

Invitation to Tender No: ENTR/08/028 – Questions and Answers (#03)

GENERAL

#	Ref. §	Page	Reference Sentences	Question	Answer
1				<p>Two companies, from two different jurisdictions and ultimately owned by the same two shareholders, wish to participate to the tender as competitors.</p> <p>No directors seats in the Board of Directors of both companies.</p> <p>Do you consider the above as a possible reason of disqualification from the tender for each of them?</p>	<p>Two different legal entities can respond to the call even if they are owned by the same shareholders. The Commission reserves the right to check that no conflicts of interest arise from this situation and that the conditions of genuine competition are respected.</p>
2				<p>Sauf erreur le nombre d'exemplaires de l'offre à remettre pour le 5 aout n'est pas stipulé :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - combien d'exemplaires papier souhaitez vous - un exemplaire electronique sous format CD ou DVD - joint avec l'envoi postal - est-il attendu ? 	<p>This information is given in the Invitation to Tender.</p>

SPECIFICATION document

#	Ref. §	Page	Reference Sentences	Question	Answer
3	4.3	26	<p>The GMES services may be triggered by the MIC or directly by the civil protection authorities of EU Member States [.....]</p> <p>EFAS is a tool for flood early warning, while EFFIS is a tool for predicting and monitoring forest fire risk. Both tools might be relevant as a triggering mechanism for the ERCS [.....]</p> <p>Following the users' requirements review at Commission services level, it might appear that there is a need to interface GDACS with the ERCS [.....]</p> <p>However, the procedures for accessing the ERCS may have to take into consideration if the Charter has been activated or not by the user organization requesting the ERCS products.</p>	<p>What is the meaning for trigger/interface/requesting?</p> <p>Is there (or is foresee) an interaction between the named systems (MIC or EFFIS or EFAS or GDAC) and the ERCS providers?</p> <p>Is there (or is foresee) an interaction between the named systems (MIC or EFFIS or EFAS or GDAC) with the end user systems?</p> <p>Must Activities (analysis, developments...) related to the previous questions, be foresee in the technical proposal?</p>	<p>The ERCS is considered to be triggered by a user request, i.e. when ERCS providers receive a request for specific ERCS products. It is part of task 1.2 to define the information-exchange protocols for a user to access the ERCS (i.e. the procedure to "trigger" the ERCS).</p> <p>The target group of users includes the Commission service dealing with Civil Protection and responsible for the MIC (see 4.4 and footnote 3 of the tender specifications), thus an interaction between the MIC and the ERCS is expected as explained in the tender specifications under 4.3 "The MIC will be informed of the information requested and received by civil protection authorities, in addition it will be considered as a user of the ERCS". This must be taken into account in the technical proposal.</p> <p>There is already a link between the MIC and European civil protection authorities involved in the Civil Protection Mechanism (as defined under 4.4 of the tender specifications).</p> <p>As explained under 4.3 of the tender specifications, EFFIS and EFAS products are delivered through the MIC to civil protection authorities. This information might be used to decide to request additional information from the ERCS (thus to "trigger" the ERCS). This is why "both tools might be relevant as triggering mechanism", but it will be up to the user to decide. This should be taken into consideration in the technical proposal in particular for Task 1.2.</p> <p>GDACS is also an alert system and the Commission services such as those in charge of Humanitarian Aid may want to use this information as a triggering mechanism of the ERCS. GDACS is also a tool for disaster response and those Commission services might be interested in integrating ERCS products into GDACS or to integrate ERCS information into GDACS. This should be taken into consideration in the technical proposal in particular for Task 1.2.</p> <p>The EC Joint Research Centre that provides or contributes to the EFFIS, EFAS, and GDACS information, has interactions with ERCS providers as it participates in R&D projects where ERCS products are developed.</p>

#	Ref. §	Page	Reference Sentences	Question	Answer
4	4.4	28	On this basis the successful tenderer shall implement the necessary elements to establish an operational interface between the users and ERCS providers. This activity shall encompass the specification, development and validation of the necessary information-exchange protocols.	Can the ERCS providers enrich the ERCS products with additional information coming from end user local system like rain gauge, specific sensors, etc..?	This is not foreseen in the context of this tender. The customisation of the products is expected to be done at user premises or by local service providers.
5	4.5	29	The contractor shall provide an evaluation of the needs for accessing reference data to support user activities in the event of an emergency. This will encompass an analysis of available datasets (e.g. basic geographical maps available from national mapping agencies) and the need to fill any gaps (e.g. requirements for updated or new specific products).	Is it necessary to foresee an analysis of the format of the information stored in the named databases? Are foresee integration between the end users' systems and the named databases?	Yes. The output of the tender will be a report assessing user needs for accessing databases containing reference data (report D2.3). Integration is not foreseen in this tender.
6	4.5	29	Task 1.1 The tenderers must foresee a budget to cover expenses linked to the technical implementation of the interfaces between the user focal point, including the least equipped ones, and the ERCS providers. [...] Preference should be given to open software solutions	Which kind of expenses are foresee in the € 300000? Only Hardware purchases?	It is expected that the implementation of interfaces may encompass the acquisition of hardware, as well as of open source or commercial software products.
7	4.5	29	Task 1.1 The tenderers must foresee a budget to cover expenses linked to the technical implementation of the interfaces between the user focal point, including the least equipped ones, and the ERCS providers.	From a contractual and organizational point of view, is the tenderer responsible for the actual procurement of equipment to the benefit of end-users, or is the tenderer only committed to identify the technical requirements for the purchase order and to cover the related expenses	The tender specifications state under 4.5, page 29, Task 1.1: “[...], the contractor shall be responsible for supplying, installing, integrating and testing [the IT equipment]”. This addresses the tenderer contractual obligation. From an organisational point of view, this will need to be arranged in coordination with the user concerned.

#	Ref. §	Page	Reference Sentences	Question	Answer
8	4.3	26	<p>International Charter on Space and Major Disasters (simply referred in this text as "the Charter") The Charter aims at providing a unified system of space data acquisition and delivery to those affected by natural or man-made disasters through Authorised Users. Each member agency has committed resources to support the provisions of the Charter and thus is helping to mitigate the impact of disasters on human life and property.</p> <p>Following the triggering of the Charter by European and United Nations users, service providers such as those involved in the project RESPOND deliver value-added products based on satellite imagery provided by the Charter.</p> <p>The Charter mechanism will be complemented with the new FP7 mechanism for the supply of satellite data using the Data Access Grant which can be triggered directly via the ERCS. This tender will not address the link with providers of satellite imagery; this link will be handled solely by the ERCS. However, the procedures for accessing the ERCS may have to take into consideration if the Charter has been activated or not by the user organisation requesting the ERCS products.</p>	<p>This section is the only one in which the Charter entity is dealt with.</p> <p>Could you please better explain The Charter role in itself and with respect to the Tender subject?</p> <p>In particular is it foreseen an interaction or relationship between The Charter and the end user?</p>	<p>This section is to provide some background information, informing the tenderer that in parallel to a request for information sent to the ERCS, users may also request information from the Charter. It might be useful to inform the ERCS providers of this fact, this is why "the procedures for accessing the ERCS may have to take into consideration if the Charter has been activated or not by the user organisation requesting the ERCS products" as indicated under 4.3 of the tender specifications. This should be taken into consideration in the technical proposal in particular for Task 1.2.</p> <p>Information on the Charter can be found at www.disasterscharter.org as indicated in the references.</p>