



CLARIFICATIONS N°1 TO THE CALL FOR TENDERS N°ECHO/C4/FRA/2013/12.

Title: Provision of VSat Service & Mobile Satellite Telephony & Data Services for DG ECHO

Ref.: Open procedure, OJ Ref. 2013/S 160-278617 of 20/08/2013

Date	RFP Page/ Section #	Question	Answer
10/09/2013	Tender Specifications, Page 9, Section 1.2.1.3	It is mentioned that DG ECHO can decrease or increase the dedicated bandwidth. It is specified that the increase bandwidth could be 2Mbps. Could we assume the same value (2 Mbps) for the amount of possible decrease of bandwidth?	Yes, the dedicated bandwidth can be increased or decreased by 2Mbps steps.
10/09/2013	Tender Specifications, Page 9, Section 1.2.1.4	Related Satellite Equipment. It is specified on point 4: A manual C-Band VSAT antenna Kit [...]. Could you please precise if DG ECHO intends to procure one VSAT antenna Kit per site (13 VSAT kit in total) as defined in table 1.2.1.2?	It will depend on the needs. It could occur that for some offices (and maybe for offices not listed in the table 1.2.1.2), DG ECHO will need to procure VSAT antenna kits and for other offices, DG ECHO will reuse the existing equipment.
10/09/2013	Tender Specifications, Page 9, Section 1.2.1.4	Related Satellite Equipment. It is specify on point 5: A manual C-Band portable VSAT antenna Kit [...]. Could you please precise if DG ECHO intends to procure a single portable VSAT antenna Kit ?	The procurement of Portable VSAT antenna kits will also depend on the needs. It is not yet confirmed that we will have to procure such equipment and in which quantity.
10/09/2013	Tender Specifications, Page 9, Section 1.2.1.4	As the location of the portable VSAT terminal is unspecified, could you please clarify how the VSAT	The portable VSAT terminal will probably travel from one location to another depending on the needs and the urgency. The licence to operate this mobile

		licence to operate this mobile terminal shall be managed?	terminal has to be provided by the tenderer for any possible location.
10/09/2013	Tender Specifications, Page 10, Section 1.2.1.5	An interface to monitor and configure the provided solution shall be included in the offer: Could you please specify if the monitoring and the configuration of the service shall be available to DG ECHO (grant an access to the VSAT platform operations to DG ECHO)?	Yes, an access to the VSAT platform operations should be provided to DG ECHO in order to monitor the connections and track the consumptions and the use of the deployed equipment.
10/09/2013	Tender Specifications, Page 10, Section 1.2.1.5	In case a remote access to the Monitoring and Configuration interface of the VSAT platform is required by DG ECHO, could you please specify what type of connection DG ECHO requires to be connected to the VSAT platform operation center, as well as the IT infrastructure used by DG ECHO to enable the connectivity to the VSAT Hub?	The access to the VSAT platform operations should be done via an internet connection (HTTP:// or HTTPS://) and a login/ password procedure.
10/09/2013	Tender Specifications, Page 13, Section 1.3	Could DG ECHO clarify if and how will the privileges and immunities of the Union under the Protocol of 8 April 1965 apply to the shipment and import of the equipment to the Union's locations specified in section 1.2.1.2 of the Call for Tender?	<p>The Privileges and Immunities Protocol (PPI) governs all purchases of the Commission as stipulated in its Article 3.</p> <p>The PPI shall ensure that the Commission does not have to bear VAT. This applies only to VAT within the EU; if any third country VAT were incurred, the PPI does not apply. Moreover, it only applies where the EU institution is contracting partner (i.e. not in relation between a contractor and a sub-contractor).</p> <p>There might be the following scenarios:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The equipment is delivered directly to a third country. In that case, as an export of goods, the transaction should normally not be taxable (or 'zero-rated') in the Member State of departure, according to general rules (see Article 146 VAT Directive 2006/112). Thus there should be no VAT charge anyway. - The same would apply to transport of the equipment by the supplier as a directly linked

			<p>ancillary service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The provision of the service of transport of goods (see Articles 49, 50 of the VAT Directive 282/2011) in Belgium ordered by DG ECHO would be taxable in Belgium with direct exemption. For transport outside the EU, only the EU part might be taxable. <p>The correct taxation remains the responsibility of the contractor. This is reflected in the model contracts.</p>
10/09/2013	Tender Specifications, Page 13, Section 1.3	<p>It is mentioned that "The place of delivery shall be any of the ECHO offices, including Headquarters in Brussels." In order to optimize the shipment costs, could we imagine delivering all the VSAT equipment to ECHO office in Brussels and take the assumption that ECHO will deliver the equipment to the 13 Sites using special means (i.e. Diplomatic cargo, ...)</p>	As mentioned in the Call for tender, the provider will have to ensure the shipment to the final place of use.
10/09/2013	Form and Content of the Tender, Page 22	Budget allocated to the lot 1. Does the 600'000 EUR per year also cover the one-off charges, such as Vsat Kit fully equipped?	Yes, it does.
10/09/2013	Form and Content of the Tender, Page 23	For Lot 1 pricing table, item (d) Bandwidth, it is mentioned that the tenderer shall provide the price for 9 Mbps uncontended, unlimited and Global Coverage. Could you confirm that the total maximum budget for lot 1 (2'400'000 total or 600'000 per year) shall include the global worldwide coverage?	Yes, the total amount for lot 1 is € 600 000 per year for the global worldwide coverage.
10/09/2013	Assessment and award of contract, page 29, section 5.2.1	2.1. The tenderer must have a licence to operate the provided service. Could you precise if the tender must have a licence to operate VSAT at proposal time or if the licence could be obtained once contract is awarded?	As stipulated in section 5.2.1 selection criteria, the tenderer must have a license to operate the provided services and solutions in the locations specified in section 1.2 (technical specifications)