordingly. Bidders may decline to do so, withdraw their bid and excuse themselves from the bidding process without penalty.
12. National authorities are advised the IFB package is anticipated to be NATO UNCLASSIFIED.
13. Your participation in this procurement is greatly appreciated.

FOR THE GENERAL MANAGER:



Agata Szydelko
Deputy Director of Acquisition

Attachment(s):

Annex A- Summary of the Requirements
Annex B – List of Potential Bidders

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NCI Agency:

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NATEXs (as applicable)

Annex A: Summary of Requirements

Procurement of Hardware and Software under NATO Project “Replace NATO VLF MSK Broadcast Control Authority (BCA)”

Summary of Requirements

Background

The Broadcast Control Authority (BCA) is a portion of the NATO VLF MSK system, which is a ‘Mission Critical System’ (A system that directly supports or escalates command, control or intelligence functions essential for the successful execution of the operational mission). It is particularly vital for dissemination of Water Space Management (WSM) and Prevention of Mutual Interference (PMI) information.

The current system has experienced regular failures resulting in outages to submarine communications. The system was implemented in 2002 and is no longer sustainable due to a lack of available spares and the prohibitive costs of procuring outdated COTS hardware that is no longer supported.

Scope

This contract shall replace the Broadcast Control Authority hardware and software portion of the NATO VLF MSK broadcast system with modern and upgradeable equipment. The replacement BCA must be interoperable with the Broadcast Control Station (BCS) and current STANAG 5030 crypto equipment.

The BCA provides enhanced broadcast communications between Submarine Operating Authorities (SUBOPAETH) and submarines at sea delivering reliable and flexible communications within the NATO operational Area of Responsibility (AOR) with a 365 24/7 availability.

Functional Requirements

The capability provided shall include:

1. The BCA computer replacement shall employ equipment (hardware and software) of proven reliability and latest design to meet operational performance, security and availability requirements.
2. Software that is easy to operate and provides the necessary features to manage the CIS attributes for provision of submarine C2.
3. The technology solution must be interoperable with all components of the current VLF system, i.e. message handling lines, crypto devices and BCS/BRS.
4. The BCA computer replacement must provide the exact, or better, functionalities of the current system in order to support communications to submarines in the NATO operational areas on a 24-hour basis.

Work Requirements

The contractor completing this project shall be expected to:

1. Demonstrate experience in maritime broadcast communications, particularly in the area of submarine C2.
2. Work closely with NATO personnel early during the contract to establish requirements and design a solution based on primarily commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS) components.
3. Support external testing at locations in the United Kingdom.
4. Demonstrate experience of previous NATO projects including the security accreditation process for NATO IT systems.
5. Conform to NATO-standard practices for Project Management, Integrated Logistics Support, Quality Assurance and Configuration Management.
6. Meet an aggressive timetable for rapid implementation.

ANNEX B – LIST OF POTENTIAL BIDDERS

Prospective Bidders List: (alphabetically per country)

BELGIUM

Intersources N.V.
NextiraOne
RealDolmen NV
Simac ICT

CANADA

General Dynamics Canada Ltd.

DENMARK

Damasec Ltd
Integra Consult A/S
Systematic A/S
Terma A/S

FRANCE

INEO Defense
LERC S.A.

GERMANY

Atos Origin GmbH
FREQUENTIS Deutschland GmbH
IABG mbH
Pan Dacom Direkt GmbH

GREECE

ISI Hellas SA
Space Hellas

NETHERLANDS

CGI Nederland B.V.
Global Systems and Software
Network Innovations B.V.
UNI Business Centre BV
Xantic B.V. (a Stratos company)

NORWAY

Datametrix A.S
Kongsberg Defence & Aerospace AS

POLAND

Asseco Poland S.A.
Atende S.A.(prior ATM S.A.)
COMARCH Spólka Akcyjna
Designers S.J.
OBR Centrum Techniki Morskiej
Produx S.A.
Solidex S.A.
Sygnity S.A.

SPAIN

Informática El Corte Ingles (IECISA)

UNITED KINGDOM

Audax

UNITED STATES

Affigent, LLC
International Solutions Group (ISG)
Mutual Telecom Services Inc. d/b/a BlackBox Network Services Government
Solution
Sprint Communications Company, L.P.

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Integra Consult A/S
Systematic A/S
Terma A/S

FRANCE

INEO Defense
LERC S.A.

GERMANY

Atos Origin GmbH
FREQUENTIS Deutschland GmbH
IABG mbH
Pan Dacom Direkt GmbH

GREECE

ISI Hellas SA
Space Hellas

NETHERLANDS

CGI Nederland B.V.
Global Systems and Software
Network Innovations B.V.
UNI Business Centre BV
Xantic B.V. (a Stratos company)

NORWAY

Datametrix A.S
Kongsberg Defence & Aerospace AS

POLAND

Asseco Poland S.A.
Atende S.A.(prior ATM S.A.)
COMARCH Spólka Akcyjna
Designers S.J.
OBR Centrum Techniki Morskiej
Produx S.A.
Solidex S.A.
Sygnity S.A.

SPAIN

Informática El Corte Ingles (IECISA)

UNITED KINGDOM

Audax

UNITED STATES

Affigent, LLC
International Solutions Group (ISG)
Mutual Telecom Services Inc. d/b/a BlackBox Network Services Government
Solution
Sprint Communications Company, L.P.

