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NCIA/ACQ/2020/6548

14 April 2020

**Notification of Intent****Provide ACCS Software Based Element (ASBE)****Voice Communication Equipment (VCE)****IFB-CO-14123-ACCS**

**€12,491,040**

(estimated cost law relevant D Documents referenced B – E)

The scope of this Contract is for the provision and the implementation of the ASBE Voice Communications Equipment (VCE) at sites Rinas (Albania), Pleso (Croatia), Zvolen (Slovakia), and Brnik (Slovenia) and integration and remote control of national radio sites in these locations.

The VCE at each site will provide the operators with access to G-A-G circuits including HF, VHF and UHF channels and also voice co-ordination circuits for tactical data links. G-G circuits provide communication with a wide variety of entities over many different carrier networks. Destinations include radar and other sensor sites, military and civilian Air Traffic Control (ATC) centres, weapons co-ordination, air defence centres, deployable systems, Command, Control, Communication and Information (C3I) Centres and other ACCS entities. Intercom facilities give ASBE operators communication with each other.

The formal IFB is planned to be issued in May 2020 with a Bid Closing Date in Q4 2020. Contract Award is anticipated for Q3 of 2021.

Closing Date for Nominations of Firms by their national delegations is 19 May 2020.

Contracting Officer: Ms Katharina Schwarz

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NATO Communications  
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To : Distribution List

Subject : Notification of Intent to Invite Bids for International Competitive Bidding  
Provide ACCS Software Based Element (ASBE)

**IFB-CO-14123-ACCS**

Reference(s) : A. AC/4-D/2261 (1996 Edition)  
B. AC/4(PP)D/27232-ADD1 (Albania)  
C. AC/4(PP)D/27253-ADD1 (Croatia)  
D. AC/4(PP)D/27268-ADD1 (Slovakia)  
E. AC/4(PP)D/27241-ADD1 (Slovenia)  
F. AC/4-DS(2014)0019  
G. C-M(2002)49 – NATO Security Policy

1. The NATO Communications and Information Agency (NCI Agency), acting as Procurement Agent on behalf of Albania, Croatia, Slovakia, and Slovenia, intends, in accordance with paragraph 6 of Reference A, to invite bids for the procurement and implementation of the VCS for the ASBE sites Rinas, Pleso, Zvolen, and Brnik. Release of this IFB is subject to prior authorization from the Investment Committee, currently envisaged for May 2020.
2. An overview of the requirements for this IFB are summarised in Annex B attached hereto.
3. The estimated investment cost for the services and deliverables included within scope of the intended contract is estimated at €12,491,040 for all four sites combined as set forth in References B-F.
4. This will be a single Firm Fixed Price contract with expected duration of approximately 30 months and follow on contract options for In-Service Support and Post Warranty In-Service Support. It is planned to place a single contract with one Contractor. No partial bidding will be allowed.
5. Subject to appropriate second stage authorization from the Investment Committee, the NCI Agency intends to use the standard International Competitive Bidding (ICB) Procedure, i.e. lowest priced technically compliant bid.
6. The Agency plans to issue the formal IFB in May 2020 and to conduct site surveys followed by a Bidders Conference in Q3 2020. Bid Closing Date is envisaged for Q4 2020 and Contract Award for Q3 2021. Contract award is subject to funding availability by the NATO Investment Committee and Host Nations Albania, Croatia, Slovakia, and Slovenia. The Purchaser reserves the right to amend above dates accordingly.
7. Pursuant to paragraph 6 of Reference A, National Representatives are kindly requested that the NCI Agency be provided with a Declaration of Eligibility, **not later than 19 May 2020** of qualified and certified firms that are interested in bidding for this project. In addition to the certifications required under this NOI, the Declarations of



Eligibility shall include the following information for each of the nominated firms: **name of the firm, telephone number, fax number, e-mail address, and Point of Contact.** This information is critical to enable smooth communication with prospective Bidders and should be sent to the following address:

NATO Communications and Information Agency  
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Attention: Katharina Schwarz – Senior Contracting Officer

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8. It is emphasized that 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 twelve (12) months from closing date for receipt of bids, supported by a bid guarantee of €300,000 (three hundred thousand EUR). 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.
10. National Authorities are advised that the IFB Package will be NATO UNCLASSIFIED. However, execution of the proposed contract will require unescorted access and work of contractor personnel at NATO Class II security areas and in accordance with reference G, personnel of the winning bidder will be required to hold individual security clearances of "NATO SECRET". Only companies maintaining appropriate personnel clearances will be able to perform the resulting contract. Bidders are to note that contract award will not be delayed in order to allow Contractor personnel to obtain missing clearances.
11. The reference for this Invitation for Bid is CO-14123-ACCS, and all correspondence concerning it should reference this number.
12. Your assistance in this procurement is greatly appreciated.

For the Director of Acquisition:

Katharina Schwarz

Senior Contracting Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katharina Schwarz', written over a light blue circular stamp.

Enclosures:

Annex A Distribution List

Annex B Description of Contract Scope



## **Annex B: Summary of Requirements**

### **IFB-CO-14123-ACCS**

#### **1 Background**

The ACCS Capability Package (CP 5A-0109) authorised projects in order to establish a first Level of Operational Capability (LOC1) through the validation and test of the core software at the ACCS Software & System Test and Validation Facility (STVF) and the follow-on implementation to validation sites and then replication sites.

The approved Addendum 2 to CP 5A-0109 refers to the "Extension of the ACCS into Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia". An ACCS Software-Based Element (ASBE) will be provided, using the ACCS software and hardware at ACCS Extension sites.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Stage Authorization of Voice Communication Equipment (VCE) part of the ASBE Type "B" Cost Estimate was granted on 23 September 2014 (Reference F).

The Authority to Issue the Invitation for Bid (AIIFB) is subject to prior authorization from the Investment Committee, currently envisaged for May 2020.

#### **2 Scope**

The ASBE VCE includes Voice Communication System (VCS) at each site to provide Air Command and Control (AirC2) operators, as a function of their role, with access to G-A-G radios including HF, VHF and UHF channels and also radios for voice co-ordination of tactical data links (Link 11 and Link 16). The operator work positions will be equipped with a Voice Communication Facility (VCF) as part of the ASBE VCE along with secure and non-secure means to control the ACCS communications at sites. Furthermore, the Ground to Ground (G-G) element provides communications with a wide variety of entities over many different carrier networks. The VCE contains additionally telephone sets, public address system, time reference, communications system manager work position and voice recording / replaying and reproduction (VR/R) installation.

During the execution of the contract, the Contractor will be requested to perform the following activities:

- Project Management, including reporting to the Purchaser;
- System Requirements Review (SRR) based on the initial system requirements included in the Contract;
- System Design Review (SDR) as needed to satisfy the system-level requirements with a solution;
- Preliminary Design Review (PDR) and Critical Design Review (CDR) shall be conducted i.a.w. MIL-STD-499 and MIL-STD-1521. Activities shall include hardware and firmware design and hardware selection;
- ASBE VCE Configuration and Data Management, Quality Assurance;
- Progress and technical reviews, where the Contractor shall present and walk through engineering data, specifications, drawings, manuals, schematics, design and test plans, supported by implementation oriented demonstrations and prototypes;
- Hardware procurement and delivery, system installation, and integration;



- Test & Evaluation (T&E) of the requirements by inspection, analysis or test as defined in the contract and listed in the Verification Cross Reference Index (VCRI) using those methods throughout T&E activities, and following them with required acceptance protocols;
- ASBE VCE spare part, training and documentation delivery;
- Warranty period, and options for in service support.

### 3 VCE System Requirements

The scope of the contract includes VCE system requirements for generic and site specific ASBE communications. The main generic requirements are given below:

- The ASBE VCE is based on Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) for both the telephone and radio subsystems;
- The ASBE VCE provides legacy Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) connectivity for G-G interfaces;
- The VCE will support IP version 6 on the VoIP output data stream;
- The data and voice communications including radio communications are separated to the Secure (RED) and the Non-secure (BLACK) in the ASBE VCS;
- ASBE VCE is capable of communicating over High Frequency (HF), Very High Frequency (VHF) and Ultra High Frequency (UHF), Have Quick (HQ)II and Saturn channels and also voice co-ordination circuits for tactical data links (Link 11 and Link 16);
- System Management work position is for inter alia user management, system technical management, administration and status monitoring;
- The ASBE VCE contains Built-in Test (Online Monitoring and Alarms) capability;
- All ASBE work positions will be equipped with the VCF providing the communication control capabilities and call processing features that constitute the operator interface to the VCE;
- The VR/R is able to record, replay, and reproduce all communications including intercom via the Voice Communications Facility (VCF), UHF and VHF radio guard channels, and RED and BLACK voice telephone and radio communications; Replay functionality shall provide stand-alone capability with VCE and remote synchronized replay capability initiated by AirC2 system data part at site.
- Notification about the recording all conversation to non-military networks incoming and outgoing calls.
- ASBE VCE communications protected by NATO approved Purchaser Furnished Equipment (PFE) crypto equipment that is compatible with the information exchange requirements.

### 4 Implementation Strategy

The bidders will be requested to keep coordinated implementation schedule with the ASBE Command and Control portions' installation at sites.