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Route de Vinon-sur-Verdon - CS 90 046 - 13067 St Paul Lez Durance Cedex - France

## **PRIOR INDICATIVE NOTICE (PIN)**

### **OPEN TENDER SUMMARY**

**IO/24/OT/70001109/ERA**

for

**IT Hardware and Related Services**

#### **Abstract**

The purpose of this summary is to provide prior notification of the IOs intention to launch a competitive Open Tender process in the coming weeks. This summary provides some basic information about the ITER Organisation, the technical scope for this tender, and details of the tender process for the provision of the As-Built Digitalization Solution.

## 1 Introduction

This Prior Indicative Notice (PIN) is the first step of an Open Tender Procurement Process leading to the award and execution of one or two Framework Contract(s).

The purpose of this document is to provide a basic summary of the technical content in terms of the scope of work, and the tendering process.

The Domestic Agencies are invited to publish this information in advance of the forth-coming tender giving companies, institutions or other entities that are capable of providing these services prior notice of the tender details.

## 2 Background

The ITER project is an international research and development project jointly funded by its seven Members being, the European Union (represented by EURATOM), Japan, the People's Republic of China, India, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation and the USA. ITER is being constructed in Europe at St. Paul–Lez-Durance in southern France, which is also the location of the headquarters (HQ) of the ITER Organization (IO).

For a complete description of the ITER Project, covering both organizational and technical aspects of the Project, visit [www.iter.org](http://www.iter.org).

## 3 Scope of Work

Currently ITER Organization (hereinafter IO) acquires its IT hardware (PC, server, storage, printer, network, audio/video products), IT Solutions and Services via value-added resellers providing a distribution channel between the products manufacturers and IO. These contracts require the selected contractors to hold highly qualified partnership relations with the various manufacturers involved.

The purpose of this open call for tenders is to conclude a framework supply contract (per lot) for the supply of a wide range of Information Technology solutions (Hardware, Software, Services and Consultancy). The tenderers must be able to deliver the complete range of solutions (for the lot(s) for which they are applying) from the main brands in the sector. The future Contractors must provide a unique interface between the manufacturers and IO.

The selected Contractor(s) should be able to deliver high quality services related to the hardware selling including, but not limited to:

- Presales consultancy;
- Configuration optimization;
- Hardware and software installation;
- Extended warranty;
- Preventive and remedial maintenance;
- Services and SLAs including monitoring
- other incidental services such as consulting, development and training.

The scope of work consists in supplying the hardware, services and maintenance as requested in the relevant task orders upon acceptance of the corresponding commercial proposal.

The overall objectives of the Contract resulting from the present procurement procedure are as follows:

- Obtaining an efficient way to acquire IT solutions that cover a wide range of products, such as:
  - New Hardware and Software subsequently as-a-service.
  - Consultancy services (including installation and configuration of products and trainings).
  - Maintenance services for the new acquired products and take-over of the existing maintenances.
  - Supply of add-ons and upgrades to equipment already in use prior to the entry into force of the Framework Contract.

- Cloud and onsite services.
- Simple contract administration and management (quotation, ordering, order tracking, delivery, reporting, etc.), for new acquisitions and related services.
- An acquisition channel that allows the choice/purchase of “best-of-breed” systems in a highly dynamic IT market.
- ITER to benefit from the most advantageous prices available in the market.

**This open tender is divided in two lots.**

- **Lot 1:** to select one Contractor recognized for its expertise in the supply of IT hardware (e.g. laptop, desktop, workstation, servers), consumables (e.g. printer toner and spare parts), other items related to IT (e.g. laptop bag) and associated services (e.g. guarantee, maintenance, consultancy).
- **Lot 2:** to select one Contractor recognized for its expertise in the supply of IBM specialized hardware and services targeted high performance computing such as but not limited to: storage (hardware, software and / or storage as a service), backup (hardware, software and / or backup as services), 24/7 support and monitoring, warranty and extended warranty service performed onsite, maintenance and various other services (installation, migration, updates, development, consultancy, etc.).

The details can be found in the Technical Specifications ref. ITER\_D\_B9QP58 v1.0 (attached to this PIN).

#### **4 Procurement Process & Objective**

The objective is to award a Framework Contract(s) through a competitive bidding process.

The Procurement Procedure selected for this tender is called the Open Tender procedure.

The Open Tender procedure is comprised of the following four main steps:

- Step 1- Prior Indicative Notice (PIN):

The Prior Indicative Notice is the first stage of the Open Tender process. The IO formally invites the Domestic Agencies to publish information about the forthcoming tender in order to alert companies, institutions or other entities about the tender opportunity in advance. Interested tenderers are kindly requested to return the expression of interest form (Annex I) by e-mail by the date indicated in the procurement timetable below.

**Special attention:**

**Interested tenderers are kindly requested to register in the IO Ariba e-procurement tool called “IPROC”. The registration process is described at the following link: <https://www.iter.org/fr/proc/overview>.**

**When registering in Ariba (IPROC), suppliers are kindly requested to nominate at least one contact person. This contact person will be receiving the notification of publication of the Request for Proposal and will then be able to forward the tender documents to colleagues if deemed necessary.**

- Step 2 – Request for Proposal:

The Request for Proposal will be sent in IPROC to the Tenderers who expressed their interests in accordance with the procurement timetable below. This stage allows interested bidders who have seen

the PIN to obtain the tender documents and to prepare and submit their proposals in accordance with the tender instructions.

**Special attention:**

**Only companies registered in the IPROC tool will be invited to the tender.**

➤ Step 3 – Tender Evaluation Process:

Tenderers proposals will be evaluated by an impartial, professionally competent technical evaluation committee of the ITER Organization. Tenderers must provide details demonstrating their technical compliance to perform the work in line with the technical scope and in accordance with the particular criteria listed in the Request for Proposal (RFP).

➤ Step 4 – Contract award:

A framework contract(s) will be awarded on the basis of Best Value for Money according to the evaluation criteria and methodology described in the Request for Proposal (RFP).

## Procurement Timetable

The tentative timetable is as follows:

Milestone	Date
Publication of the Prior Indicative Notice (PIN)	19/06/2024
Submission of expression of interest form	05/07/2024
Request for Proposal (RFP) publishing on IPROC	12/07/2024
Clarification Questions (if any) and Answers	23/08/3024
Answers to Clarifications	30/08/3024
Tender Submission in IPROC	13/09/2024
Tender Evaluation & Contract(s) Award	December 2024
Contract Signature	December 2024
Contract Commencement (through Task Orders)	January 2025

## 5 Quality Assurance Requirements

Prior to commencement of any work under this Contract(s), a “Quality Plan” shall be produced by the Supplier and Subcontractors and submitted to the IO for approval, describing how they will implement the ITER Procurement Quality Requirements.

## 6 Contract Duration and Execution

The ITER Organization shall award a Framework Contract(s) around in December 2024. The estimated contract duration shall be 3 years with 2 optional periods of 1 year.

The working language of ITER is English, and a fluent professional level is required (spoken and written).

## 7 Experience and Capacity

The tenderer shall demonstrate their technical and industrial experience related to the scope of work as detailed in Annex I for the lot(s) for which they intend to provide a tender offer.

The working language of ITER is English, and a fluent professional level is required (spoken and written).

## **8 Candidature**

Participation is open to all legal entities participating either individually or in a grouping/consortium. A legal entity is an individual, company, or organization that has legal rights and obligations and is established within an ITER Member State.

Legal entities cannot participate individually or as a consortium partner in more than one application or tender of the same contract. A consortium may be a permanent, legally-established grouping, or a grouping which has been constituted informally for a specific tender procedure. All members of a consortium (i.e. the leader and all other members) are jointly and severally liable to the ITER Organization.

In order for a consortium to be acceptable, the individual legal entities included therein shall have nominated a leader with authority to bind each member of the consortium, and this leader shall be authorised to incur liabilities and receive instructions for and on behalf of each member of the consortium.

It is expected that the designated consortium lead will explain the composition of the consortium members in a covering letter at the tendering stage. Following this, the Candidate's composition must not be modified without notifying the ITER Organization of any changes. Evidence of any such authorisation shall be submitted to the IO in due course in the form of a power of attorney signed by legally authorised signatories of all the consortium members.

## **9 Sub-contracting Rules**

All sub-contractors who will be taken on by the Contractor shall be declared with the tender submission. Each sub-contractor will be required to complete and sign forms including technical and administrative information which shall be submitted to the IO by the tenderer as part of its tender.

The IO reserves the right to approve any sub-contractor which was not notified in the tender and request a copy of the sub-contracting agreement between the tenderer and its sub-contractor(s). For each Contract, sub-contracting is allowed but it is limited to one level, and its cumulated volume is limited to 30% of the total Contract value. Two levels of sub-contracting may be considered for very specific activities which will be mentioned by the IO in the Tender documentation.