



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS, CONTENT AND TECHNOLOGY

Future Networks

Internet of Things

European Commission

Call for tenders ref. CNECT/2021/OP/0026

**Study on the Economic Potential of Far Edge Computing
in the Future Smart Internet of Things.**

Open Procedure

TENDER SPECIFICATIONS

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1. SCOPE AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PROCUREMENT

1.1. Contracting authority: who is the buyer?

This call for tenders is launched and managed by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology, (DG CNECT), referred to as the *Contracting authority* for the purposes of this call for tenders.

1.2. Subject: what is this call for tenders about?

The subject of this call for tenders is a study on the Economic Potential of Far Edge Computing in the Future Smart Internet of Things.

1.3. Lots: is this call for tenders divided into lots?

This call for tenders is not divided into lots.

1.4. Description: what do we want to buy through this call for tenders?

The services that are the subject of this call for tenders, including any minimum requirements, are described in detail below.

Variants (alternatives to the model solution described in the tender specifications) are not allowed. The *Contracting authority* will disregard any variants described in a tender.

1.4.1. Background and objectives

Context

The study's objectives are aligned with that of the targets of the Digital Decade¹: a set of coherent policy measures aiming at the digital transformations of our industries and at maximising their impact on economic growth. In light of the EU's ambitious climate goals and plans (Green Deal), and in line with DG CNECT's priorities to support the sustainable development goals and the industrial agenda for a Digital Europe, this study seeks to examine in more detail both the economic opportunities and environmental impacts of a paradigm shift in the domain of the Internet of Things (IoT) towards computing at the Edge. Additionally, the study will contribute to the objectives of the Horizon Europe strategic plan for the development of technologies, standards and experimentation for users that will support Edge Computing for the future smart IoT.

Today, 80% of the processing and analysis of data takes place in data centres and centralised computing facilities, and 20% in smart connected objects. Within the next 5 years, 75% or more of the data processing and analytics will run at the edge of the network, where it is most

¹ See: https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12900-Europe%E2%80%99s-digital-decade-2030-digital-targets_en

efficient to create the "Internet of Intelligent Things". In addition, 75% of the European cloud market is dominated by non-EU players.

European companies have strong expertise and market shares in industrial and business applications, industrial IoT and 5G across many sectors like mobility, energy, home, agriculture, manufacturing, logistics, etc. By capitalising on these unique, largely sectoral competences and driving leadership in the field of Far Edge Computing and IoT close to the application, Europe has a one-time and unique opportunity to bring its actors back to playing a significant role in the computing market by 2025 and, by doing so, further progress towards increasing its digital autonomy. Europe needs to strengthen its supply and value chains in cloud to edge computing. This can be done by integrating relevant elements of computing, connectivity, IoT, AI and cybersecurity, with the target of increasing the autonomy in data processing required to support future hyper-distributed applications by building open platforms and an open next-generation IoT and edge computing ecosystem embedded in a compute continuum from cloud to edge to IoT, as well as supporting emerging innovative business models and market places with special attention paid to the role of SMEs and start-ups. Perhaps the biggest opportunity is in the space of smart Far Edge IoT devices where, for example, billions of intelligent, AI-driven sensors and actuators will collect, process and analyse data in real time, individually or as a swarm. Considering the speed of technological evolution and innovation in the ICT sector (e.g. microelectronics, processing capacity, connectivity, etc.), such a vision feels not only feasible but closer than one may think.

This move to the Far Edge will have huge economic potential by leveraging a local, distributed computing infrastructure, and it facilitates the creation of new services and business models, which are much more rooted in verticals around the applications, than today's more general-purpose cloud business models.

Besides these economic prospects, a transition to the edge is expected to have a green effect in at least two ways. The first is through the processing of huge data volumes locally, thereby reducing the amount of data transferred to cloud data centres, and thereby reducing the load of transport networks and slow down growth of data centres. This will mitigate the trend towards more cloud data centres and reduce the energy footprint of digital systems as a whole. Secondly, the implementation of Far Edge systems will facilitate the greening of sectors like energy systems, home automation, electric mobility et al. (enablement effect), which, in turn, will deliver a carbon abatement that will contribute to the goals of the European Green Deal. Such positive impacts should be evaluated against the possible negative environmental impact of massive deployment of IoT electronic devices.

The main objectives of the Study

This study will focus on the economic potential of Far Edge Computing in the context of the next-generation IoT by providing a detailed analysis of Europe's economic opportunities through verifiable economic data. In the overall context of this economic analysis, the study will assess and analyse its environmental, energy, and "green" potential. The results will help to inform future policymaking in the context of EU's digital, industrial, and green strategies.

Edge Computing in particular at the level of IoT devices is still poorly defined, and one of the challenges would be to define a value proposition and identify where Edge is driving value for specific sectors and businesses. Important use cases should be investigated, different business models compared and concluded by a cost-benefit analysis for the most relevant use cases. The study should identify the main reasons why edge computing plays a vital role in

evolving architectures for Operations Technology (OT) and Industrial IoT, and analyse emerging architectures and edge platforms where industries need to agree on functions, interfaces, and technologies in order to realise digital products and services.

The study will analyse relevant technology trends and hype cycles for edge and far edge computing, identify technology enablers and present economic, ecological (energy, environment, green) and technical advantages of emerging edge computing and far edge computing architectures. The findings for edge and far-edge computing should be distinguished from hybrid models, such as cloud-edge solutions pushed by hyper-scalers and mobile edge computing, which leverages 5G deployments. The study will derive and analyse relevant use cases and scenarios in five sectors important for Europe's economy: mobility, energy, home/building, agriculture, and manufacturing. The logistics sector is not mentioned explicitly but can be considered as part of mobility and manufacturing, as appropriate. For these sectors, the study requires the gathering of relevant data (quantitative and qualitative) on the existing and possible use of Edge and Far Edge Computing and the economic potential in next-generation IoT technologies in Europe, and shall be complemented by a global outlook to see how the situation develops in Asia and the US.

The study should analyse the competitive position of European stakeholders across the value chain (including software and systems integrators, digital suppliers, industrial players from key verticals, etc.). The findings of the study should be presented in a conclusive SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis, highlighting the different flavours of edge computing, most relevant use cases and the potential for European stakeholders from the supply and demand side. The SWOT analysis shall be carried out on general level, but each chapter shall include at least one statement per sector addressed by the study.

The study shall provide a medium-term 5+ years future-looking perspective, already taking into account and building on Europe's initiatives on common data spaces and federated cloud infrastructures, which are supported through the deployment-oriented DIGITAL EUROPE Programme. Among others, the study results shall serve as strategic economic and ecological background for projects and proposals under the new research and innovation theme on Cloud-to-Edge-to-IoT under Cluster 4 of Pillar 2 of the 2021-22 Work Programme for Horizon Europe².

The findings of the study will allow the Commission to judge more precisely the potential and forecast the impact of an increased share of Far Edge Computing in a future computing continuum for European industry and its competitiveness. These findings will support the Commission in the consultation and development process of the upcoming of DIGITAL EUROPE (AI and data spaces) and Horizon Europe (clusters 4-6) Work Programmes, and underpin future policy development for Europe's digital, industrial, and green strategies.

Ultimately, the study shall provide recommendations to be taken up by industry, the European Commission, and/or Member States. These recommendations will be presented and discussed

² See: https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/horizon-europe-work-programmes_en

across relevant industrial initiatives like ECSEL JU³, the Alliance for IoT Innovation (AIOTI)⁴, GAIA-X⁵, and the Alliance for Industrial Data and Cloud⁶ at high-level governance meetings, where decisions on further actions and next-generation developments may be considered. The actions should be vital to stimulate investment and leadership in the field of Far Edge Computing, where Europe has the opportunity to stimulate and empower its actors to play a significant role, further progressing towards digital autonomy.

1.4.2. Detailed characteristics of the purchase

Sequence of Activities:

At minimum, the contractor shall perform the following activities:

1. Define scope in terms of industrial sectors.
 - a. Investigation of main use cases, business models and architectures.
 - b. Analyse relevant technology trends and hype cycles for edge and far edge computing, identify technology enablers and present economic and technical advantages of an emerging edge computing and far edge computing architectures.
2. Conduct desk research and market analysis of the landscape on existing and possible future use of Edge Computing and Far Edge Computing, depicting the economic potential in the industrial sectors considered, complemented by a global outlook.
 - a. Perform a landscape analysis, identify strength/weaknesses of European stakeholders
 - b. Quantify with broad and robust data Europe's economic opportunities including in a green context, in general and in most important vertical areas: mobility, agriculture, energy, home/building and manufacturing.
3. Discuss and validate in said sectors with a representative sample of stakeholders, the economic and green benefits of strengthening Far Edge computing (e.g. interviews and workshops).
4. To identify role of EU stakeholders in emerging data value chains and measure the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges of European stakeholders and their competitiveness in a cloud continuum with strong growth at the Far Edge.
5. Define recommended measures:
 - a. Define recommended measures to be taken by industry, the European Commission, and/or Member States; prepare a complete list of actions that would be needed to increase the EU's competitiveness in digital technologies through Edge and Far Edge Computing, and identification of conditions to favour SMEs and start-ups

³ See: <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/electronic-components-and-systems-european-leadership-ecsel>

⁴ See: <https://aioti.eu/>

⁵ See: <https://www.data-infrastructure.eu/GAIA/Navigation/EN/Home/home.html>

⁶ See: <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/towards-next-generation-cloud-europe>

- b. Based on item a) propose recommendations and preparatory actions for the European Commission to carry out for shaping the future work programmes of DIGITAL EUROPE (AI and data spaces) and Horizon Europe (clusters 4-6) for 2023 and beyond.
- c. To discuss the impact of Far Edge computing in the context of Europe's data, industrial and green strategies, especially with respect to future energy policies in line with renewable energy integration, the UN SDGs and Europe's climate ambitions like 'Fit455'.

In terms of industrial sectors and use cases to consider, the study should be focused on areas with substantial market share of European actors. For all tasks, the answers given shall always be substantiated by available economic evidence, statistical data sources, etc. The expertise and potential of AIOTI, ARTEMIS-IA as well as the Commission-funded IoT project communities under Horizon 2020 should be capitalised upon, while conducting the Study.

The contactor should familiarise himself with the following reports and events:

- NG-IoT Report⁷
- Commission's Strategic Foresight Report⁸
- Emerging Technologies in Electronic Components and Systems (ECS) - Opportunities Ahead Study⁹
- AIOTI: AIOTI Strategic Foresight Through Digital Leadership: IoT and Edge Computing Convergence¹⁰
- Fireside report on the so-called "Fireside Chat" of March 2021: Next-Generation Internet of Things and Edge Computing¹¹
- Commission/NGIoT event: Next-Generation IoT and Edge Computing Strategy Forum¹²

If the results are not fully created for the purpose of the contract, this should be clearly pointed out in the tender. Information should be provided about the scope of pre-existing materials, their source and when and how the rights to these materials have been or will be acquired.

In the tender, all quotations or information originating from other sources and to which third parties may claim rights have to be clearly marked (source publication including date and place, creator, number, full title etc.) in a way allowing easy identification.

⁷ See: <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/building-ecosystem-where-iot-edge-and-cloud-converge-towards-computing-continuum>

⁸ See: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0493>

⁹ See: <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/emerging-technologies-electronic-components-and-systems-ecs-opportunities-ahead-0>

¹⁰ See: <https://aioti.eu/aioti-strategic-foresight-through-digital-leadership-iot-and-edge-computing-convergence/>

¹¹ See: <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/next-generation-internet-things-and-edge-computing>

¹² See: https://www.ngiot.eu/event/next-generation-iot-and-edge-computing-strategy-forum/?instance_id=129

Methodology:

The study should be developed following a clear methodology covering all aspects of the study. The contractor is free to design and propose a methodology to collect, describe and analyse the data related to Edge Computing and IoT in a harmonised way, taking into account the context and objectives of the study.

The balance between the efforts devoted to each specific objective of the study should be reasonable and well justified. The analysis of today's situation should build on existing analysis and sources of information, including strategy reports and research agendas from the above-mentioned initiatives as well as the findings of the aforementioned Next-Generation IoT and Edge Computing Strategy Forum, where relevant.

More generally, the study should be based on data from a variety of sources such as company, industry, government, trade journals and organisations, as well as market studies, including the above-mentioned reports, where applicable. It should include information from literature reviews and discussions/interviews/workshops with technology/market experts and key stakeholders. Efficient use of available networks should be made by liaising with relevant stakeholder groups.

1.4.3. Deliverables

1.4.3.1 Timetable

Title	Type	Due month (at the latest)	Linked to payment
M1: Inception meeting	Meeting	Month 1	N
R1: Inception Report	Report	Month 1	N
M2: First Interim meeting	Meeting	Month 6	N
R2: First Interim Study Report (for selected industrial sectors use cases, business models + architectures, technology hype cycles)	Report	Month 6	Y
W1: Workshop on technologies, architectures and opportunities in key sectors	Workshop	Month 7	N
R3: Post-workshop Report (technologies, architectures, opportunities)	Report	Month 8	N
M3: Second Interim meeting	Meeting	Month 10	N
R4: Second Interim Study Report (Landscape, Opportunities for key sectors, green benefits)	Report	Month 10	N
W2: Validation Workshop on Impact, SWOT and recommended measures	Workshop	Month 12	N
R5: Post-workshop Report on recommended	Report	Month 13	N

measures			
W3: Final Workshop	Workshop	Month 14	N
M4: Final meeting	Meeting	Month 14	N
R6: Final Study Report	Report	Month 15	Y

1.4.3.2. The deliverables listed below must be provided by the contractor

Inception Report with the minutes of the meeting in annex; specifying the methodology, resources, detailed planning and objectives provided in the tender in accordance with the indications provided by the Commission during the Inception meeting (see Section 1.4.3.3. below). A draft of the report shall be made available to the Commission's services for information 5 working days before the Inception meeting. The report should be finalised after the meeting taking into account all observations and comments raised at the meeting. The finalised Inception Report shall be made available to the Commission's services within 2 weeks after the Inception meeting.

First Interim Study Report will define the scope in terms of industrial sectors considered in the study. Related to the use cases and scenarios, it will cover investigations of main industrial sectors, business models and architectures including an analysis of relevant technology trends and hype cycles for edge and far edge computing as well as a coarse analysis of the industrial landscape and value chains.

The first Interim Study Report shall be made available to the Commission's services within 6 months after signature of the contract by the last contracting party. A draft of the report shall be made available to the Commission's services 5 working days before the first Interim meeting in Month 6 (see Section 1.4.3.3. below). The report should be finalised after the meeting taking into account all observations and comments raised at the meeting. The finalised first Interim Study Report shall be submitted to the Commission's services within 2 weeks after the first Interim meeting.

Second Interim Study Report which will cover opportunities for key sectors, economic and green benefits for European industry in future value chains of Edge Computing. The second Interim Study Report will complete the landscape analysis and a broad and robust data on Europe's economic opportunities in the industrial sectors considered. The report will include as a minimum the following elements:

- Completed landscape analysis, identify strength/ weaknesses of European stakeholders;
- Identification of ecologic and green benefits of strengthening Far Edge computing;
- Overview of identified economic opportunities across the EU in the sectors considered;

The second Interim Study Report shall be made available to the Commission's services **within 10 months** after signature of the contract by the last contracting party. A draft of the report shall be made available to the Commission's services 5 working days before the second Interim meeting in Month 10 (see Section 1.4.3.3. below). The report should be finalised after the meeting taking into account all observations and comments raised at the meeting. The finalised second Interim Study Report shall be submitted to the Commission's services within 2 weeks after the second Interim meeting.

The **Final Study Report** shall be made available to the Commission's services within **15 months** after signature of the contract by the last contracting party. A draft of the final report shall be made available to the Commission's services for information 5 working days before the Final meeting. The report should be finalised after the meeting taking into account all observations and comments raised at the meeting. The finalised Final Study Report shall be made available within 3 weeks after the Final meeting.

In addition to an abstract and executive summary, it will include the following sections:

- Introduction
- Analysis of current situation and identification of promising areas
- Main use cases, business models and architectures
- Technology trends and hype cycles
- Landscape analysis, role of EU stakeholders in evolving value chains
- European and non-European approaches – comparison
- Socio-economic and green impact of Edge in future smart IoT
- SWOT analysis
- Conclusions and recommendations
- Annexes

The Final Study Report shall at least include 6 (info) graphics depicting major findings (in general, and for the 5 sectors addressed). The SWOT analysis shall be carried out on general level, but each chapter shall include at least one statement per sector addressed by the study.

Post-workshop Reports shall contain the presentations, position papers and preparatory papers; a high quality synthesis of the discussions; and the list of participants. The deliverables should be made available no later than 2 weeks after the workshops.

This is the minimum set of documents which the contractor will be required to deliver during the study period. Tenderers may propose more.

All texts shall be written in English and in general technical language. The reports shall be made available for publication.

The contractor will provide 5 **Progress Reports** (every 3 months). The timing of the progress reports will be proposed by the contractor in the offer, in function of the proposed planning. The Commission shall receive the Progress Report at least one week before the related interim meeting. The Progress Reports will describe the current status of the project, the use of resources and travels completed in the performance of the contract, an analysis of any problems experienced and the adherence to the project time plan. The Progress Reports should have 5-10 pages maximum, as well as include a simple form of monthly status updates and focus on core issues. The **First Progress Report** shall be made available to the Commission's services within 6 months of the contract signature contract by the last contracting party.

1.4.3.3. Meetings and workshops

A schedule of meetings will be agreed with the contractor for this assignment. Such meetings will be attended by representatives of the European Commission, the project manager leader and other members of the contractor's team, as required. Other knowledgeable external experts might be invited to participate by the Commission. The meetings will be chaired by a

Commission representative and may be organised as virtual or on-site events at the Commission's premises.

The aim of the meetings will be to guide the work of the contractor. In particular, they will allow setting-up the initial orientations, review progress in critical milestones and review the deliverables of the assignment.

Within three days following each meeting, the contractor will circulate minutes of the meeting to all participants, together with copies of presentations made during the meeting or other related documents. The minutes shall be concise and concentrate on major decisions and shall list the open action points for the next reporting period.

Meetings between the contractor and the Commission will be chaired and called by the Commission and prepared by the contractor. Technical meetings could be organised on ad-hoc basis whenever required.

Meetings between the contractor and the Commission will include at least:

Inception meeting

An Inception meeting will be organised by the Commission's services online within 1 month after signature of the contract by the last contracting party. The contractor will have to finalise the Inception Report on the basis of the outcome of the Inception meeting.

First Interim meeting

A first Interim meeting during which the contractor will present the interim findings will be held within 6 months after signature of the contract by the last contracting party. It will be organised by the Commission's services online. The contractor will have to finalise the first Interim Study Report on the basis of the outcome of the first Interim meeting.

Second Interim meeting

A second Interim meeting during which the contractor will present the interim findings will be held within 10 months after signature of the contract by the last contracting party. It will be organised by the Commission's services online. The contractor will have to finalise the second Interim Study Report on the basis of the outcome of the second Interim meeting.

Final meeting

A final meeting during which the contractor will present the final findings and proposed conclusions will be held **within 15 months** after signature of the contract by the last contracting party. It will be organised by the Commission's services. The contractor will have to finalise the Final Study Report on the basis of the outcome of the final meeting.

Monthly conference calls

In addition to the meetings to be organised online, a monthly conference call on the state of progress of the study will take place between representatives from the contractor and the Commission.

Workshop 1 on technologies, architectures and opportunities in of key sectors:

A first workshop on technologies, architectures and opportunities in value chains of key sectors will be organised to gather input and feedback from relevant stakeholders. As a result, the opportunities should be elaborated around socio-economic and green benefits for European Industries. Workshop 1 will be held within 7 months after signature of the contract by the last contracting party. The contractor is expected to provide a senior member of staff having worked on the contract to deliver a presentation on the main findings so far. Workshop 1 will be organised as a physical meeting or as a webinar (depending on the rules) by the Commission's services and will last 1 day. In case an alternative organisation form or location for first workshop is proposed by the contractor, this has to be agreed by the Commission in advance and to remain within the budget foreseen in the tender.

Workshop 2 on Impact, SWOT analysis and recommended measures:

A second workshop on recommended measures to be taken by industry, the European Commission, and/or Member States will be organised to gather input and feedback from relevant stakeholders. Workshop 2 will be held **within 12 months** after signature of the contract by the last contracting party. The contractor is expected to provide a senior member of staff having worked on the contract to deliver a presentation on the main findings so far. Workshop 2 will be organised by the Commission's services at the Commission's premises in Brussels or as a webinar and will last 1 day. In case an alternative location for the second workshop is proposed by the contractor, this has to be agreed by the Commission in advance and to remain within the budget foreseen in the tender.

Final Workshop:

The contractor will present a report of the main findings of the study: one to the staff of the European Commission (could be combined with the Final Meeting) and one to external stakeholders, as a public stakeholders' event, co-organised by the CSA EU-IoT (see NGIoT.eu). The draft Final Study Report will be presented by the contractor during the final workshop to be held within 15 months after signature of the contract by the last contracting party. The contractor is expected to provide a senior member of staff having worked on the contract to deliver a presentation on the main findings.

The final workshop will be organised by the Commission's services with the support of the CSA EU-IoT at the Commission's premises in Brussels or as an online webinar, and will last 1 day. In case an alternative location for the final workshop is proposed by the contractor, this has to be agreed by the Commission in advance and to remain within the budget foreseen in the tender.

The aim of the final workshop is to inform relevant stakeholders and experts about the findings of the Final Study Report, validate and collect their views on them, as well as more general views, especially on current and future developments in the area of the study and policy implications.

The feedback from the workshop will be incorporated into the Final Study Report as described above. The final list of participants has to be agreed in advance between the contractor and the Commission's services.

This is the minimum set of meetings and workshops, which the contractor will be required to deliver during the study period. Tenderers may propose more workshops. Possible additional workshops will be organised by the contractor and the related costs will be borne by the contractor.

Costs related to the following activities and items for Workshop 1 and Workshop 2 must be borne by the contractor and included in the price:

- Setting the workshop agenda in cooperation with the Commission;
- Identifying participants and speakers in cooperation with the Commission;
- Inviting speakers and participants;
- Cost of providing catering during the workshop;
- Printing and distributing relevant information material for speakers and participants.

Each tenderer should include costs of attendance of its own representative(s) at all the above meetings and workshops in the financial section of the offer.

1.4.3.4. Terms of approval of reports and deliverables

a) Study Reports

After reception of each study report included in the Section 1.4.3.2 above, except for the reports linked to payments, the Commission will have **20 calendar days** in which:

- to approve it, with or without comments or reservations;
- to reject it and request a new report.

If the Commission does not react within this period, the report shall be deemed to be approved.

Where the Commission requests a new report because the one previously submitted has been rejected, this must be submitted within **20 calendar days**. The new report shall likewise be subject to the above provisions.

For the terms of approval of the reports linked to payments, please refer to Article I.5 of the contract.

The contractor will present a report of the main findings of the Study: one to the European Commission staff (could be combined with the Final Meeting) and one to external stakeholders, as a public stakeholders' event, co-organised by the CSA EU-IOT. The presentations should be delivered by a senior member of contractor's staff who worked on the Study and they should be made available to the Commission in electronic format minimum two weeks before the date of the meeting.

The contractor will also suggest other ways of dissemination of the Study results, besides the above-mentioned presentations and workshops.

b) Progress reports

Except for the reports linked to payments, the Commission shall have 20 days from receipt to approve or reject the progress report(s), and the Contractor shall have 20 days in which to submit additional information or a new report.

Upon reception of each deliverable, including the progress reports, the Commission will have **20 calendar days** in which:

- to approve it, with or without comments or reservations;
- to reject it and request a new report.

If the Commission does not react within this period, the report shall be deemed to be approved.

Where the Commission requests a new report because the one previously submitted has been rejected, this must be submitted within **20 calendar days**. The new report shall likewise be subject to the above provisions.

c) Other deliverables

Except for the reports linked to payments, the Commission shall have 20 days from receipt to approve or reject the deliverable(s), and the Contractor shall have 20 days in which to submit additional information or a new deliverable.

1.4.4. Report format of the deliverables

All deliverables must be written in English.

All data sources will have to be clearly indicated in the documents and made available to the Commission services. All reports should be consistent in style (headings, margins, citations, bibliography, etc.) and contain a short executive summary. The contractor is required to properly apply quotation techniques and particular care will be taken to verify improper re-use of existing material.

All reports will be submitted in electronic format (.doc, .xls, .ppt or equivalents in open formats). The stakeholder list needs to be provided in a structured Excel format. Exchange of advance copies as well as other non-formal communications shall take place via email.

The Commission services will decide the possible dissemination of the findings and conclusions and any other information produced under this assignment.

The abstract provided in English in the Final Study Report in no more than 500 words shall be provided as well in a separate document for the purpose of the description of the study on the Europa website. The executive summary by the contractors must be of high editorial quality. It shall include a graphic summarising and illustrating the major findings.

1.4.5. Content of the deliverables

A. Content

A.1. Study reports

The Interim and Final Study Reports must include:

- an abstract of no more than 500 words and an executive summary of maximum 6 pages, both in English and French;
- specific identifiers which must be incorporated on the cover page provided by the Contracting Authority;
- the following disclaimer:

“The information and views set out in this report are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the Commission. The Commission does not guarantee the accuracy of the data included in this study. Neither the Commission nor any person acting on the Commission’s behalf may be held responsible for the use which may be made of the information contained therein.”

B. Structure

Contractors are free to choose the structure of the **Final Study Report**.

C. Graphic and technical requirements

The contractor must deliver the study and all publishable deliverables in full compliance with the corporate visual identity of the European Commission, by applying the graphic rules set out in the European Commission's Visual Identity Manual, including its logo. The graphic rules, the Manual and further information are available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/communication/services/visual_identity/index_en.htm

A simple Word template will be provided to the contractor after contract signature. The contractor must fill in the cover page in accordance with the instructions provided in the template. The use of templates for studies is exclusive to European Commission's contractors. No template will be provided to tenderers while preparing their tenders.

D. Requirements for publication on Internet

The Commission is committed to making online information as accessible as possible to the largest possible number of users including those with visual, auditory, cognitive or physical disabilities, and those not having the latest technologies. The Commission supports the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 of the W3C.

For full details on the Commission policy on accessibility for information providers, see: http://ec.europa.eu/ipg/standards/accessibility/index_en.htm

For the publishable versions of the study, abstract and executive summary, the contractor must respect the W3C guidelines for accessible pdf documents as provided at: <http://www.w3.org/WAI/>

1.5. Place of performance: where will the contract be performed?


The services will be performed at the following locations:

- the contractor's premises.

1.6. Nature of the contract: how will the contract be implemented?

The procedure will result in the conclusion of a direct contract.

In direct contracts, all the terms governing the provision of the services, supplies or works are defined at the outset. Once signed, they can be implemented directly without any further contract procedures.

 Tenderers need to take full account of the provisions of the draft contract as the latter will define and govern the contractual relationship(s) to be established between the *Contracting authority* and the successful tenderer(s). Special attention is to be paid to the provisions specifying the rights and obligations of the contractor, in particular those on payments, performance of the contract, confidentiality, and checks and audits.

1.7. Volume and value of the contract: how much do we plan to buy?

The estimated total amount of all purchases under this contract is indicated under Heading II.1.5 of the contract notice. **This amount is a maximum and tenders exceeding it will be rejected.** The services to be purchased over the total duration of the contract are specified in Section 1.4 of these specifications.

1.8. Duration of the contract: how long do we plan to use the contract?

The contract(s) resulting from the award of this call for tenders will be concluded after at most 15 months. The details of the initial contract duration and possible renewals are set out in Article I.3 of the draft contract.

1.9. Electronic exchange system: can exchanges under the contract be automated?

For all exchanges with the contractor during the implementation of the contract as well as for future possible subsequent proceedings for the purposes of EDES (European Union's Early Detection and Exclusion System) the *Contracting authority* may use an electronic exchange system meeting the requirements of Article 148 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union ¹. At the request of the *Contracting authority* the use of such a system shall become mandatory for the contractor(s) at no additional cost for the *Contracting authority*. Details on specifications, access, terms and conditions of use will be provided in advance.

2. GENERAL INFORMATION ON TENDERING

2.1. Legal basis: what are the rules?

This call for tenders is governed by the provisions of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (the Financial Regulation)¹³.

The *Contracting authority* has chosen to award the contract resulting from this call for tenders through an open procedure pursuant to Article 164(1) (a) of the Financial Regulation. In an open procedure any interested economic operator (any natural or legal person who offers to supply products, provide services or execute works) may submit a tender.

2.2. Rules on access to procurement: who may submit a tender?

Participation in this call for tenders is open on equal terms to all natural and legal persons coming within the scope of the Treaties, as well as to international organisations.

It is also open to all natural and legal persons established in a third country which has a special agreement with the European Union in the field of public procurement on the conditions laid down in that agreement. Where the Agreement on Government Procurement¹⁴ concluded within the World Trade Organisation applies, the participation to this call for tenders is open to all natural and legal persons established in the countries that have ratified this Agreement, on the conditions laid down therein.

The rules on access to procurement do not apply to subcontractors. Subcontracting may not be used with the intent to circumvent the rules on access to procurement.

To enable the *Contracting authority* to verify the access, each tenderer must indicate its country of establishment (and in case of joint tender – the country of establishment of each group member) and must present the supporting evidence normally acceptable under the law of that country/-ies. The same document(s) could be used to prove country/-ies of establishment and the delegation(s) of the authorisation to sign as described in **Section 4.3**.


¹³ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 (OJ L 193 of 30.07.2018, p.1).

¹⁴ https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/gp_gpa_e.htm.


2.3. Registration in the Participant Register: why register?

Any economic operator willing to submit a tender for this call for tenders must be registered in the Participant Register - an online register of organisations and natural persons participating in European Commission's calls for tenders or proposals (participants).

On registering each participant obtains a Participant Identification Code (PIC, 9-digit number) which acts as its unique identifier in the Participant Register. A participant needs to register only once – the information provided can be further updated or re-used by the participant in other European Commission's calls for tenders or calls for proposals.

 **Please provide information about the SME status of the participant in the Participant Register by filling in the SME Declaration section in the Participant Register. The section becomes available only when updating/modifying the details of the registered organisation.**

At any moment during the procurement procedure, the Research Executive Agency Validation Services (hereafter *the EU Validation Services*) may contact the participant and ask for supporting documents on legal existence and status. The requests will be made through the register's messaging system to the e-mail address of the participant's contact person indicated in the register. It is the responsibility of the participant to provide a valid e-mail address and to check it regularly. The documents that may be requested by *the EU Validation Services* are listed in the EU Grants and Tenders Rules on Legal Entity Validation, LEAR appointment and Financial Capacity assessment.

 **Please note that a request for supporting documents by the *EU Validation Services* in no way implies that the tenderer has been successful.**

2.4. Ways to submit a tender: how can economic operators organise themselves to submit a tender?

Economic operators can submit a tender either as a sole economic operator (sole tenderer) or as a group of economic operators (joint tender). In either case subcontracting is permitted.

In order to fulfil the selection criteria set out in **Section 3.2**, the tenderer can rely on the capacities of subcontractors or other entities that are not subcontractors.

The role of each entity involved in a tender (hereafter referred to as “*involved entity*”) must be clearly specified in the eSubmission application: i) sole tenderer, ii) *Group leader* of a group of tenderers, iii) member of a group of tenderers, or iv) subcontractor. For an entity on whose capacities the tenderer relies to fulfil the selection criteria (that is not a subcontractor), this role is defined in the commitment letter (**Annex 5.2**). This applies also where the *involved entities* belong to the same economic group.

2.4.1. Joint tenders

A joint tender is a situation where a tender is submitted by a group (with or without legal form) of economic operators regardless of the link they have between them. The group as a whole is considered a tenderer¹⁵.

All members of the group assume joint and several liability towards the *Contracting authority* for the performance of the contract as a whole.

Group members must appoint a *Group leader* and a single point of contact authorised to act on their behalf in connection with the submission of the tender and all relevant questions, clarification requests, notifications, etc., that may be received during the evaluation, award and until the contract signature. The model power of attorney attached in **Annex 3** is to be used.

The joint tender must clearly indicate the role and tasks of each member and of the *Group leader* who will act as the *Contracting authority's* contact point for the contract's administrative or financial aspects and operational management. The *Group leader* will have full authority to bind the group and each of its members during contract execution. If the joint tender is successful, the *Contracting authority* shall sign the contract with the Group leader, authorised by the other members to sign the contract on their behalf via power of attorney drawn up in the model attached in **Annex 3**.

Changes in the composition of the group during the procurement procedure (after the submission deadline and before contract signature), shall lead to rejection of the tender except in case of a merger or takeover of a member of the group (universal succession), provided that the new entity has access to procurement (see **Section 2.2**) and is not in an exclusion situation (see **Section 3.1**).

In any case, the selection criteria must be still fulfilled by the group and the terms of the originally submitted tender may not be altered substantially, i.e. all the tasks assigned to the former entity must be taken over by the new entity member of the group, the change must not make the tender non-compliant with the tender specifications, and the evaluation of award criteria of the originally submitted tender may not be modified.

2.4.2. Subcontracting

Subcontracting is the situation where the contractor enters into legal commitments with other economic operators which will perform part of the contract on its behalf. The contractor retains full liability towards the *Contracting authority* for performance of the contract as a whole.

The following shall not be considered subcontracting:

- a) Use of workers posted to the contractor by another company owned by the same group and established in a Member State (“intra-group posting” as defined by Article 1, 3,

¹⁵ References to *tenderer* or *tenderers* in this document shall be understood as covering both sole tenderers and groups of economic operators submitting a joint tender.

- (b) of Directive 96/71/EC concerning the posting of workers in the framework of the provision of services).
- b) Use of workers hired out to the contractor by a temporary employment undertaking or placement agency established in a Member State (“hiring out of workers” as defined by Article 1, 3, (c) of Directive 96/71/EC concerning the posting of workers in the framework of the provision of services).
 - c) Use of workers temporarily transferred to the contractor from an undertaking established outside the territory of a Member State and that belongs to the same group (“intra-corporate transfer” as defined by Article 3, (b) of Directive 2014/66/EU on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals in the framework of an intra-corporate transfer) .
 - d) Use of staff without employment contract (“self-employed persons working for the contractor”), without the tasks of the self-employed persons being particular well-defined parts of the contract.
 - e) Use of suppliers and/or transporters by the contractor, in order to perform the contract at the place of performance, unless the economic activities of the suppliers and/or the transporting services are within the subject of this call for tenders (see **Section 1.4**).
 - f) Performance of part of the contract by members of an EEIG (European Economic Interest Grouping), when the EEIG is itself a contractor or a group member.

The persons mentioned in Points a), b), c) and d) above will be considered as "personnel" of the contractor as defined in the contract.

All contractual tasks may be subcontracted unless the *Technical specifications* expressly reserve the execution of certain critical tasks to the sole tenderer itself, or in case of a joint tender, to a member of the group.

By filling in the form available in **Annex 4**, tenderers are required to give an indication of the proportion of the contract that they intend to subcontract, as well as to identify and describe briefly the envisaged contractual roles/tasks of subcontractors meeting any of these conditions (hereafter referred to as *identified subcontractors*):

- on whose capacities the tenderer relies upon to fulfil the selection criteria as described under **Section 3.2**;
- whose individual share of the contract, known at the time of submission, is above 15%.

Any such subcontractor must provide the tenderer with a commitment letter drawn up in the model attached in **Annex 5.1** and signed by its authorised representative.

Changes concerning subcontractors identified in the tender (withdrawal/replacement of a subcontractor, additional subcontracting) during the procurement procedure (after the submission deadline and before contract signature) require the prior written approval of the *Contracting authority* subject to the following verifications:

- any new subcontractor is not in an exclusion situation;
- the tenderer still fulfils the selection criteria and the new subcontractor fulfils the selection criteria applicable to it individually, if any;
- the terms of the originally submitted tender are not altered substantially, i.e. all the tasks assigned to the former subcontractor are taken over by another involved entity,

the change does not make the tender non-compliant with the tender specifications, and the evaluation of award criteria of the originally submitted tender is not modified.


Subcontracting to subcontractors identified in a tender that was accepted by the *Contracting authority* and resulted in a signed contract, is considered authorised.

2.4.3. Entities on whose capacities the tenderer relies to fulfil the selection criteria

In order to fulfil the selection criteria a tenderer may also rely on the capacities of other entities, regardless of the legal nature of the links it has with them. It must in that case prove that it will have at its disposal the resources necessary for the performance of the contract by producing a commitment letter in the model attached in ***Annex 5.2***, signed by the authorised representative of such an entity, and the supporting evidence that those other entities have the respective resources.

If the contract is awarded to a tenderer intending to rely on another entity to meet the minimum levels of economic and financial capacity, the *Contracting authority* may require the entity to sign the contract or, alternatively, to provide a joint and several first-call financial guarantee for the performance of the contract.

With regard to technical and professional selection criteria, a tenderer may only rely on the capacities of other entities where the latter will perform the works or services for which these capacities are required.

 Relying on the capacities of other entities is only necessary when the capacity of the tenderer is not sufficient to fulfil the required minimum levels of capacity. Abstract commitments that other entities will put resources at the disposal of the tenderer will be disregarded.

3. EVALUATION AND AWARD

The evaluation of the tenders that comply with the submission conditions will consist of the following elements:

- Check if the tenderer has access to procurement (see *Section 2.2*);
- Verification of administrative compliance (if the tender is drawn up in one of the official EU languages and the required documents signed by duly authorised representative(-s) of the tenderer);
- Verification of non-exclusion of tenderers on the basis of the exclusion criteria;
- Selection of tenderers on the basis of selection criteria;
- Verification of compliance with the minimum requirements specified in the procurement documents;
- Evaluation of tenders on the basis of the award criteria.

The *Contracting authority* will evaluate the abovementioned elements in the order that it considers to be the most appropriate. If the evaluation of one or more elements demonstrates that there are grounds for rejection, the tender will be rejected and will not be subjected to further full evaluation. The unsuccessful tenderers will be informed of the ground for rejection without being given feedback on the non-assessed content of their tenders. Only tenderer(s) for whom the verification of all elements did not reveal grounds for rejection can be awarded the contract.

The evaluation will be based on the information and evidence contained in the tenders and, if applicable, on additional information and evidence provided at the request of the *Contracting authority* during the procedure. If any of the declarations or information provided proves to be false, the *Contracting authority* may impose administrative sanctions (exclusion or financial penalties) on the entity providing the false declarations/information.

For the purposes of the evaluation related to exclusion and selection criteria, *the Contracting authority* may also refer to publicly available information, in particular evidence that it can access on a national database free of charge.

3.1. Exclusion criteria

The objective of the exclusion criteria is to assess whether the tenderer is in any of the exclusion situations listed in Article 136(1) of the Financial Regulation.

Tenderers found to be in an exclusion situation will be rejected.

As evidence of non-exclusion each tenderer needs to submit with its tender a Declaration on Honour¹⁶ in the model available in *Annex 2*.¹⁷ The declaration must be signed by an authorised representative of the entity providing the declaration.

¹⁶ The European Single Procurement Document (ESPD) may not be used yet in European Commission's calls for tenders.

The initial verification of non-exclusion of tenderers will be done on the basis of the submitted declarations and consultation of the European Union's Early Detection and Exclusion System. The documents mentioned as supporting evidence in the Declaration on Honour need to be provided whenever requested and where this is necessary to ensure the proper conduct of the procedure within a deadline given by the *Contracting authority*¹⁷.

Annex 1 specifies which of the *involved entities* participating in a tender need to provide the Declaration on Honour and, when requested by the *Contracting authority*, the supporting evidence.

Before the award decision, the contracting authority may request documentary evidence on compliance on the exclusion criteria set out in the present tender specifications. All tenderers are invited to prepare in advance the documents related to the evidence, since they may be requested to provide such evidence within a short deadline. Failure to provide valid documentary evidence within the deadline set by the Contracting Authority shall lead to the rejection of the tender for the award of the contract, unless the tenderer can justify the failure on the grounds of material impossibility.



Please note that a request for evidence in no way implies that the tenderer has been successful.

3.2. Selection criteria

The objective of the selection criteria is to assess whether the tenderer has the legal, regulatory, economic, financial, technical and professional capacity to perform the contract.

The selection criteria for this call for tenders, including the minimum levels of capacity, the basis for assessment and the evidence required, are specified in the following subsections.

Tenders submitted by tenderers not meeting the minimum levels of capacity will be rejected.

When submitting its tender, each tenderer shall declare on honour that it fulfils the selection criteria for the call for tenders. The model Declaration on Honour available in **Annex 2** shall be used.

¹⁷ Unless the same declaration has already been submitted for the purposes of another award procedure of the European Commission, the situation has not changed, and the time elapsed since the issuing date of the declaration does not exceed one year.

¹⁸ The obligation to provide the supporting evidence will be waived in the following situations:

- if the same documents have already been provided in a previous award procedure of the European Commission, have been issued no more than one year before the date of their request by the *Contracting authority* and are still valid at that date;
- if such evidence can be accessed by the *Contracting authority* on a national database free of charge, in which case the economic operator shall provide the *Contracting authority* with the internet address of the database and, if needed, the necessary identification data to retrieve the document;
- if there is a material impossibility to provide such evidence.

The initial assessment of whether a tenderer fulfils the selection criteria will be done on the basis of the submitted declaration(s).

The subsections below specify which selection criteria evidence must be provided with the tender or may be requested later, at any time during the procurement procedure¹⁹. In any case, to the extent that there is no ground for a waiver, the evidence must be provided, upon request and within a deadline given by the *Contracting authority*. The evidence must be provided in accordance with the applicable basis for assessment of each criterion: in case of a consolidated assessment – only by the *involved entities* who contribute to the fulfilment of the criterion, and in case of individual assessment – by each *involved entity* to whom the criterion applies individually.

Before the award decision, the contracting authority may request documentary evidence on compliance with the selection criteria set out in the present tender specifications. All tenderers are **invited to prepare in advance the documents related to the evidence**, since they may be requested to provide such evidence in a short deadline. In any event, the tenderer proposed by the evaluation committee for the award of the contract, will be requested to provide such evidence.


Failure to provide valid documentary evidence within the deadline set by the Contracting Authority shall lead to the rejection of the tender for the award of the contract, unless the tenderer can justify the failure on the grounds of material impossibility.

3.2.1. Legal and regulatory capacity

Tenderers must prove that they have legal capacity to perform the contract and the regulatory capacity to pursue the professional activity necessary to carry out the work subject to this call for tenders.

The legal and regulatory capacity shall be proven by the evidence listed below:

- Proof of enrolment in a relevant trade or professional register
- Proof of authorisation that the tenderer is authorised to perform the contract in its country of establishment.

 The evidence of legal and regulatory capacity does need not be provided with the tender but may be requested by the *Contracting authority* at any time during the procedure. The evidence is to be provided on request by all partners in case of joint tender. **Please note that a request for evidence in no way implies that the tenderer has been successful.**


¹⁹ The obligation to provide the supporting evidence will be waived in the following situations:

- if the same documents have already been provided in a previous award procedure of the European Commission and are still up-to-date;
- if such evidence can be accessed by the *Contracting authority* on a national database free of charge, in which case the economic operator shall provide the *Contracting authority* with the internet address of the database and, if needed, the necessary identification data to retrieve the document.

3.2.2. Economic and financial capacity

Tenderers must comply with the following selection criteria in order to prove that they have the necessary economic and financial capacity to perform the contract.

Criterion F1	
Minimum level of capacity	Average yearly turnover of the last two financial years above EUR 600 000.
Basis for assessment	This criterion applies to the tenderer as a whole, i.e. a consolidated assessment of the combined capacities of all <i>involved entities</i> will be carried out.
Evidence	Copy of the profit and loss accounts and balance sheets for the last two years for which accounts have been closed from each concerned <i>involved entity</i> , or, failing that, appropriate statements from banks. The most recent year must have been closed within the last 18 months.

 The evidence of economic and financial capacity does need not be provided with the tender but may be requested by the *Contracting authority* at any time during the procedure. **Please note that a request for evidence in no way implies that the tenderer has been successful.**

3.2.3. Technical and professional capacity

Tenderers must comply with the following selection criteria in order to prove that they have the necessary technical and professional capacity to perform the contract.

Criterion T1	
The tenderer must prove experience in the field of industrial innovation, digital technologies and IoT, as well as technological and economic analysis. The tenderer must further have sound knowledge of the 5 vertical sectors and their digital transformation addressed by the study.	
Minimum level of capacity	At least 3 similar (in scope and complexity) and relevant activities demonstrated in the last three years preceding the tender submission deadline, with a minimum value for each of them EUR 50 000.
Basis for assessment	This criterion applies to the tenderer as a whole, i.e. the combined capacities of all <i>involved entities</i> .
Evidence	<p>List of contracts/activities in the above mentioned field performed in the past three years, or currently being performed, with details (subject of the study, methodology, price)</p> <p>As supporting documents for each activity or project reference, the <i>Contracting authority</i> may request statements issued by the clients and take contact with them.</p>

Criterion T2	
The tenderer must prove capacity to draft reports and recommendations in English.	
Basis for assessment	This criterion applies to the tenderer as a whole, i.e. the combined capacities of all <i>involved entities</i> .
Evidence	The tenderer must provide three documents or reference to three documents of at least 10 pages each (report, study, etc.) in the English language that it has drafted and published or delivered to a client in the last two years. The verification will be carried out on 5 pages of each document.

Criterion T3	
The tenderer must prove experience in communication towards various stakeholders, in particular industry – both demand and supply side, including the use of IT tools and social media, and in the organisation of workshops and conferences.	
Basis for assessment	This criterion applies to the tenderer as a whole, i.e. the combined capacities of all <i>involved entities</i> .
Evidence	The tenderer must provide references for minimum 5 activities or projects delivered in the last 5 years where it has implemented tasks in these areas.

The team delivering the service should include, as a minimum, the profiles described in **Criterion T4**.

Evidence will consist in CVs of the team responsible to deliver the service. Each CV should indicate the intended function in the delivery of the service.

The Europass curriculum vitae template (available at <https://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/documents/curriculum-vitae>) shall be filled in by each person involved in the execution of the tasks foreseen in the tender. Please make sure the precise contractual link with the tenderer is clearly indicated.

Criterion T4	
Minimum level of capacity	<p>The team delivering the service should include, as a minimum, the following profiles:</p> <p><u>Project Manager</u>: At least 2 years of experience in project management, including overseeing delivery, quality control of delivered service(s), client orientation and conflict resolutions in projects of a similar size (at least EUR 50.000) and coverage (at least 2 countries covered), with experience in management of team of at least 10 people.</p> <p><u>Language quality checker</u>: At least one member of the team should have native-level language skills in English or equivalent, as guaranteed by a certificate or past relevant</p>

	experience. <u>Experts:</u> For all the members of the team, experience, technical knowledge, reputation and credibility of proposed team in the fields of policy recommendations, digital technology, industry and market analysis, industrial strategies, and economic impact.
Basis for assessment	This criterion applies to the team delivering the service.
Evidence	Concise but informative curricula vitae (CV) of each person involved in the execution of the tasks foreseen in the tender. The CVs shall demonstrate professional experience in the specific domain of this study, in particular experience during the last 2 years in the fields of policy recommendations, digital technology, industry and market analysis, industrial strategies, and economic impact.

☞ Only the evidence for Criterion T4 must be provided with the tender. The other evidence of technical and professional capacity may be requested by the Contracting authority at any time during the procedure. **Please note that a request for evidence in no way implies that the tenderer has been successful.**

☞ Involved entities must not be subject to conflicting interests which may negatively affect the contract performance. Where the *Contracting authority* has established such conflicting interests, it may conclude that the tenderer or an involved entity does not possess the required professional capacity to perform the contract to an appropriate quality standard. The presence of conflicting interests shall be examined during the evaluation phase based on the statements made through the Declarations on Honour and, where applicable, the Commitment Letters (*Annex 5.1 and Annex 5.2*).

3.3. Compliance with the minimum requirements specified in the procurement documents

By submitting a tender, a tenderer commits to perform the contract in full compliance with the terms and conditions of the procurement documents for this call for tenders. Particular attention is drawn to the minimum requirements specified in Section 1.4 of these specifications and to the fact that tenders must comply with applicable data protection, environmental, social and labour law obligations established by Union law, national legislation, collective agreements or the international environmental, social and labour conventions listed in Annex X to Directive 2014/24/EU.

The minimum requirements shall be observed throughout the entire duration of the contract. Compliance with these requirements is mandatory and cannot be subject to any assumptions, limitations, conditions, or reservations on the part of a tenderer.

☞ **Tenders that are not compliant with the applicable minimum requirements shall be rejected.**

3.4. Award criteria

The objective of the award criteria is to evaluate the tenders with a view to choosing the most economically advantageous tender.

Tenders will be evaluated on the basis of the following award criteria and their weighting:

1. Price - 40%

The price considered for evaluation will be the total price of the tender, covering all the requirements set out in the tender specifications.

2. Quality - 60%

The contract will be awarded based on the most economically advantageous tender, according to the 'best price-quality ratio' award method. The quality of the tender will be evaluated based on the following criteria. The maximum total quality score is 100 points.

A. Understanding of the context (maximum score: 30 points, minimum score: 15 points)

This criterion will assess the understanding of economic and technological aspects of the next generation of the Internet of Things and Edge Computing, as well as the understanding of current and future value chains, opportunities through digital transformation in general, and related the IoT and edge computing in particular, in the considered industrial sectors. The tenderers shall also demonstrate that they have a good knowledge of existing activities, policies and strategies relevant to data and industrial strategies.

B. Quality of the proposed methodology and tools for performing the tasks (maximum score: 30 points, minimum score: 15 points)

Under this criterion the quality and appropriateness of the methodology and tools as described in the tender and the specific methodology envisaged for each task will be assessed. The quality and appropriateness will be assessed against the completeness, clarity and relevance of the proposed approach as regards the tasks set out in the technical specifications.

Sub-criterion B.1: Clarity, credibility, quality and feasibility of the tender (i.e. project description and quality of the approach).

Sub-criterion B.2: Soundness of the proposed analytical basis.

Sub-criterion B.3: Soundness and appropriateness of the proposed analysis tools and evidence gathering techniques.

Tenderers should provide a description of the methodologies and multidisciplinary approaches proposed for undertaking the tasks. They should list in particular the tools and methods envisaged. This description must be as precise as possible. To this purpose, they could also mention the tools used in the past by them or by members of the consortium and present the concepts or theories followed.

(All the sub-criteria above are of equal relative importance)

C. Organisation of the work and resources (maximum score: 30 points, minimum score: 15 points)

This criterion will assess how the roles and responsibilities of the proposed team and of the different economic operators (in case of joint tenders, including subcontractors if applicable) are distributed for each task. It also assesses the global allocation of time and resources to the project and to each task or deliverable, and whether this allocation is adequate for the work. The tender should provide details on the allocation of time and human resources and the rationale behind the choice of this allocation. Details should be provided as part of the technical offer. It is not a budget requested as part of the financial offer.

Sub-criterion C.1: Feasibility to meet the objectives specified in the tender specifications outlined by a work plan or timetable.

Sub-criterion C.2: Adequacy and appropriateness of the overall allocation of time and resources to the study and to each task or deliverable, as well as the level of direct participation of senior staff in performance of the tasks required under these tender specifications and specifying clearly the identity, roles, activities and responsibilities of subcontractor(s).

Sub-criterion C.3: Mechanisms for continuous service and coordination within the team.

(All the sub-criteria above are of equal relative importance)

D. Quality control measures (maximum score: 10 points, minimum score: 5 points)

Tenderers should provide a quality plan, to specify how they intend to control and ensure high quality and effective monitoring of the services and works they may be required to supply to the Commission in execution of the contract. This criterion will assess the quality control system applied to the service foreseen in this tender specification concerning the quality of the deliverables, the language quality check, and continuity of the service in case of absence of members of the team. The quality system should be detailed in the tender and specific to the tasks at hand; a generic quality system will result in a low score.


Tenders must score minimum 50% for each criterion and minimum 70% in total. Tenders that do not reach the minimum quality levels will be rejected and will not be ranked.

3.5. Award (ranking of tenders)

Tenders shall be ranked according to the best price-quality ratio in accordance with the formula below.

The contract will be awarded to the most economically advantageous tender, i.e. the tender offering the best price-quality ratio determined in accordance with the formula below. A weight of 60/40 is given to quality and price.


score for tender X	=	cheapest price	*	100	*	40 %	+	total quality score (out of 100) for all award criteria of tender X	*	60 %
		price of tender X								

 The contract shall be awarded to the tender ranked first, which complies with the minimum requirements specified in the procurement documents and is submitted by a tenderer having access to procurement, not in an exclusion situation and fulfilling with the selection criteria.

4. FORM AND CONTENT OF THE TENDER

4.1. Form of the tender: how to submit the tender?

Tenders are to be submitted via the eSubmission application according to the instructions laid down in the Invitation to tender letter and the eSubmission Quick Guide.

 Make sure you prepare and submit your electronic tender in eSubmission early enough to ensure it is received within the deadline specified under Heading IV.2.2 of the contract notice.

4.2. Content of the tender: what documents to submit with the tender?

The documents to be submitted with the tender in eSubmission are listed in *Annex 1*.

The following requirements apply to the technical and financial offer to be uploaded in eSubmission:

- *Technical offer.*

The technical offer must provide all the information needed to assess the compliance with Section 1.4 of these specifications and the award criteria. Tenders deviating from the minimum requirements or not covering all the requirements may be rejected on the basis of non-compliance and not evaluated further.

Tenderers must specify in their technical offer the location where the personal data will be processed and stored only where this location is outside the territory of the European Union or the European Economic Area. If no location is specified in the tender, the *Contracting authority* will consider that the personal data will be processed and stored only within the territory of the European Union or the European Economic Area.

- *Financial offer.*

A complete financial offer, including the breakdown of the price needs to be uploaded.

It is the responsibility of each tenderer to ensure that the total amount of the tender inserted in the eSubmission field “Total amount” corresponds to the amount indicated in the uploaded financial offer. In case of discrepancies, only the amount indicated in the financial offer will be taken into account.

The financial offer shall be:

- expressed in euros. Tenderers from countries outside the euro zone have to quote their prices in euro. The price quoted may not be revised in line with exchange rate movements. It is for the tenderer to bear the risks or the benefits deriving from any variation.
- quoted free of all duties, taxes and other charges, i.e. also free of VAT.

The eSubmission field “Total taxes amount” must indicate 0 (zero) EUR as the *Contracting authority* is exempt from taxation.

☝ The European Union Institutions are exempt from such charges in the EU under Articles 3 and 4 of the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the European Union of 8 April 1965 annexed to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. Exemption is granted to the Commission by the governments of the Member States, either through refunds upon presentation of documentary evidence or by direct exemption.

In case of doubt about the applicable VAT system, it is the tenderer's responsibility to contact his or her national authorities to clarify the way in which the European Union is exempt from VAT.

4.3. Signature policy: how can documents be signed?

Where a document needs to be signed, the signature must be either hand-written or a qualified electronic signature as defined in Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market (the *eIDAS Regulation*).

For hand-written signatures see Section 1 of the Invitation to tender.

For electronic signatures, see: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/wikis/x/YIrgIw>

All documents must be signed by the signatories (when they are individuals) or by their duly authorised representatives.

For the following documents, when signed by representatives, tenderers must provide evidence for the delegation of the authorisation to sign:

- The Declaration on Honour of the tenderer (in case of joint tender – the Declarations on Honour of all group members);
- (If applicable – in the case of joint tender) the power(s) of attorney drawn up using the model attached in **Annex 3**).

The delegation of the authorisation to sign on behalf of the signatories (including, in the case of proxy(-ies), the chain of authorisations) must be evidenced by appropriate written evidence (copy of the notice of appointment of the persons authorised to represent the legal entity in signing contracts (together or alone), or a copy of the publication of such appointment if the legislation which applies to signatory requires such publication or a power of attorney). A document that the *Contracting authority* can access on a national database free of charge does not need to be submitted if the *Contracting authority* is provided with the exact internet link and, if applicable, the necessary identification data to retrieve the document.


4.4. Confidentiality of tenders: what information and under what conditions can be disclosed?

Once the *Contracting authority* has opened a tender, it becomes its property and shall be treated confidentially, subject to the following:

- For the purposes of evaluating the tender and, if applicable, implementing the contract, performing audits, benchmarking, etc., the *Contracting authority* is entitled to make available (any part of) the tender to its staff and the staff of other Union institutions, agencies and bodies, as well to other persons and entities working for the

Contracting authority or cooperating with it, including contractors or subcontractors and their staff provided that they are bound by an obligation of confidentiality.

- After the signature of the award decision tenderers whose tenders were received in accordance with the submission modalities, who have access to procurement, who are not found to be in an exclusion situation referred to in Article 136(1) of the FR, who are not rejected under Article 141 of the FR, whose tenders are not found to be incompliant with the procurement documents, and who make a request in writing will be notified of the name of the tenderer to whom the contract is awarded, the characteristics and relative advantages of the successful tender and the price of the offer and/or contract value. The *Contracting authority* may decide to withhold certain information that it assesses as being confidential, in particular where its release would prejudice the legitimate commercial interests of economic operators or might distort fair competition between them. Such information may include, without being limited to, confidential aspects of tenders such as unit prices included in the financial offer, technical or trade secrets²⁰.
- The *Contracting authority* may disclose the submitted tender in the context of a request for public access to documents, or in other cases where the applicable law requires its disclosure. Unless there is an overriding public interest in disclosure²¹, the *Contracting authority* may refuse to provide full access to the submitted tender, redacting the parts (if any) that contain confidential information, the disclosure of which would undermine the protection of commercial interests of the tenderer, including intellectual property.

 The *Contracting authority* will disregard general statements that the whole tender or substantial parts of it contain confidential information. Tenderers need to mark clearly the information they consider confidential and explain why it may not be disclosed. The *Contracting authority* reserves the right to make its own assessment of the confidential nature of any information contained in the tender.

²⁰ For the definition of trade secrets please see Article 2 (1) of DIRECTIVE (EU) 2016/943 on the protection of undisclosed know-how and business information (trade secrets) against their unlawful acquisition, use and disclosure.

²¹ See Article 4 (2) of the REGULATION (EC) No 1049/2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents.

APPENDIX: LIST OF REFERENCES

<i>Award criteria</i>	See Section 3.4
<i>Contracting authority</i>	See Section 1.1
<i>Entities on whose capacities the tenderer relies to fulfil the selection criteria</i>	See Section 2.4.3
<i>EU Validation services</i>	See Section 2.3 EU Grants and Tenders Rules on Legal Entity Validation, LEAR appointment and Financial Capacity assessment
<i>Exclusion criteria</i>	See Section 3.1
<i>Financial Regulation</i>	Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union
<i>Group leader</i>	See Section 2.4.1
<i>Identified subcontractors</i>	See Section 2.4.2
<i>Involved entities</i>	See Section 2.4
<i>Joint tender</i>	See Section 2.4.1
<i>Participant Register</i>	See Section 2.3 https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/participant-register
<i>Selection criteria</i>	See Section 3.2
<i>Sole tenderer</i>	See Section 2.4
<i>Subcontracting/subcontractor</i>	See Section 2.4.2
<i>Treaties</i>	The EU Treaties: https://europa.eu/european-union/law/treaties_en

ANNEXES

Annex 1. List of documents to be submitted with the tender or during the procedure

Description	Sole tenderer	Joint tender		Identified Subcontractor	Entity on whose capacity is being relied	When and where to submit the document?	Instructions for uploading in eSubmission (if applicable)	
		Group leader	Member of the group				How to name the file?	Where to upload?
1. Identification and information about the tenderer.								
eSubmission view								
<div><div></div><div>Ways to submit</div><div></div><div>Parties</div><div></div><div>Tender data</div><div></div><div>Submission report</div><div></div><div>Submit</div></div>								
<div>Declaration on Honour on Exclusion and Selection Criteria (see Section 3.1)</div> <div>Model in Annex 2.</div> <div>Declaration on Honour on exclusion and selection criteria</div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div>With the tender in eSubmission</div>	<div>Declaration on Honour'</div>	<div>With the concerned entity under 'Parties'</div> <div>→'Identification tenderer'</div> <div>→'Attachments'→'Declaration on Honour'.</div> <div>For entities on whose capacity is being relied and who are not subcontractors, the document must be uploaded in the section of the Sole tenderer or Group leader:</div> <div>→'Identification tenderer'</div> <div>→'Attachments'→'Other</div>

								documents'.
Evidence that the person signing the documents is an authorised representative of the entity ²²	☒	☒	☒			With the tender in eSubmission	'Authorisation to sign' documents'.	With the concerned entity under 'Parties' → 'Identification tenderer' → 'Attachments' → 'Other documents'.
Power of attorney (see Section 2.4.1) model in Annex 3. Power of attorney			☒			With the tender in eSubmission	'Power of attorney'	In the Group leader's section under 'Parties' → 'Identification tenderer' → 'Attachments' → 'Other documents'.
List of identified subcontractors (see Section 2.4.2) model in Annex 4. List of identified subcontractors	☒	☒				With the tender in eSubmission	"List of identified subcontractors"	In the Sole tenderer's or the Group leader's section under 'Parties' → 'Identification tenderer' → 'Attachments' → 'Other documents'.
Commitment letter (see Section 2.4.2 and 2.4.3)				☒ (Model in Annex 5.1)	☒ (Model in Annex 5.2)	With the tender in eSubmission	'Commitment letter'	With the concerned entity under 'Parties' → 'Identification tenderer' → 'Attachments' → 'Other documents'.
Evidence of non-exclusion (see Section 3.1)	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	Only upon request by <i>the Contracting authority</i> At any time during the	n.a.	n.a.

²² A document that the Contracting authority can access on a national database free of charge does not need to be submitted if the Contracting authority is provided with the exact internet link and, if applicable, the necessary identification data to retrieve the document.

						procedure		
Evidence of legal existence and status	☒	☒	☒			Only upon request by <i>the EU Validation services</i> At any time during the procedure In the Participant Register	n.a.	n.a.
Evidence of legal capacity (see Section 3.2.1)	☒	☒	☒			Only upon request by <i>the Contracting authority</i> At any time during the procedure		n.a.
Evidence of economic and financial capacity F1 (see Section 3.2.2)	<p style="text-align: center;">The documents must be provided only by the <i>involved entities</i> who contribute to reaching the minimum capacity level for Criterion F1</p>					Only upon request by <i>the Contracting authority</i> At any time during the procedure		With the Group leader or the sole tenderer under 'Parties' → 'Identification tenderer' → 'Attachments' → 'Economic and financial capacity'.
Evidence of technical and professional capacity T1, T2, T3. (see Section 3.2.3)	<p style="text-align: center;">The documents must be provided only by the <i>involved entities</i> who contribute to reaching the minimum capacity level for Criterion T1, T2, T3.</p>					Only upon request by <i>the Contracting authority.</i> At any time during the procedure.	T1 Evidence T2 Evidence T3 Evidence.	With the Group leader or the sole tenderer under 'Parties' → 'Identification tenderer' → 'Attachments' → 'Technical and professional capacity'.

Evidence of technical and professional capacity T4, (see Section 3.2.3)	The documents must be provided only by the <i>involved entities</i> who contribute to reaching the minimum capacity level for Criterion T4.					With the tender In e-Submission	T4 Evidence.	With the Group leader or the sole tenderer under 'Parties' → 'Identification tenderer' → 'Attachments' → 'Technical and professional capacity'.
Administrative identification form Annex 7	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			With the tender in e-Submission	'Administrative form'.	With the concerned entity under 'Parties' → 'Identification tenderer' → 'Attachments' → 'Other documents'.
2. Tender data. <i>eSubmission view</i> <div> </div>								
<i>Failure to upload the following documents in eSubmission will lead to rejection of the tender.</i>								
Technical offer (see Section 4.2)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				With the tender in eSubmission	'Technical offer'	Under section 'Tender Data' → 'Technical offer'
Financial offer (see Section 4.2)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				With the tender in eSubmission	'Financial offer'	Under 'Tender Data' → 'Financial offer'

Annex 2. Declaration on Honour on exclusion and selection criteria

Call for tenders ref. CNECT/2021/OP/0026 Study on the Economic Potential of Far Edge Computing in the Future Smart Internet of Things.

The undersigned [*insert name of the signatory of this form*], representing:

<i>(only for natural persons)</i> himself or herself	<i>(only for legal persons)</i> the following legal person:
ID or passport number: (‘the person’)	Full official name: Official legal form: Statutory registration number: Full official address: VAT registration number: (‘the person’)

The person is not required to submit the declaration on exclusion criteria if the same declaration has already been submitted for the purposes of another award procedure of the same contracting authority²³, provided the situation has not changed, and that the time that has elapsed since the issuing date of the declaration does not exceed one year.

In this case, the signatory declares that the person has already provided the same declaration on exclusion criteria for a previous procedure and confirms that there has been no change in its situation:

Date of the declaration	Full reference to previous procedure

I – SITUATION OF EXCLUSION CONCERNING THE PERSON

(1) declares that the above-mentioned person is in one of the following situations:	YES	NO
(a) it is bankrupt, subject to insolvency or winding-up procedures, its assets are being administered by a liquidator or by a court, it is in an arrangement with creditors, its business activities are suspended or it is in any analogous situation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

²³ The same EU institution, agency, body or office.

arising from a similar procedure provided for under Union or national law;		
(b) it has been established by a final judgement or a final administrative decision that the person is in breach of its obligations relating to the payment of taxes or social security contributions in accordance with the applicable law;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(c) it has been established by a final judgement or a final administrative decision that the person is guilty of grave professional misconduct by having violated applicable laws or regulations or ethical standards of the profession to which the person belongs, or by having engaged in any wrongful conduct which has an impact on its professional credibility where such conduct denotes wrongful intent or gross negligence, including, in particular, any of the following:		
(i) fraudulently or negligently misrepresenting information required for the verification of the absence of grounds for exclusion or the fulfilment of eligibility or selection criteria or in the performance of a contract or an agreement;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(ii) entering into agreement with other persons with the aim of distorting competition;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(iii) violating intellectual property rights;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(iv) attempting to influence the decision-making process of the contracting authority during the award procedure;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(v) attempting to obtain confidential information that may confer upon it undue advantages in the award procedure;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(d) it has been established by a final judgement that the person is guilty of any of the following:		
(i) fraud, within the meaning of Article 3 of Directive (EU) 2017/1371 and Article 1 of the Convention on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests, drawn up by the Council Act of 26 July 1995;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(ii) corruption, as defined in Article 4(2) of Directive (EU) 2017/1371 or active corruption within the meaning of Article 3 of the Convention on the fight against corruption involving officials of the European Communities or officials of Member States of the European Union, drawn up by the Council Act of 26 May 1997, or conduct referred to in Article 2(1) of Council Framework Decision 2003/568/JHA, as well as corruption as defined in other applicable laws;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(iii) conduct related to a criminal organisation, as referred to in Article 2 of Council Framework Decision 2008/841/JHA;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(iv) money laundering or terrorist financing, within the meaning of Article 1(3), (4) and (5) of Directive (EU) 2015/849 of the European Parliament and of the Council;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(v) terrorist offences or offences linked to terrorist activities, as defined in Articles 1 and 3 of Council Framework Decision 2002/475/JHA, respectively, or inciting, aiding, abetting or attempting to commit such offences, as referred to in Article 4 of that Decision;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

(vi) child labour or other offences concerning trafficking in human beings as referred to in Article 2 of Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(e) it has shown significant deficiencies in complying with the main obligations in the performance of a contract or an agreement financed by the Union's budget, which has led to its early termination or to the application of liquidated damages or other contractual penalties, or which has been discovered following checks, audits or investigations by a contracting authority, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) or the Court of Auditors;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(f) it has been established by a final judgment or final administrative decision that the person has committed an irregularity within the meaning of Article 1(2) of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(g) it has been established by a final judgment or final administrative decision that the person has created an entity under a different jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social or any other legal obligations in the jurisdiction of its registered office, central administration or principal place of business.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(h) (<i>only for legal persons</i>) it has been established by a final judgment or final administrative decision that the person has been created with the intent provided for in point (g).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(i) for the situations referred to in points (c) to (h) above the person is subject to: i. facts established in the context of audits or investigations carried out by the European Public Prosecutor's Office after its establishment, the Court of Auditors, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) or the internal auditor, or any other check, audit or control performed under the responsibility of an authorising officer of an EU institution, of a European office or of an EU agency or body; ii. non-final judgments or non-final administrative decisions which may include disciplinary measures taken by the competent supervisory body responsible for the verification of the application of standards of professional ethics; iii. facts referred to in decisions of entities or persons being entrusted with EU budget implementation tasks; iv. information transmitted by Member States implementing Union funds; v. decisions of the Commission relating to the infringement of Union competition law or of a national competent authority relating to the infringement of Union or national competition law; or vi. decisions of exclusion by an authorising officer of an EU institution, of a European office or of an EU agency or body.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

II – SITUATIONS OF EXCLUSION CONCERNING NATURAL OR LEGAL PERSONS WITH POWER OF REPRESENTATION, DECISION-MAKING OR CONTROL OVER THE LEGAL PERSON AND BENEFICIAL OWNERS

Not applicable to natural persons, Member States and local authorities

(2) declares that a natural or legal person who is a member of the administrative, management or supervisory body of the above-	YES	NO	N/A
---	-----	----	-----

mentioned legal person, or who has powers of representation, decision or control with regard to the above-mentioned legal person (this covers e.g. company directors, members of management or supervisory bodies, and cases where one natural or legal person holds a majority of shares), or a beneficial owner of the person (as referred to in point 6 of article 3 of Directive (EU) No 2015/849) is in one of the following situations:			
Situation (c) above (grave professional misconduct)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Situation (d) above (fraud, corruption or other criminal offence)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Situation (e) above (significant deficiencies in performance of a contract)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Situation (f) above (irregularity)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Situation (g) above (creation of an entity with the intent to circumvent legal obligations)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Situation (h) above (person created with the intent to circumvent legal obligations)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Situation (i) above	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

III – SITUATIONS OF EXCLUSION CONCERNING NATURAL OR LEGAL PERSONS ASSUMING UNLIMITED LIABILITY FOR THE DEBTS OF THE LEGAL PERSON

(3) declares that a natural or legal person that assumes unlimited liability for the debts of the above-mentioned legal person is in one of the following situations:	YES	NO	N/A
Situation (a) above (bankruptcy)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Situation (b) above (breach in payment of taxes or social security contributions)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

IV – GROUNDS FOR REJECTION FROM THIS PROCEDURE

(4) declares that the above-mentioned person:	YES	NO
Was previously involved in the preparation of the procurement documents used in this award procedure, where this entailed a breach of the principle of equality of treatment including distortion of competition that cannot be remedied otherwise.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

V – REMEDIAL MEASURES

If the person declares one of the situations of exclusion listed above, it must indicate measures it has taken to remedy the exclusion situation, thus demonstrating its reliability. This may include e.g. technical, organisational and personnel measures to prevent further occurrence,

compensation of damage or payment of fines or of any taxes or social security contributions. The relevant documentary evidence which illustrates the remedial measures taken must be provided in annex to this declaration. This does not apply for situations referred in point (d) of this declaration.

VI – EVIDENCE UPON REQUEST

Upon request and within the time limit set by the *contracting authority* the person must provide information on natural or legal persons that are members of the administrative, management or supervisory body or that have powers of representation, decision or control, including legal and natural persons within the ownership and control structure and beneficial owners.

It must also provide the following evidence concerning the person itself and the natural or legal persons on whose capacity the person intends to rely, or a subcontractor and concerning the natural or legal persons which assume unlimited liability for the debts of the person:

For situations described in (a), (c), (d), (f), (g) and (h), production of a recent extract from the judicial record is required or, failing that, an equivalent document recently issued by a judicial or administrative authority in the country of establishment of the person showing that those requirements are satisfied.

For the situation described in point (b), production of recent certificates issued by the competent authorities of the State concerned are required. These documents must provide evidence covering all taxes and social security contributions for which the person is liable, including for example, VAT, income tax (natural persons only), company tax (legal persons only) and social security contributions. Where any document described above is not issued in the country concerned, it may be replaced by a sworn statement made before a judicial authority or notary or, failing that, a solemn statement made before an administrative authority or a qualified professional body in its country of establishment.

The person is not required to submit the evidence if it has already been submitted for another award procedure of the same *contracting authority*²⁴. The documents must have been issued no more than one year before the date of their request by the *contracting authority* and must still be valid at that date.

The signatory declares that the person has already provided the documentary evidence for a previous procedure and confirms that there has been no change in its situation:

Document	Full reference to previous procedure
<i>Insert as many lines as necessary.</i>	

VII – SELECTION CRITERIA

(1) declares that the above-mentioned person complies with the selection criteria applicable to it individually as provided in the tender specifications:	YES	NO	N/A
---	-----	----	-----

²⁴ The same institution or agency.

(a) It has the legal and regulatory capacity to pursue the professional activity needed for performing the contract as required in Section 3.2.1 of the tender specifications;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(b) It fulfils the applicable economic and financial criteria indicated in Section 3.2.2 of the tender specifications;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(c) It fulfils the applicable technical and professional criteria indicated in Section 3.2.3 of the tender specifications.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(2) if the above-mentioned person is the sole tenderer or the leader in case of joint tender , declares that:	YES	NO	N/A
(d) the tenderer, including all members of the group in case of joint tender and including subcontractors if applicable, complies with all the selection criteria for which a consolidated assessment will be made as provided in the tender specifications.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

VIII – EVIDENCE FOR SELECTION

The signatory declares that the above-mentioned person is able to provide the necessary supporting documents listed in the relevant sections of the tender specifications and which are not available electronically upon request and without delay.

The person is not required to submit the evidence if it has already been submitted for another procurement procedure of the same *contracting authority*²⁵. The documents must have been issued no more than one year before the date of their request by the *contracting authority* and must still be valid at that date.

The signatory declares that the person has already provided the documentary evidence for a previous procedure and confirms that there has been no change in its situation:

Document	Full reference to previous procedure
<i>Insert as many lines as necessary.</i>	

The above-mentioned person must immediately inform the contracting authority of any changes in the situations as declared.

The above-mentioned person may be subject to rejection from this procedure and to administrative sanctions (exclusion or financial penalty) if any of the declarations or information provided as a condition for participating in this procedure prove to be false.

Full name

Date

Signature

²⁵ The same institution of agency.

Annex 3. Power of attorney

Call for tenders ref. CNECT/2021/OP/0026 Study on the Economic Potential of Far Edge Computing in the Future Smart Internet of Things.

POWER OF ATTORNEY

The undersigned:

– Signatory (Name, Function, Company, Registered address, VAT Number)

having the legal capacity required to act on behalf of his/her company,

HEREBY AGREES TO THE FOLLOWING:

- 1) To submit a joint tender as a member of a group of tenderers (the Group), constituted by Company 1, Company 2, Company N (Group members), and led by Company 1 (Group leader), in accordance with the conditions specified in the tender specifications and the terms specified in the tender to which this Power of attorney is attached.
- 2) If the *Contracting authority* awards the contract resulting from this call for tenders to the *Group* on the basis of the joint tender to which this power of attorney is attached, all *Group members* shall be considered parties to the contract in accordance with the following conditions:
 - (a) All *Group members* shall be jointly and severally liable towards the *Contracting authority* for the performance of the contract.
 - (b) All *Group members* shall comply with the terms and conditions of the contract and ensure the proper delivery of their respective share of the services and/or supplies subject to the contract.
- 3) Payments by the *Contracting authority* related to the services and/or supplies subject to the Contract shall be made through the bank account of the *Group leader*: [Provide details on bank, address, account number].
- 4) The *Group members* grant to the *Group leader* all the necessary powers to act on their behalf in the submission of the tender and the conclusion of the contract, including:
 - (a) The *Group leader* shall submit the tender on behalf of all *Group members* and indicate in the "Tender Contact Info" section in eSubmission the name and e-mail address of an individual - single point of contact authorised to communicate officially with the *Contracting authority* in connection with the submitted tender on behalf of all *Group members*, including in connection with all relevant questions, clarification requests, notifications, etc., that may be received during the evaluation, award and until the contract signature.
 - (b) The *Group leader* shall sign any contractual documents — including the contract, and amendments thereto — and issue any invoices related to the performance of the contract on behalf of all *Group members*.
 - (c) The *Group leader* shall act as a single contact point with the *Contracting authority* in the

delivery of the services and/or supplies subject to the contract. It shall co-ordinate the delivery of the services and/or supplies by the *Group* to the *Contracting authority*, and shall see to a proper administration of the contract.

Any modification to the present Power of attorney shall be subject to the *Contracting authority*'s express approval. This Power of attorney shall expire when all the contractual obligations of the *Group* have ceased to exist. The parties cannot terminate it before that date without the *Contracting authority*'s consent.

Place and date:

Name (in capital letters), function, company and signature:

Annex 4. List of identified subcontractors

Call for tenders ref. CNECT/2021/OP/0026 Study on the Economic Potential of Far Edge Computing in the Future Smart Internet of Things.

Identification details	Roles/tasks during contract execution	Proportion of subcontracting (% of contract volume)
<i>[Full official name Registered address Statutory registration number VAT registration number]</i>		
<i>[Full official name Registered address Statutory registration number VAT registration number]</i>		
<i>[REPEAT AS MANY TIMES AS THE NUMBER OF IDENTIFIED SUBCONTRACTORS]</i>		
Other subcontractors that do not need to be identified under Section 2.4.2		
	TOTAL % of subcontracting	0,00%

Annex 5.1. Commitment letter by an identified subcontractor

[Letterhead, if any]

European Commission

Call for tenders ref. CNECT/2021/OP/0026
Study on the Economic Potential of Far Edge
Computing in the Future Smart Internet of
Things.

Attn:

[Insert date]

Commitment letter by identified subcontractor

I, the undersigned,

Name:

Function:

Company:

Registered address:

VAT Number:

having the legal capacity required to act on behalf of the company ***[insert name of the entity]*** hereby confirm that our company agrees to participate as subcontractor in the offer of [insert name of the tenderer] for the Call for tenders ref. CNECT/2021/OP/0026 Study on the Economic Potential of Far Edge Computing in the Future Smart Internet of Things.

In the event that the tender of the aforementioned tenderer is successful, ***[insert name of the subcontractor]*** commits itself to make available the resources necessary for performance of the contract as a subcontractor and to carry out the services that will be subcontracted to it in compliance with the terms of the contract. It further declares that it is not subject to conflicting interests which may negatively affect the contract performance and that it accepts the general conditions attached to the tender specifications for the above call for tenders, in particular the contractual provisions related to checks and audits.

Done at:

Name:

Position:

Signature:

Annex 5.2. Commitment letter by an entity on whose capacities is being relied

[Letterhead, if any]

European Commission

Call for tenders ref. CNECT/2021/OP/0026
Study on the Economic Potential of Far Edge
Computing in the Future Smart Internet of
Things.

Attn:

[Insert date]

Commitment letter by an entity on whose capacity is being relied

I, the undersigned,

Name:

Function:

Company:

Registered address:

VAT Number:

having the legal capacity required to act on behalf of the company *[insert name of the entity]* hereby confirm that our company **authorises the *[insert name of the tenderer]* to rely on its [financial and economic capacity] [technical and professional capacity] in order to meet the minimum levels** required for the Call for tenders ref. CNECT/2021/OP/0026 Study on the Economic Potential of Far Edge Computing in the Future Smart Internet of Things.

In the event that the tender of the aforementioned tenderer is successful, *[insert name of the entity]* commits itself to make available the resources necessary for performance of the contract. It further declares that it is not subject to conflicting interests which may negatively affect the contract performance, and that it accepts the general conditions attached to the tender specifications for the above call for tenders, in particular the contractual provisions related to checks and audits.

Done at:

Name:

Position:

Signature:

Annex 6. Financial Form (N/A)

Annex 7. Administrative identification form

Call for tenders ref. CNECT/2021/OP/0026 Study on the Economic Potential of Far Edge Computing in the Future Smart Internet of Things.

TENDERER'S ID	
Name	
Legal form	
Date of registration	
Country of registration	
Registration number	
VAT number	
Address of registered office	
Contact address (if different)	
URL	
	<input type="checkbox"/> The tenderer is Small or Medium Size Enterprise in accordance with Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC
Bank account (lead partner only) Name of bank: Full address of branch: Exact denomination of account holder: IBAN code:	
AUTHORISED REPRESENTATIVE(S)²⁶ [name and position]	
CONTACT PERSON	
Name	
Forename	
Position	
Telephone	
Fax	
Email	
DECLARATION BY THE AUTHORISED REPRESENTATIVE(S): I, the undersigned, certify that the information given in this tender is correct and that the tender is valid.	

Place and date:

Name (in capital letters) and signature:

²⁶ Please include the names of the legal representative(s) whose contract signature is required in accordance with the statutes of the organisation and the official document to be provided as required in Part 2 under Section 2.3.