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**Belgium-Brussels: ECHO-Flight service — provision of air transport service
for the Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO)
2013/S 135-233389**

Contract notice

Services

Directive 2004/18/EC

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name, addresses and contact point(s)

European Commission, Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO)
rue de la Loi 200
1049 Brussels
BELGIUM
E-mail: echo-b2-attribution@ec.europa.eu

Internet address(es):

General address of the contracting authority: <http://ec.europa.eu/echo>

Further information can be obtained from: The above mentioned contact point(s)

Specifications and additional documents (including documents for competitive dialogue and a dynamic purchasing system) can be obtained from: The above mentioned contact point(s)

Tenders or requests to participate must be sent to: The above mentioned contact point(s)

I.2) Type of the contracting authority

European institution/agency or international organisation

I.3) Main activity

Other: Air transport services of passengers and freight.

I.4) Contract award on behalf of other contracting authorities

The contracting authority is purchasing on behalf of other contracting authorities: no

Section II: Object of the contract

II.1) Description

II.1.1) Title attributed to the contract by the contracting authority:

ECHO-Flight service — provision of air transport service for the Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO).

II.1.2) Type of contract and location of works, place of delivery or of performance

Services

Service category No 3: Air transport services of passengers and freight, except transport of mail
NUTS code

II.1.3) Information about a public contract, a framework agreement or a dynamic purchasing system (DPS)

The notice involves the establishment of a framework agreement

II.1.4) Information on framework agreement

Framework agreement with several operators

maximum number of participants to the framework agreement envisaged: 3

Duration of the framework agreement

Duration in months: 12

Estimated total value of purchases for the entire duration of the framework agreement

Estimated value excluding VAT: 45 000 000 EUR

II.1.5) Short description of the contract or purchase(s)

The European Commission's Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (DG ECHO) started in the mid-1990s to fund the operation of an air transport service in support of its humanitarian aid operations in Africa. Presently this operation is running in East Africa (including the Horn) and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) called ECHO-Flight.

ECHO-Flight is a vital service to most humanitarian agencies operating in the region, transporting personnel and supplies to remote locations that would otherwise be cut off from the outside world. This service is a humanitarian tool provided free to its users. The choice of destinations and frequency of operation is guided solely by humanitarian imperatives. The service is, under some conditions, open to development actors thus contributing to linking relief and rehabilitation to development.

DG ECHO wishes to continue this flight operation in the Democratic Republic of Congo and in Kenya.

Operations will primarily be conducted from 4 major bases of operation in the region, namely Goma, Kinshasa, Bunia and Nairobi in order to support humanitarian and post emergency operations sponsored by the EU, conducted by NGOs, United Nations (UN), and other humanitarian organisations in the Democratic Republic of Congo and in Kenya.

The operations bases may be changed according to operational requirements in the region. It is imperative that the tenderer's offer reflects a complete understanding of coordinated 'hub and spoke' operations that forms the basis for this operation.

The purpose of this call for tender is also to envisage an extension of the ECHO-Flight service, on a short- or long-term basis, to other theatres of operations in other countries mainly in the African region. Short-term deployment of ECHO-Flight service will be primarily supported by the aircraft fleet dedicated to the Democratic Republic of Congo and Kenya operations as reasonably practicable. Longer-term deployment will require the provision of additional plane(s) and operations base(s) within an agreed time-frame between DG ECHO and the contractor.

The air transport service required by the Commission involves domestic and international flights to be performed in connection with the humanitarian relief and post emergency activities supported by the EU.

Due to the nature of humanitarian relief missions, such air transportation services may involve operating into hostile areas or fields where there is no ground support or where airfield security cannot be guaranteed. Tenderers should be aware that navigation aids and air traffic control facilities frequently do not exist in many parts of the operations areas. They should also be aware that the nature of many of the landing strips could result in additional aircraft maintenance and repair burdens being placed upon the operator.

The Commission will sign a contract only with companies holding an air operator's certificate (AOC). Any financial arrangements between brokers and aircraft operators must be arranged between those 2 parties separately.

II.1.6) Common procurement vocabulary (CPV)

60400000

II.1.7) Information about Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

The contract is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA): yes

II.1.8) Lots

This contract is divided into lots: no

- II.1.9) **Information about variants**
Variants will be accepted: no
- II.2) **Quantity or scope of the contract**
- II.2.1) **Total quantity or scope:**
The initial duration of the framework contract is 12 months. It may be renewed automatically up to 3 times under the same conditions for a period of 12 months each.
Estimated value excluding VAT: 45 000 000 EUR
- II.2.2) **Information about options**
Options: no
- II.2.3) **Information about renewals**
This contract is subject to renewal: yes
Number of possible renewals: 3
In the case of renewable supplies or service contracts, estimated timeframe for subsequent contracts:
in months: 12 (from the award of the contract)
- II.3) **Duration of the contract or time limit for completion**
Duration in months: 48 (from the award of the contract)

Section III: Legal, economic, financial and technical information

- III.1) **Conditions relating to the contract**
- III.1.1) **Deposits and guarantees required:**
Not applicable.
- III.1.2) **Main financing conditions and payment arrangements and/or reference to the relevant provisions governing them:**
For each assignment related to a specific contract, the payment scheme will consist of monthly payments for the fixed costs and quarterly payments for the extra costs. Payment will be made only upon receipt of all the required documents.
- III.1.3) **Legal form to be taken by the group of economic operators to whom the contract is to be awarded:**
Consortia of economic operators are explicitly authorised to submit tenders. The Commission will not demand the consortia to take a given legal form in order to be allowed to submit a tender or request to take part, but the consortium may be required to adopt a given legal form after it has been awarded the contract, if this change is necessary for the proper performance of the contract.
- III.1.4) **Other particular conditions**
The performance of the contract is subject to particular conditions: no
- III.2) **Conditions for participation**
- III.2.1) **Personal situation of economic operators, including requirements relating to enrolment on professional or trade registers**
Information and formalities necessary for evaluating if the requirements are met: Proof that the tenderers are authorised to perform the contract under national law, as evidenced by inclusion in a professional or trade register or a sworn declaration or certificate, membership of a specific organisation, express authorisation, or entry in the VAT register.
- III.2.2) **Economic and financial ability**
Information and formalities necessary for evaluating if the requirements are met: See tender specifications.
- III.2.3) **Technical capacity**
Information and formalities necessary for evaluating if the requirements are met:

See tender specifications.

III.2.4) **Information about reserved contracts**

III.3) **Conditions specific to services contracts**

III.3.1) **Information about a particular profession**

Execution of the service is reserved to a particular profession: no

III.3.2) **Staff responsible for the execution of the service**

Legal persons should indicate the names and professional qualifications of the staff responsible for the execution of the service: yes

Section IV: Procedure

IV.1) **Type of procedure**

IV.1.1) **Type of procedure**

Open

IV.1.2) **Limitations on the number of operators who will be invited to tender or to participate**

IV.1.3) **Reduction of the number of operators during the negotiation or dialogue**

IV.2) **Award criteria**

IV.2.1) **Award criteria**

The most economically advantageous tender in terms of the criteria stated in the specifications, in the invitation to tender or to negotiate or in the descriptive document

IV.2.2) **Information about electronic auction**

An electronic auction will be used: no

IV.3) **Administrative information**

IV.3.1) **File reference number attributed by the contracting authority:**

ECHO/B2/FRA/2013/06.

IV.3.2) **Previous publication(s) concerning the same contract**

Prior information notice

Notice number in the OJEU: [2013/S 19-027047](#) of 26.1.2013

IV.3.3) **Conditions for obtaining specifications and additional documents or descriptive document**

Time limit for receipt of requests for documents or for accessing documents: 9.10.2013 - 17:00

Payable documents: no

IV.3.4) **Time limit for receipt of tenders or requests to participate**

15.10.2013 - 17:00

IV.3.5) **Date of dispatch of invitations to tender or to participate to selected candidates**

IV.3.6) **Language(s) in which tenders or requests to participate may be drawn up**

Any EU official language

IV.3.7) **Minimum time frame during which the tenderer must maintain the tender**

Duration in months: 8 (from the date stated for receipt of tender)

IV.3.8) **Conditions for opening of tenders**

Date: 24.10.2013 - 10:00

Place:

rue de la Loi 86, 1000 Brussels, BELGIUM.

Persons authorised to be present at the opening of tenders: yes

Additional information about authorised persons and opening procedure: Not more than 1 representative per tenderer (with proof of identity). The name of the representative must be communicated to the contact point by e-mail no later than 2 working days before the opening session.

No expenses reimbursed.

Section VI: Complementary information

VI.1) Information about recurrence

This is a recurrent procurement: no

VI.2) Information about European Union funds

The contract is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: yes

Reference to project(s) and/or programme(s): Council Regulation (EC) 1257/96, on humanitarian aid amended by Council Decision No 2001/792/EC Euratom and Commission Decision (2004/277) of 29.12.2003 laying down rules for the implementation of the abovementioned Council Decision.

VI.3) Additional information

Pursuant to Article 134.1(f) of the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities, the Commission reserves the right to use a negotiated procedure without prior publication of a contract notice in case new services, consisting in the repetition of similar services entrusted to the economic operator awarded the initial contract, are deemed necessary.

VI.4) Procedures for appeal

VI.4.1) Body responsible for appeal procedures

General Court of the European Union
rue du Fort Niedergrünewald
2925 Luxembourg
LUXEMBOURG
E-mail: generalcourt.registry@curia.europa.eu
Telephone: +352 4303-1
Internet address: <http://curia.europa.eu>
Fax: +352 4303-2100

VI.4.2) Lodging of appeals

Precise information on deadline(s) for lodging appeals: Within 2 months of the notification to the plaintiff, or, in the absence thereof, of the day on which it came to knowledge of the plaintiff. A complaint to the European Ombudsman does not have an effect either to suspend this period or to open a new period for lodging appeals.

VI.4.3) Service from which information about the lodging of appeals may be obtained

VI.5) Date of dispatch of this notice:

3.7.2013