



NCIA/ACQ/2023/07223
22 August 2023

Notification of Intent to Invite Bids

Method: Basic Ordering Agreement Plus (BOA+)

“PROVISION OF HOSTING, MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT TO THE INTERNATIONAL SUBMARINE SEARCH AND RESCUE LIAISON OFFICE (ISMERLO) C2 SYSTEM”

NCI Agency Reference: IFB-CO-115887-ISMERLO

Estimated Amount: EUR 250,000, Optional amount EUR 1,000,000.00

NOI Closing Date: 5 September 2023

Solicitation Release Date: Anticipated on 11 September 2023

Solicitation Closing Date: Anticipated on 9 October 2023

Contract Award Date: Anticipated on 15 November 2023

Competition Type: BOA+ Lowest Priced Technically Compliant

The NCI Agency hereby notifies the NATO Nations of its intent to invite bids for the procurement of hosting, maintenance and support to the International Submarine Search and Rescue Liaison Office (ISMERLO) C2 SYSTEM.

NCI Agency Point of Contact

Radu Munteanu, Contracting Officer

Email: IFBCO115887ISMERLO@ncia.nato.int

Annexes:

- A. Summary of Requirements
- B. Distribution List
- C. List of Prospective Bidders

To : Distribution List

Subject : **Notification of Intent to Invite Bids for “PROVISION OF HOSTING, MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT TO THE INTERNATIONAL SUBMARINE SEARCH AND RESCUE LIAISON OFFICE (ISMERLO) C2 SYSTEM”**

References :

- A.** BC-D(2018)0004-FINAL, BC Budget Procurement Guidance
- B.** AC/4-D(2019)0004(INV), dated 4 July 2019, Procedure Governing the Use of Basic Ordering Agreements

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1. In accordance with References A through B, the NCI Agency, as the Host Nation responsible to implement the project in subject, hereby gives notice of its intent (NOI) to issue an Invitation for Bid (IFB) for “PROVISION OF HOSTING, MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT TO THE INTERNATIONAL SUBMARINE SEARCH AND RESCUE LIAISON OFFICE (ISMERLO) C2 SYSTEM”, hereafter referred to as the “Project”.
 2. A high-level summary of the Project’s technical requirements is set forth in Annex A hereto. These requirements are being refined and will be included in further details as part of the IFB.
 3. The reference for this Project is IFB-CO-115887-ISMERLO, and all correspondence concerning this NOI and subsequent IFB should reference this number.
 4. It is planned to award a single contract for the entire scope of work. No partial bidding will be accepted. The envisaged contract vehicle is a Firm Fixed Price (FFP) for the first year of the contract, and a Fixed-Price Economic Price Adjustments (FP-EPA) in the following years with award to one Contractor.
 5. The NCI Agency will use the Basic Ordering Agreement (BOA) Plus bidding procedures. Annex C attached to this letter contains a list of potential bidders which may be able to provide the products or services required for this Project. This list was compiled from companies already holding an active BOA with the NCI Agency and from companies that have already been nominated by their national authorities.
 6. In addition to the companies listed in Annex C, the BOA Plus procedures allow national authorities to nominate eligible bidders without an active BOA. Hence, qualified and certified companies interested in receiving an IFB for this Project are hereby requested to provide a Declaration of Eligibility (DoE), sent by their Delegation/Mission to NATO to the NCI Agency contracting authority not later than 5 September 2023, which is 14 calendar days after the date of this letter.
 - a. The DoE should include the following information for each of the nominated companies:
 - Company name
 - Company address
 - Point of Contact (PoC)

- PoC email address
- PoC telephone number

b. This information is critical to enable prompt and accurate communication with prospective bidders and should be sent electronically to IFBCO115887ISMERLO@ncia.nato.int.

7. In order to maximize competition the NCI Agency may, at this discretion, accept nominations after the deadline, so long as the IFB has not been issued. The NCI Agency may even accept, at its discretion, nominations after the IFB has been issued under the condition that such late nomination will not be used as the basis to request an extension to the bid closing date.
8. Requests for participation in this competition received directly from individual companies will not be considered.
9. Bidders will be required to declare a bid validity of 6 months from bid closing date. Should the selection and award procedure exceed the bid closing date by more than 6 months, companies will be requested to voluntarily extend the validity of their bids 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 is anticipated to be NATO UNCLASSIFIED. The successful bidder will be required to handle and store classified information up to the level of NATO UNCLASSIFIED.
11. The NCI Agency is not liable for any expenses incurred by companies in conjunction with their responses to this NOI and such responses shall not be regarded as a commitment of any kind concerning future procurement of the items or services described herein.
12. Your assistance in this procurement is greatly appreciated.

For the Chief of Acquisition:

[Original Signed By]

Radu Munteanu
Contracting Officer

Radu Munteanu
Digitally signed
by Radu Munteanu
Date: 2023.08.22
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Annex A – Summary of Requirements

1. Project Objective

The ISMERLO is an organisation that aims to facilitate an international response for a distressed submarine (DISSUB) and to improve the ability to respond to a call for assistance through its coordination role. Although established by NATO, ISMERLO supports all nations and pursues the involvement of global submarine-operating nations. ISMERLO is a military organisation operating in an international environment focused on the humanitarian objective of saving lives at sea.

The ISMERLO system is a web based Command & Control (C2) system used to plan and co-ordinate escape and rescue efforts for the worldwide submarine community during peace time.

2. Scope of Work

The overall technical scope of the contract will comprise:

2.1 Maintenance Requirements

Maintain a suitable system development, build and configuration control environment; store and maintain the system code base using the NATO Software Factory; manage and maintain a software 'staging platform' to host beta releases of the system for testing and evaluation purposes; and provide corrective, adaptive, preventive and perfective maintenance.

Manage requested changes via the ISMERLO content management system and developing updated system interface designs as required.

Implement, review, test and introduce all NCI Agency-approved change requests into ISMERLO; perform security and vulnerability scans before each software release and resolve any identified vulnerabilities.

Produce new software releases as necessary with a minimum expectation of a new release every quarter, and releasing patches and hotfixes to address critical issues and security vulnerabilities as required.

2.2 Hosting Requirements & Handling of Outages

Host the operational system in a cloud-based environment, e.g. Amazon Web Services (AWS), ensuring that the system remains responsive during periods of heavy usage or during a cyber-attack such as a distributed denial of service attack.

Perform monitoring of hosting platform (publicly accessible web site) performance and uptime; Report incidents any downtime that might have affected users, whether administrative or operational.

Plan and coordinate (with the NCI Agency) any foreseen system outages that are required as part of system maintenance (such as security updates). Such outages will be considered and treated as 'Approved Service Interruptions' and shall not be considered as interruptions to the service. The uptime performance level shall be 99%.

Provide a Staging Platform in the same cloud-based environment as the operational system which replicates the operational environment to the extent possible.

3 The Period of Performance

The period of performance will start on 1st January 2024 and end on 31st December 2024, including options for the continued annual Contractor furnished hosting, maintenance and support services to be exercised for up to four (4) additional years. The Purchaser reserves the right to unilateral exercise these options at any time from Contract Award until before the end of the Contract.

Annex B – Distribution List

NATO Delegations:

Albania	Greece	Poland
Belgium	Hungary	Portugal
Bulgaria	Iceland	Romania
Canada	Italy	Slovakia
Croatia	Latvia	Slovenia
Czech Republic	Lithuania	Spain
Denmark	Luxembourg	The Republic of Türkiye
Estonia	Montenegro	The United Kingdom
France	Netherlands	The United States
Finland	North Macedonia	
Germany	Norway	

Embassies in Brussels (Attn: Commercial Attaché):

Albania	Greece	Poland
Belgium	Hungary	Portugal
Bulgaria	Iceland	Romania
Canada	Italy	Slovakia
Croatia	Latvia	Slovenia
Czech Republic	Lithuania	Spain
Denmark	Luxembourg	The Republic of Türkiye
Estonia	Montenegro	The United Kingdom
France	Netherlands	The United States
Finland	North Macedonia	
Germany	Norway	

NCI Agency – All NATEXs