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

## **PRIOR INFORMATION NOTICE (PIN)**

### **OPEN TENDER SUMMARY**

**IO/25/OT/10032957/JGO**

**for**

**Supply Contract Industrial Gas for ITER**

Prior Indicative Notice annexes:

- Annex I: Expression of Interest Form
- Annex II: Technical Specification VXLV6Q\_v3\_1

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### **Abstract**

The purpose of this summary is to provide prior notification of the IO's 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.

## 1 Introduction

This Prior Information Notice (PIN) is the first step of an Open Tender Procurement Process leading to the award and execution of Supply Contract.

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.

## 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

The present tender process is aiming to set up a Supply Contract for the supply of liquid and gaseous nitrogen as well as the supply of calibration and other gases.

For more details, please refer to - Annex II: Technical Specification VXLV6Q\_v3\_1.

## 4 Procurement Process & Objective

The objective is to award one Supply Contract 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 Information Notice (PIN)

The Prior Information Notice is the first stage of the Open Tender process. The IO formally invites interested Suppliers to indicate their interest in the competitive process by returning to the Procurement officer in charge the attached “Expression of Interest and PIN Acknowledgement” (Annex I) by the date indicated under the procurement timetable.

#### **Special attention:**

**Interested tenderers are kindly requested to register in the IO Ariba e-procurement tool called “IPROC”. You can find all links to proceed along with instruction going to: <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 - Invitation to Tender

The Request for Proposals (RFP) will be published on our digital tool “Iproc” after the submission of Expression of Interest. This stage allows interested bidders who have indicated their interest to the Procurement Officers in charge AND who have registered in IPROC to receive the notification that the RFP is published. They will then prepare and submit their proposals in accordance with the tender instructions detailed in the RFP.

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

➤ **Step 3 – Tender Evaluation Process**

Tenderers proposals will be evaluated by an impartial evaluation committee of the IO. 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 RFP.

➤ **Step 4 – Contract Award**

One Supply Contract will be awarded on the basis of best value for money or lowest priced technically compliant method, according to the evaluation criteria and methodology described in the RFP.

## **Procurement Timetable**

The tentative timetable is as follows:

| Milestone                                        | Date                              |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Publication of the Prior Indicative Notice (PIN) | 18 August 2025                    |
| Submission of Expression of Interest form        | No later than 5 September 2025    |
| Tender launch                                    | No later than 12 September 2025   |
| Clarification Questions (if any) and Answers     | 5 days before submission deadline |
| Tender Submission                                | 24 October 2025                   |
| Tender Evaluation & Contract Award               | Q4 2025                           |
| Contract Signature                               | Q4 2025                           |

## **5 Quality Assurance Requirements**

Prior to commencement of any work under this Contract, 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 is planning to award the Supply Contract in Q4 2025. The estimated contract duration should be 2 fixed years and another 2 years as option.

## **7 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, 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.

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 leader will explain the composition of the consortium members in its offer. 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.

Any consortium member shall be registered in IPROC.

## **8 Sub-contracting Rules**

All sub-contractors who will be taken on by the Contractor shall be declared with the tender submission in IPROC. 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.

All declared sub-contractors must be established within an ITER Member State in order to participate.

The IO reserves the right to approve (or disapprove) any sub-contractor which was not notified in the tender and request a copy of the sub-contracting agreement between the tenderer and its subcontractor(s). Rules on sub-contracting are indicated in the RFP itself.