

Q&A – Phase I of the Restricted procedure ref. LISA-2017-RP-01

Framework Contract for the maintenance in working order of the Schengen Information System

Series 1- Replies to Questions received by 28.02.2017

THE ANSWERS PROVIDED HEREWITH, INCLUDING THE REVISED ATTACHMENTS, SHALL FORM AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE RELEVANT DOCUMENTS OF THE TENDER DOSSIER.

Question 1.1

According to page 14/16, section technical and professional selection criteria, “1. The candidate must have proven experience in the design and/or development and/or maintenance of a large-scale IT system in at least 3 (three) entirely separate projects during the last 3 years”. Our understanding is that candidates can submit more than 3 project references. Could you please confirm our understanding is correct?

Answer 1.1

Your understanding is correct, but please consider that the maximum number of project references shall be 6.

Question 1.2

According to page 14/16, section technical and professional selection criteria, “out of these three projects [...] c) At least 1 (one) of the installed reference system should be related to a system that uses fingerprint identification and possibly additional biometrics features”. Our understanding is that it is sufficient to submit one project reference covering “fingerprint identification and biometrics features”. Could you please confirm our understanding is correct?

Answer 1.2

We confirm, at least one project shall cover the aspect indicated above.

Question 1.3

According to page 8/16, section Joint candidature and joint tender, “If candidates intend to submit a joint candidature with a view to submitting a joint-tender during phase 2, they must mention this fact in their candidature, together with any other relevant information in this respect. They must specify the entity leading the grouping”. Our understanding is that we can add more partners and/or subcontractors or replace them in phase 2 if necessary. Could you please confirm our understanding is correct?

Answer 1.3

Your understanding is not correct, the consortium (including possible members and sub-contractors) shall be established already during phase 1. The composition of the consortium during phase 2 of the call for tenders cannot be changed.

Question 1.4

According to page 8/16, it is stated "clear and concise, with continuous page numbering, and assembled in a coherent fashion (but not bound or stapled). Our understanding is that by "Not bound" candidates cannot use staples nor spiral binders, but can use binders. Could you please confirm that binders can be used?

Answer 1.4

Yes, binders can be used.

Question 1.5

According to page 10/16, section 6.4.1 "administrative information", it is stated "subcontractors are not required to provide legal entity form and financial identification form and the above mentioned evidence". However, in Annex II "Standard submission form", page 7/28, it is stated "all the involved legal entities must submit the above-mentioned form, including the supporting documents indicated therein (i.e. members of a joint candidature and/or subcontractors)". Moreover, in the checklist, the cell for subcontractors for these documents is empty. Could you please clarify if subcontractors need to submit the legal entity and the financial identification form together with their corresponding supporting documents? Our understanding is that subcontractors do not need to submit these evidences.

Answer 1.5

It is acknowledged that there is an inconsistency between the section 6.4.1 of the Guide for candidates and the Standard Submission form at page 7/29.

Please note that all involved legal entities shall submit the *legal entity form and the supporting documents*.

The guide for candidates under section 6.4.1 has now been corrected (in track changes) and the revised attachments are annexed in line of the above.

The check-list has also been modified accordingly in track changes within the standard submission form.

Question 1.6

Our understanding is that we have to submit the phase 1 in 1 original and 2 copies (in paper) + 1 electronic copy (CD-ROOM). Could you please confirm our understanding is correct?

Answer 1.6

It is acknowledged that there is an unclear point in the call for candidature - section 3. The request to participate in paper version shall be submitted in one original, one paper copy and one electronic copy. Please see below the change in Section 3 in the call for candidature:

For:

"3. If you are interested in this contract, you must submit a request to participate/candidature in triplicate, in one of the official languages of the European Union as follows:

(1) In paper form one original and two copies: the original should clearly be labelled "Original" and the copy as "Copy 1"

(2) in PDF (searchable version), MS Word, Excel or compatible format on CD-ROM.

In case of any discrepancies between paper version and the CD ROM version of the tender, the contents of the original paper version shall prevail."

Replace/Read

"3. If you are interested in this contract, you must submit a request to participate/candidature in triplicate, in one of the official languages of the European Union as follows:

(1) In paper form one original and one copy: the original should clearly be labelled "Original" and the copy as "Copy 1"

(2) in PDF (searchable version), MS Word, Excel or compatible format on CD-ROM.

In case of any discrepancies between paper version and the CD ROM version of the tender, the contents of the original paper version shall prevail."

Question 1.7

According to standard submission form, Section 4, technical selection, technical and professional capacity, page 22/28, "4.2.1 profiles", it is stated "please indicate your average manpower for the last three years" and in the table there are the years 2014, 2015 and 2016 added. If candidates do not have the fiscal year 2016 closed, our understanding is that candidates can add the figures for the years 2013, 2014 and 2015. Could you please confirm our understanding is correct?

Answer 1.7

Figures should be provided for 2014, 2015 and 2016 (with currently available figures for 2016).

Question 1.8

What is considered to be sufficient formal evidence of having a commercial basis access to the AFIS core technology?

- a. Is the candidate's confirmation of having the access sufficient?

Answer 1.8

No, the candidate's confirmation is not sufficient. As indicated in Section 6.4.3.B part on the evidence point 2:

"Formal evidence that, in case of award of the contract, the candidate will have access, on commercial basis, to the AFIS core technology described in point I.1.5 of Annex I (Executive Summary) for the entire duration of the contract. In particular, the owner of the AFIS core technology may be involved in the candidate's application as a member of a joint-candidature or as a subcontractor; in the latter case a clear undertaking by the owner of the AFIS core technology to place the core technology at the candidate's disposal shall be provided."

Question 1.9

On page 14/16, the following definition of "critical infrastructure" is provided: *critical infrastructure is broadly defined as an asset that is essential for the society in terms of economy, public safety or other relevant vital areas for the society. In this context it means an IT-system that is part of or is critically supporting such an infrastructure.* In this context we understand that an asset includes structures where large numbers of people regularly congregate to conduct business or personal transactions, shop, or enjoy a recreational pastime. Could you please confirm that our understanding is correct?

Answer 1.9

For the detailed definition of "critical infrastructure" please only refer to the footnote 6 of the document.

Question 1.10

On page 9/16, section 6.4 structure of the application, it is stated "the application must include three sections: 1) administrative [...] 4) declaration on confidentiality". However, in next sections, section 4

is not included. Could you please clarify where is the place we have to submit the declaration on confidentiality?

Answer 1.10

The declaration on confidentiality is the attachment 2 of the Standard Submission Form.

Question 1.11

According to standard submission form, Section 4, technical selection, technical and professional capacity, page 22/28, “4.2.1 profiles”, it is stated “please indicate your average manpower for the last three years” and in the table there are 2 rows: “candidate’s staff members” and “total”. Could you please clarify which is the difference? Which are the expected figures to be included in both?

Answer 1.11

The first row should only include the number of staff members of the candidates while the total may also include other typologies of staff (e.g. consultants, external experts, freelancers etc.)

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