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Digital Single Market

Call for tenders 31 July 2013 to 10 October 2013

SMART 2013/N004 — European capability for situational awareness

In times of social and political unrest, governments of mature and nascent democracies are increasingly tempted to reduce freedom of speech and unrestricted access to information, both offline and online.

DG CONNECT, in close cooperation with other services (DG Development and Cooperation; DG Enterprise) and the European External Action Service (EEAS), has put in place the No-Disconnect Strategy.

The goal of this policy toolkit is to provide on-going support to counter-censorship initiatives to facilitate the role of activists, political dissidents, bloggers, journalists and citizens living and/or operating in high-risk environments, making operational its commitment to uphold human rights and fundamental freedoms online. This way, the No-Disconnect Strategy embraces the wider EU strategy for Human Rights.

- **Question received on 4 September 2013**

On 5 September 2013, the European Commission received a request to clarify whether a Canadian organisation would be eligible to bid, since Canada has ratified the Plurilateral Agreement on Government Procurement. The European Commission would like to clarify that the WTO Agreement on Government Procurement grants access to contracts awarded by the Commission on their own account to nationals of Canada. Therefore, Canadian organisations have the right to participate in the tendering procedure.

- **Question received on 5 September 2013**

"I would like to kindly thank you for informing us about this tender. Definitely its object is under our scope of work. However, I would like to ask a clarification on the eligible participants. Could you, please let me know if international organizations (Council of Europe) is eligible to participate, or we should only distribute the information among our member states? Many thanks in advance".

Reply

"In the particular case of the ECSA tender, the European Commission confirms that the Council of Europe is eligible for the call"

- **Questions received on 17 September**

"To whom it may concern: I have some additional questions/requests following a detailed review of the ECSA tender from the European Commission:

1. In section 4.2 "Meetings and workshops", there is a detailed discussion of the Workshop that the contractor is expected to run. Who will pay for the attendance of participants? The list of expenses to be borne relates to only "2 speakers and 1 participations" and speaker fees - does this mean that only the contractor's personnel will be covered, while other attendees' travel and accommodation will be taken care of by the commission? How many participants are expected to be invited/attend?

2. There is a line for providing catering at the workshop - this is unusual, since the workshop will be held at the Commission's facilities, and there is no indication of how many people you expect to have attended the workshop. Can you clarify?

3. Due to the complexity behind putting together such a large tender and the paperwork required in the RFP, we would like to request a 2-week extension to the submission date, extended from 26 September to 10 October 2013.

4. Have there been any amendments or other documents posted to the tender website? I cannot find any at the website:

<http://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/smart-2013n004-> [1]—european-capability-situational-awareness".

Reply

"Regarding Section 4.2, the European Commission and the contractor will discuss the organization of the workshop, the management of the expenses and the location, if a location different to Brussels was proposed by the contractor. The expenses of Section 4.2 must be borne by the contractor. Some relate to two invited speakers and one participant from the contracting organization. The rest of the participants will be "attendees" of the workshop via invitation (the contractor can decide how to manage the PR of the event to ensure participation of interested and relevant stakeholders). The number of invitees to the workshop is not foreseen a priori but it is recommended to ensure broad participation especially of European stakeholders or potential members of the Federation. No fees will be paid to cover expenses of invitees. Expenses (including catering) must be reasonable according to the total amount of the contract.

On 26 September 2013 the European Commission extended the deadline of the call for tenders until 1 October 2013 at 16.00h. Since the contracting phase has to be dealt with before the end 2013, the European Commission decided that an additional extension of 2 weeks could put at risk a successful contracting phase.

To date, no additional documents have been uploaded regarding the tender specifications, or tender contract. Only a new contract notice for additional information containing the new deadlines was published at <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/smart-2013n004-%E2%80%94european-n-capability-situational-awareness> [2]."

- **Question Received on 22 August 2013**

"Referring to the publication of the contract notice concerning *European capability for situational*

awareness (SMART 2013/N004), I hereby would like to request all relevant tender documents concerning this study".

Reply

"By now, the documents have been uploaded on the Website. Please find hereafter the link to the specifications and additional documents concerning the call for tender SMART 2013/N004 – European capability for situational awareness <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/smart-2013n004-%E2%80%94-european-capability-situational-awareness> [2]. If you need any further request, please use cnect-d1@ec.europa.eu [3] email address".

- Question received on 21 August 2013

"Dear Sir, Please can you send the documentation for the call for tender **SMART 2013/N004 – European capability for situational awareness 2013/S 161-280231**. If an electronic version is available, please send this to tender@ineurope.lu [4], or alternatively please advise us when the documentation is available online on your website".

Reply

"By now, the documents have been uploaded on the Website. Please find hereafter the link to the specifications and additional documents concerning the call for tender SMART 2013/N004 – European capability for situational awareness <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/smart-2013n004-%E2%80%94-european-capability-situational-awareness> [2]. If you need any further information, please use cnect-d1@ec.europa.eu [3] email address".

- Question received on 7 September

"Dear Madam, dear Sir, I would be grateful to receive the tender documents related to the SMART 2013/N004 – European capability for situational awareness. Thanking you in advance."

Reply

"The tender documents can be downloaded from the Website. Please find hereafter the link to the specifications and additional documents concerning the call for tender SMART 2013/N004 – European capability for situational awareness <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/smart-2013n004-%E2%80%94-european-capability-situational-awareness> [2]".

Contact

[5]

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Links

[1]

<https://myremote.ec.europa.eu/owa/DanalInfo=remi.webmail.ec.europa.eu,SSL+redir.aspx?C=JEYBug9LCkad335xi9jwFlfoGr4Hj9Ala2R3WZpXrDsWPsTVK8Bj11clW3OOwY4jYdPIOeMxYnY.&URL=http%3A%2F%2Fec.europa.eu%2Fdigit-agenda%2Fen%2Fnews%2Fsmart-2013n004->

[2]
https://myremote.ec.europa.eu/owa/,DanalInfo=remi.webmail.ec.europa.eu,SSL+redir.aspx?C=H3PUIDtVLk6kpZB-mzV_8_3xsMcUj9AleGShieCo8zZi7twCmHmLon7u66nonBRFKUvB1mLz15g.&URL=https%3A%2F%2Fec.europa.eu%2Fdigital-agenda%2Fen%2Fnews%2Fsmart-2013n004-%25E2%2580%2594-european-capability-situational-awareness

[3]
https://myremote.ec.europa.eu/owa/,DanalInfo=remi.webmail.ec.europa.eu,SSL+redir.aspx?C=H3PUIDtVLk6kpZB-mzV_8_3xsMcUj9AleGShieCo8zZi7twCmHmLon7u66nonBRFKUvB1mLz15g.&URL=mailto%3Acnect-d1%40ec.europa.eu%3Fsubject%3DTEd

[4]
https://myremote.ec.europa.eu/owa/,DanalInfo=remi.webmail.ec.europa.eu,SSL+redir.aspx?C=H3PUIDtVLk6kpZB-mzV_8_3xsMcUj9AleGShieCo8zZi7twCmHmLon7u66nonBRFKUvB1mLz15g.&URL=mailto%3Atender%40ineurope.lu

[5] <mailto:>