

Notification of Intent to Invite Bids

Method: International Competitive Bidding (ICB)

NR Business Network Services

NCI Agency Reference: IFB-CO-115891-REACH

Estimated Amount: EUR 45,000,000 Including Optional Years

**PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE: 3 BASE YEARS + 2
OPTION YEARS**

NOI Closing Date: 30 June 2023

Solicitation Release Date: Anticipated on Q3

Solicitation Closing Date: Anticipated on Q3

Contract Award Date: Anticipated on 1 December 2023

Competition Type: ICB Lowest Priced Technically Compliant

NCI Agency Point of Contact

Graham Hindle, Senior Contracting Officer

Email: IFB-CO-115891@ncia.nato.int

Annexes:

- A. Summary of Requirements
- B. Distribution List

To : Distribution List

Subject : **Notification of Intent to Invite International Competitive Bids for NR Business Network Outsourcing**

Reference(s) A. AC/337-D(2016)0014 dated 16 March 2016
B. BC-D(2018)0004-FINAL dated 29 January 2018
C. BC-D(2019)0129-ADD2 (INV) dated 9 July 2019

1. In accordance with References A through C, notice is hereby given of the intent of the NATO Communications and Information Agency (NCI Agency), acting as Host Nation responsible of implementing the subject requirement, to issue an Invitation for Bid (IFB) for the procurement of NR Business Network Outsourcing, hereafter referred to as the "Project".
2. The NATO Communications & Information Agency (NCI Agency) intends to modernise existing NR Business Network services through outsourcing back-end infrastructure as Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS) and front-end client services as Device-as-a-Service NR Business Network back-end infrastructure includes compute, storage and networking elements. Service provision will include agreed availability target set forth in Service Contract and respective SLAs. Front-end managed mobile devices are required to support parallel working in different security domains.
3. A summary of the requirements for this Project is set forth in Annex A hereto. These requirements are being refined and will be included in further details as part of the IFB.
4. The reference for this Project is **IFB-CO-115891-REACH**, and all correspondence concerning this NOI and subsequent IFB should reference this number.
5. The estimated investment cost for the services and deliverables included within the basic scope of the intended contract is not to exceed 45,000,000 EUR over five years comprising a three (3) years base contract and two (2) contract options of one (1) year each.
6. The NCI Agency plans to issue an IFB using the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) Procedure for Lowest Priced Technically Compliant (LPTC) evaluations. A single, firm-fixed price contract is planned for the entire scope of work including optional years.
7. Eligibility to participate in the subsequent IFB is declared by national authorities. Hence, qualified and certified companies interested in receiving an IFB for this Project are hereby requested to provide a Declaration of Eligibility (DoE), **sent** by their Delegation/Mission to NATO to the NCI Agency contracting authority not later than 30 June 2023. NCI Agency will use International Competitive Bidding (ICB) governed by BC Procedures for this procurement with a bidding methodology of award to lowest price technically compliant.
 - a. In addition to the certification of the company's security clearances required under this NOI, the DoE should include the following information for each of the nominated companies:
 - Company name

- Company address
 - Point of Contact (PoC)
 - PoC email address
 - PoC telephone number
- b. This information is critical to enable prompt and accurate communication with prospective bidders and should be sent electronically to IFB-CO-115891@ncia.nato.int.
8. Requests for participation in this competition received directly from individual firms cannot be considered.
9. Bidders will be required to declare a bid validity of 12 (twelve) months from bid closing date. Should the selection and award procedure exceed the bid closing date by more than 12 [twelve] months, companies will be requested to voluntarily extend the validity of their bids accordingly. Bidders may decline to do so, withdraw their bid and excuse themselves from the bidding process without penalty.
10. National authorities are advised that the IFB package is anticipated to be NATO UNCLASSIFIED.
11. The successful bidder will be required to handle and store classified information up to the level of NATO RESTRICTED. In addition, contractor personnel will be required to work unescorted in Class II Security areas. Therefore, access can only be permitted to cleared individuals. Only companies maintaining such cleared facilities and the appropriate personnel clearances will be able to perform the resulting contract.
12. The NCI Agency is not liable for any expenses incurred by companies in conjunction with their responses to this NOI and such responses shall not be regarded as a commitment of any kind concerning future procurement of the items or services described herein.
13. Your assistance in this procurement is greatly appreciated.

For the Chief of Acquisition:

Graham Hindle
Senior Contracting Officer

Annex A – Summary of Requirements

1. Project Objective

The NCI Agency plans to transition current, disparate NR Business Network legacy capabilities into a modern, centrally managed Enterprise-ready ICT capability by provisioning the services based on a cloud-based, standardized, industry best practice outsourcing approach.

2. Scope of Work

The NR Business Network Outsourcing covers back-end infrastructure and front-end client services as a complete package with key deliverables being outsourcing of this based on Service Contracts with associated Service Level Agreements and relevant KPIs.

The implementation is expected to commence at the beginning of Q1 2024.

The NR Business Network Outsourcing explicitly contains the following services:

1. Back-end as Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS)
 - a. Back-end Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS) will contain two Data Center (DC) operations, one of which is currently on-premises DC.
 - b. Contractor will be required to deliver a cloud based environment to be deployed as a private, NATO accredited off-premise DC.
 - c. Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS) provision will include both DCs with agreed availability target that will be set forth in Service Contract and respective SLAs.
2. Front-end client devices as Device-as-a-Service (DaaS)
 - a. Client devices must allow the operation of multiple NATO desktops of various information domains and accreditations between public, NU, NR.
 - b. Client devices must have NATO accreditation.
 - c. Client devices must be commercially available.
 - d. Client devices must support mobility.
 - e. Device-as-a-Service (DaaS) provision will include mobility and ability to work from anywhere with embedded secure connectivity. Service Contract and respective SLAs will include agreed availability targets.

Annex B – Distribution List

NATO Delegations:

Albania	Greece	Poland
Belgium	Hungary	Portugal
Bulgaria	Iceland	Romania
Canada	Italy	Slovakia
Croatia	Latvia	Slovenia
Czech Republic	Lithuania	Spain
Denmark	Luxembourg	The Republic of Türkiye
Estonia	Montenegro	The United Kingdom
France	Netherlands	The United States
Finland	North Macedonia	
Germany	Norway	

Embassies in Brussels (Attn: Commercial Attaché):

Albania	Greece	Poland
Belgium	Hungary	Portugal
Bulgaria	Iceland	Romania
Canada	Italy	Slovakia
Croatia	Latvia	Slovenia
Czech Republic	Lithuania	Spain
Denmark	Luxembourg	The Republic of Türkiye
Estonia	Montenegro	The United Kingdom
France	Netherlands	The United States
Finland	North Macedonia	
Germany	Norway	

NCI Agency – All NATEXs