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NCIA/ACQ/2018/1728
06 November 2018

Notification of Intent to Invite Bids
Project Title:
'Enhance and Sustain Core Transport Capability – CTD (Connecting-The-Dots)'
Serial 2018/0CM03301
IFB-CO-14797-CTD

Estimated Value: € 14,500,000

This is notification of an International Competitive Bidding for the provision of Enhanced Leased Transmission Services to interconnect the three NATO Data Centre (DC) locations over a resilient ring (hereafter referred to as the Transport Core), as well as sustaining and enhancing connectivity between the Transport Core and all NATO Command Structure Headquarters (NCS HQs) as well as NATO Points of Presence (PoP) in nations (hereafter referred to as the Transport Edge).

The enhancements seek to encompass higher capacity and increased resilience where required, in support of the various Communities of Interest (COI) served by the NCI Agency NATO wide. This Project (Serial 2018/0CM03301) is programmed in Capability Package (CP) 9C0123 'NATO Core Communications Network Services' and it will implement a new network transmission layer linking NATO entities across the 29 Nations to the IT Modernisation Programme (ITM) datacentres.

This Project will be implemented through one single Invitation for Bid (IFB) with 2 separate Prospective Contracts and awards. The offers submitted for the two Prospective Contracts will be evaluated separately so prospective Bidders may bid on one or both Prospective Contracts. The IFB is planned to be issued in December 2018, subject to the Investment Committee (IC) authorization, with a Bid Closing Date in February 2019 and Contract Award in June 2019 and December 2019.

NCI Agency Point of Contact (POC): Ms. Viktorija NAVIKAITĖ, Contracting Officer

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To	:	Distribution List
Subject	:	Notification of Intent (NOI) to Invite Bids for the implementation of the Project 'Enhance and Sustain Core Transport Capability', IFB-CO-14797-CTD
References	:	A. AC/4-2261 (1996 Edition) B. AC/4(PP)D/27832-ADD1 C. AC/4-DS(2018)0010 D. NCI Agency Request for Information letter N° NCIA/ACQ/2018/1269 dated 6 June 2018

1. The NATO Communications and Information Agency (NCI Agency), acting as a Host Nation responsible for implementing the subject Project, intends, in accordance with paragraph 6 of Reference (A), to issue an Invitation for Bids (IFB) for the procurement of Enhanced Leased Transmission Services. **Note that the issuance of the IFB is subject to prior authorisation of the Project by the Investment Committee**. Due to the urgency of the requirement, this Notification of Intent is issued ahead of the IC authorization to accelerate the necessary actions leading to the issuance of the IFB.

2. A summary of the requirements of the IFB is set forth in Annex A attached to this letter. These requirements may be subject to revision as a result of the Investment Committee authorization and will be refined and detailed as part of the preparation of the Invitation for Bid.

3. The reference for the Invitation for Bid is **IFB-CO-14797-CTD**, and all correspondence concerning the IFB should reference this number.

4. The overall scope of work and funds for this Project have been screened and detailed as recommended by Reference (B). The estimated investment cost for the services and deliverables included within the scope of the intended contract is as set forth in Reference (C), which authorized the Advance Planning Funds for the project.

5. The NCI Agency is planning to use the International Competitive Bidding (ICB), Lowest Priced Technically Compliant Bid procedures for source selection.

6. It is planned to issue one IFB with 2 separate Prospective Contracts, covering the Core portion and the Edge portion of the project. The Prospective Contracts will be evaluated separately so prospective Bidders may bid on one or both Prospective Contracts. The Purchaser may decide to award one single Contract combining both Contracts in case the lowest compliant Bidder for the two Prospective Contracts is the same Bidder. Award of the Contract(s) is planned to will be made on a Firm Fixed Price Basis to the lowest price technically compliant Bidder(s).

7. The IFB is planned to be issued by the end of December 2018 with a Bid Closing Date in February 2019. The Contract Award is expected in June 2019 for the first Prospective Contract and in December 2019 for the second Prospective Contract. **Issue of the IFB and Contract Award are subject to IC authorization and funding priority and availability as determined by the NATO Investment Committee**. **The NCI Agency reserves the right to amend the dates above according to new requirements**.

8. The Project is expected to be completed after 2 years from the Effective Date of Contract (EDC) with follow on Contract Options for 8 additional years of service that will be funded through Operations and Maintenance (O&M) funding.

9. Bidders will be required to declare a bid validity of twelve (12) months from closing date for receipt of bids, supported by a Bid Guarantee of Euro 190,000 for the Core portion and

Euro 300,000 for the Edge portion. Should the selection and award procedure exceed the twelve (12) months after Bid Closing Date, firms will be requested to voluntarily extend the validity of their bids and Bid Guarantee accordingly. Bidders may decline to do so, however they shall withdraw their bid and excuse themselves from the bidding process without penalty.

10. Funding for this Project is provided by the Investment Committee "at 29", thus firms from all 29 NATO Member Nations may respond to future solicitation once issued. Firms that wish to participate in this procurement must be nominated to the NCI Agency through their national delegation to NATO and such nomination must be accompanied by a "Declaration of Eligibility" and certification of their security clearances executed by their national authorities. Requests for participation received directly from firms shall not be considered.

11. The nominated companies must be one of the National Public or Commercial Telecommunication Operators incorporated in one of the NATO Member Nations and which comply with the national and EU (where applicable) regulatory bodies.

12. The closing date for additions/nominations to the Bidders List of qualified and certified firms which may be interested in receiving an Invitation for Bid for this Project is **11 December 2018**. Each nominated firm shall include the NAME of the FIRM, the TELEPHONE and FAX NUMBERS, E-MAIL-ADDRESS and POINT OF CONTACT.

13. Delegations are requested to provide the prospective bidders list to the NCI Agency Point of Contact (POC) at the following address:

NCI Agency

Acquisition Directorate

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1110 Brussels, BELGIUM

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E-mail: viktorija.navikaite@ncia.nato.int

14. The participating National Authorities are advised that the IFB package will only contain "NATO UNCLASSIFIED" material.

15. Your assistance in this procurement is greatly appreciated.

FOR THE DIRECTOR OF ACQUISITION:

Ms Tiziana Pezzi

Principal Contracting Officer

Enclosures:

Annex A (Summary of Requirements)

Distribution for information (Blind to Potential Industrial Suppliers):

NATO HQ

NATO Office of Resources

Management and Implementation Branch
Attn: Deputy Branch Chief 1

Director, NATO HQ Communications and Information Staff
Attn: Executive Co-ordinator 1

SACTREPEUR
Attn: Investment Assistant 1

SACEUREP

Attn: Investment Assistant 1

Strategic Commands (*as applicable to funding source*)

HQ SACT	Attn: ACOS C4ISR	1
ACO	Attn: SPT CIS Director	1

NATO Agencies (*as applicable*)

NCI Agency:

DACQ (Mr. P. Scaruppe through Ms. J. Cardoso)	1
Deputy DACQ (Ms. A. Szydelko)	1
ACQ PCO (Ms. T. Pezzi)	1
ACQ Senior Contracting Assistant (Ms. V. Navikaitė)	1
ACQ ILS (Mr. R. Proietto through Ms. D. Adiyan)	1
ACQ CE&A (Mr. R. Berghuijs through Mr. G. Colmer)	
CAB Secretary (Ms. M.L. Le Bourlot)	1
Legal Adviser (Ms. S. Rocchi through Mr. V. Roobaert)	1
EM NLO (Mr. X. Desfougeres)	1
FMU (Ms. I. Nechelput)	1
DSO (Mr. E. Lesbaupin)	1
NSII Networks, Voice and VTC Acting Service Area Owner (Mr. S. Broecker)	1
NSII Project Manager (Mr. L. Kesen)	1

Registry (for distribution) 1

NATEXs

All NATEXs 1 Each

ANNEX A

Summary of Requirements

Project ID 2018/0CM03301, CP 9C0123

NATO is planning to procure Enhanced Leased Transmission Services to interconnect the three NATO Data Centre (DC) locations over a resilient ring (hereafter referred to as the Transport Core), as well as sustaining and enhancing connectivity between that Transport Core and all NATO Command Structure Headquarters (NCS HQs) and NATO Points of Presence (PoP) in nations (hereafter referred to as the Transport Edge). The enhancements seek to encompass higher capacity and increased resilience where required, in support of the various Communities of Interest (COI) served by the NCI Agency NATO wide.

Enhanced Leased Transmission Services will:

1) Increase the capacity and resilience of the Transport Edge, which consists of 97 sites, selectively across four so-called Capability Segments (CAP-1, CAP-2, CAP-3 and CAP-4), at different capacity levels (from 10 Mbps, through 100 Mbps, and up to 1 Gbps and 10 Gbps), and with varying degrees of transmission redundancy and diversity.
2) Replace the current LTX Core nodes with a resilient 100 Gbps Transport Core (also referred to as CAP-0), which consists of 3 sites (Mons and Evere in Belgium, and Lago Patria in Italy).

The Transport Core and the Transport Edge are conceived and can be contracted and implemented as two separate and independent capabilities.

The Transport Edge will rely on Metro Ethernet Forum (MEF) compliant Ethernet Transport services, delivered over Contractor Owned and Contractor Operated (CO-CO) infrastructure. Services will be terminated at NATO Owned and NATO Operated (NO-NO) Protected Core Access (PCA) routers (Cisco Aggregation Services Router series), as point-to-point Ethernet Virtual Circuits (EVC). Physical access bandwidth and end-to-end availabilities of EVC are tentatively allocated as follows:

1) CAP-1 nodes: 10 Gbps, with a target end-to-end availability of 99.99% per EVC (less than 1 hour downtime per year). CAP-1 comprises 8 sites;
2) CAP-2 nodes: 10 Gbps, with a target end-to-end availability of 99.9% per EVC (less than 8 hours downtime per year). CAP-2 comprises 16 sites;
3) CAP-3 nodes: 1 Gbps, with a target end-to-end availability of 99.7% per EVC (less than 24 hours downtime per year). CAP-3 comprises 48 sites;
4) CAP-4 nodes: 100 Mbps, with a target end-to-end availability of 99.3% per EVC (more than 24 hours downtime per year). CAP-4 comprises 25 sites.

EVC rates for the above will be contracted as submultiples of the above physical access capacities. The Transport Edge bandwidth pool (i.e. the sum of EVCs rates across all four CAP segments) will be tentatively sized between 70 and 80 Gbps.

The number of sites and their allocation to CAP segments in the Transport Edge are linked to operational requirements. They will be subject to reviews and may be subject to changes on a yearly basis.

The Transport Core will rely on 100G CO-CO infrastructure interconnecting NO-NO Protected Core Routers (PCR) at each Core Node (Cisco NCS series), with target operational availabilities of 99.99%. Capacity will be contracted up to the physical transmission capacity of the underlying infrastructure.

PCA routers and PCRs will be connected to the line termination devices as in Figure 1 below.

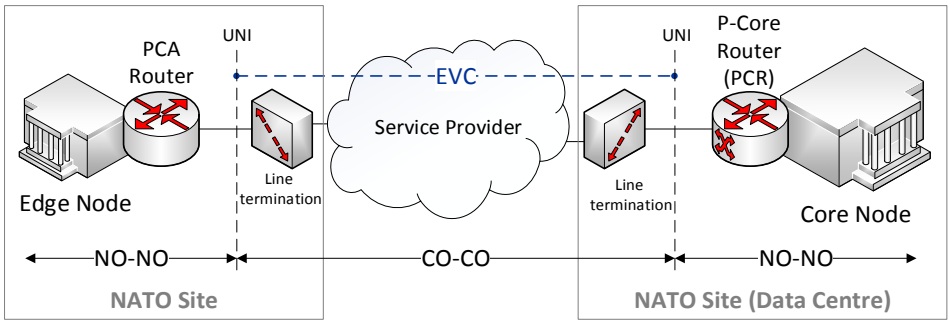

Figure 1 CO-CO and NO-NO boundaries

Figure 2 (next page) provides a notional representation of the CAP-0 to CAP-4 layers, with the following notional approach to attaining the above listed availability levels:

1) Transport Core (also referred to as the CAP-0 segment): Transmission diversity between sites, based on two independent and disjoint transmission lines and paths, with separate entry points at each site.
2) Transport Edge:
    a) CAP-1 nodes: dual homing to two Core Nodes, with two links and EVC over separated cabling and entry PoPs, each link featuring full path protection;
    b) CAP-2 nodes: dual homing to two Core Nodes, with two links and EVC over separated cabling and entry PoPs, each link featuring limited path protection;
    c) CAP-3 nodes: single homing to a Core Node by default, with a single link and EVC featuring full path protection. Selected CAP-3 sites (<20%) with dual homing over separated cabling and single (or dual) entry PoPs, each link featuring limited path protection;
    d) CAP-4 nodes: single homing to a Core Node or Edge Node.

The Transport Edge services shall be delivered under a service provision framework that allows:

1) NATO to increase/decrease the capacity volumes of the EVCs within the provider's backbone network, up to the limits of the access network;

2) The elastic provisioning and de-provisioning of bandwidth resources, within a global pool of Transport Edge bandwidth, in a semi-dynamic fashion, in response to changes in operational and connectivity requirements;

3) The resizing of the Transport Edge bandwidth pool on a yearly basis.

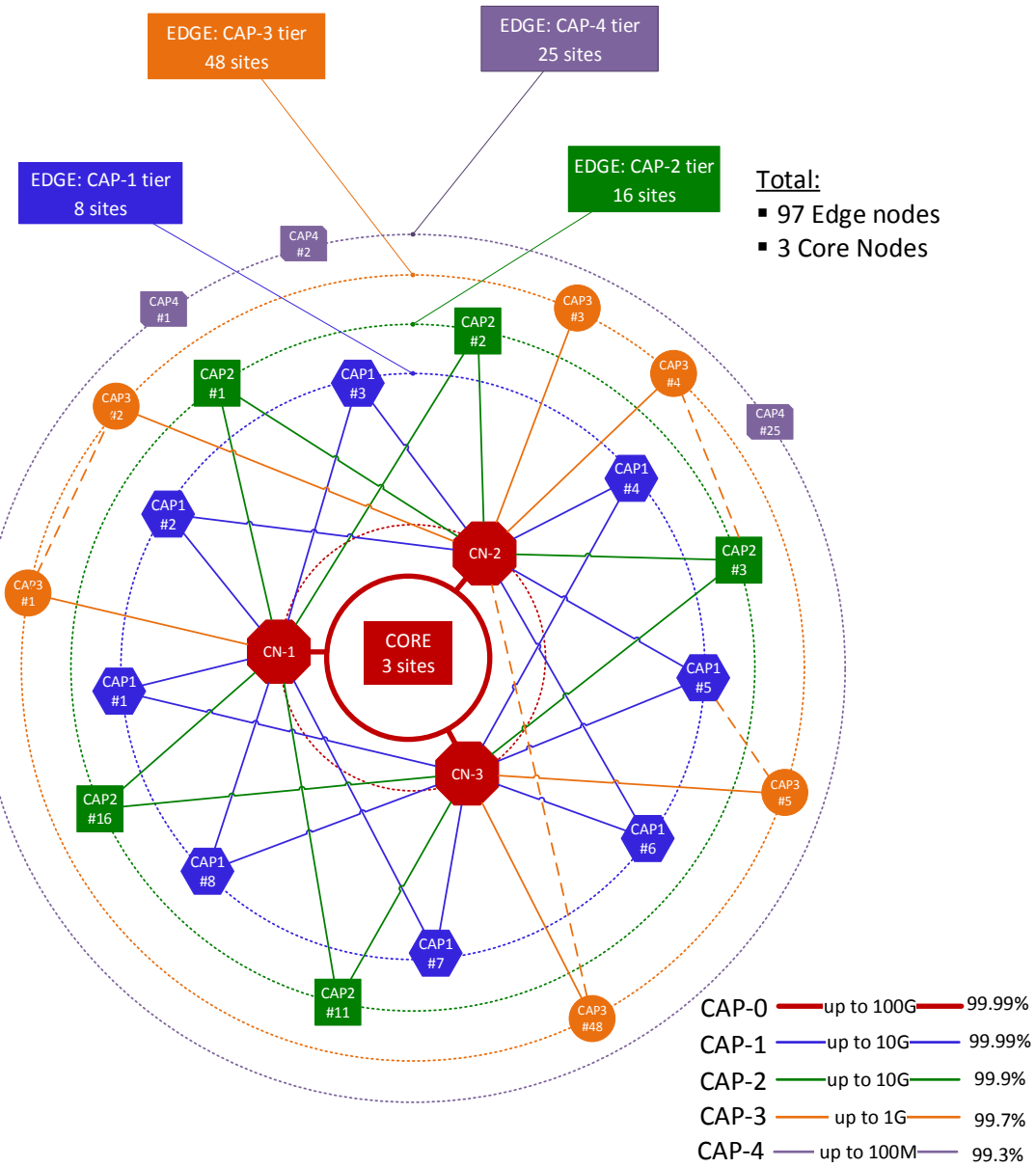

Figure 2 Notional Network View