

NCIA/ACQ/2018/1858
17 December 2018

**Notification of Intent to Invite International Competitive Bids for the
PROVISION OF INFORMATION EXCHANGE GATEWAY (IEG-C)
BETWEEN NATO SECRET AND MISSION SECRET DOMAINS Project**

IFB-CO-14314-IEG-C

EUR 7,839,608 (Estimated value)

NCI Agency is the Host Nation to procure and implement an information exchange gateway between NATO SECRET and MISSION SECRET domains. The IEG-C project will industrialize an existing prototype capability, thereby reducing risks to security, providing resilience, improving control, management and maintenance aspects, while adhering to newly approved NATO Standards.

Contracting Officer: Mr Peter Kowalski

E-mail: peter.kowalski@ncia.nato.int

To : Distribution List

Subject : **Notification of Intent to Invite International Competitive Bids for the Provision of Information Exchange Gateway Between Nato Secret And Mission Secret (IEG-C)**

Reference(s) : A. AC/4-D/2261 (1996 Edition)
B. AC/4-D/2261-ADD2 (1996 Edition)
C. AC/4-D(2008)0002-REV2 dated 5 July 2015, Best Value Evaluation Methodology
D. C-M(2002)49
E. AC/4(PP)D/27045-ADD1; AC/4-DS(2015)0018
F. AC/4(PP)D/27045-ADD2
G. AC/4-DS(2018)0021

1. In accordance with References A to G, notice is given of the intent of the NATO Communications and Information Agency (NCI Agency), as the Host Nation, to issue an Invitation for Bid (IFB) for the provision of an information exchange gateway between NATO SECRET and MISSION SECRET domains as an International Competitive Bid.

2. The project will implement IEG-C systems in various locations (listed partially in Annex A), where prototype gateways have been already installed to meet NATO requirements for border controls, including one (1) reference system and a management facility to be installed in the first location in the NCI Agency in SHAPE.
3. Attached to this letter (Annex A) is a summary of the project's requirements. These requirements are being refined and detailed as part of the preparation of the IEG-C proposed contract.
4. The reference for the Invitation for Bid is IFB-CO-14314-IEG-C, and all correspondence concerning the 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 EUR 7,839,608. No Life Cycle support is foreseen in the basic scope. Funding for this project is provided by the Investment Committee "at 28".
6. In accordance with Reference B, the not-to-exceed investment cost for bids submitted shall be EUR 9,799,510 (125% of the estimated investment cost stated in paragraph 6), or the equivalent expressed in any other allowed currency calculated in accordance with the currency conversion prescriptions that will be expressed in the IFB.
7. The NCI Agency is authorized to use the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) Procedure, Best Value Procedures. The successful bid pursuant to this IFB will be that bid which is deemed to offer the best value for money in accordance with predefined bid evaluation criteria which will be detailed in the IFB as prescribed by the Best Value Procedures. The authorized top level criteria will be: Technical (50%) and Price (50%).
8. The formal IFB is planned to be issued in the Q1 2019, and Contract Award is planned for Q2 2020. No partial bidding will be allowed.
9. National responsible authorities are kindly requested to provide to the NCI Agency Declarations of Eligibility, not later than **4 February 2019** of qualified and certified firms which are interested in bidding for this project. In addition to the certification of the firm's security clearances required under this NOI, the Declarations of Eligibility should 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 prompt and accurate communication with prospective Bidders and should be sent to the following address:

NATO Communications and Information Agency
Boulevard Leopold III, 1110, Brussels, BELGIUM
Attention: Mr. Peter Kowalski – Senior Contracting Officer, S2/2083

Fax : +32 (0)2 707-8770
E-mail : Peter.Kowalski@ncia.nato.int

10. 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 EUR 300,000 (three 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.

11. National authorities are advised the IFB package is anticipated to be NATO UNCLASSIFIED; however, the bidding and the contractual documents are expected to contain references to other NATO documents classified as NATO RESTRICTED.
12. The successful Bidder will be required to handle and store classified information up to the level of NATO SECRET. In addition, Contractor personnel will be required to work unescorted in Class II Security areas and therefore, in accordance with paragraph 8(b) of Enclosure D of Reference D 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.
13. Requests for participation in this competition received directly from individual firms cannot be considered.
14. The NCI Agency point of contact for all information concerning this IFB is Mr. Peter Kowalski, Senior Contracting Officer, fax: +32 (0)2 707 8770, email: peter.kowalski@ncia.nato.int
15. Your assistance in this procurement is greatly appreciated.

FOR THE DIRECTOR:

[Original Signed By]

Peter Kowalski
Senior Contracting Officer

Attachment(s):

Annex A- Summary of the Requirements

Distribution List

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Annex A – Summary of the Requirements

1. Introduction

The Information Exchange Gateway Case C (IEG-C) project will provide:

- Support for Information Exchange Services of critical information and real time data between the NATO Secret core network (which comprise NATO commands, agencies, and connected NATO Nations) and Mission Secret networks (for NATO Responses Forces, NATO-led Coalition Exercises or Operations).
- These services will be provided by a gateway, which should be able to scale based in the needs of the supported mission, available bandwidth and response times.
- These gateways may be in deployed positions but will be centrally managed, monitored and controlled, while physical maintenance will be undertaken by local staff.
- The main objective of the gateway is to protect NATO Secret (NS) Network from unauthorized access from the NATO-led Mission Secret (MS) network, and to prevent the release of un-authorised data. The gateway will mediate exchange of data for both 'core' and 'functional' services.

2. Project Scope

This project will provide the system for securing information exchange services between the NATO Secret Bi-SC AIS and the NATO-led Mission Secret networks by the implementation of secure gateways, replacing the prototype gateways in current use, and conform to recently approved NATO Metadata STANAGs (4774, 4778). The project will provide a standardized architecture for IEG-C, resolving deficiencies and improving management capabilities by including a centralized management capability. The current gateways will be upgraded, redesigned or renewed to comply with this architecture.

The IEG-C services will be partly virtualised and hosted on the infrastructure provided by the Agency and procured through the ITM contract.

The aforementioned information exchange services shall include in particular:

- Text Chat
- Electronic mail
- Directory Services
- Web Services
- Common Operational Picture Data
- Video Teleconferencing
- Tactical Data Links data
- Secure Voice over IP

IEG-C will be robust and reliable, with a 24/7 availability.

IEG-C will utilise certificates provided by the NATO Public Key Infrastructure (NPKI) service.

The IEG-C project scope includes:

- Project management
- Requirements Analysis, System Engineering/Design, Testing, Site Surveys
- Security accreditation
- Site implementation
- Initial support

3. Geographical implementation

The IEG-C Service will be installed in 6 locations and managed centrally from SHAPE Mons, as follows:

Mandatory Sites

- SHAPE (Mons, Belgium)
 - NATO Response Force (NRF)
 - Very high-readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF)
 - Exercise
 - Reference System & Management Facility
- JWC Stavanger
 - Exercise 1
 - Exercise 2
- EUROCORPS Strasbourg
- Allied Rapid Response Corps (ARRC Innsworth)
- JFC NAPLES (Lago Patria, Italy)
 - Active Endeavour
 - NRF Standby
- Joint Force Training Centre (JFTC) Bydgoszcz
 - Exercise 1

Optional Sites

- NCIA Testbed (The Hague, The Netherlands)
- HQ Kabul (Resolute Support)
- KFOR Pristina

- EUFOR Sarajevo
- JFC NAPLES (Lago Patria, Italy)
 - Ocean Shield
 - Resolute Support
- Afloat Command Platform (NATO flag ship)