

Notification of Intent to Invite Bids

Project Title:
'Leased Transmission Services-Revised (LTX-R)'

IFB-CO-115754-LTX-R

**Not to Exceed Ceiling Price (for the 3 year base period plus 3 option years): € 48 M
Euro**

Period of Performance: 3 year base period + 3 option years (1+1+1)

This is a notification of an International Competitive Bidding for the Implementation and Service Delivery of leased layer 2 network services to approximately 85 locations.

The Invitation for Bid (IFB) is planned to be issued in Q3 2022, the Contract Award is envisaged to be concluded in Q3 2023, subject to the Budget Committee (BC) authorization. The Full Operational Capability is scheduled on the 1st of Jan 2025.

NCI Agency Point of Contact (POC):

Principal Contracting Officer: Mrs. Tiziana Pezzi

Action Officer: Mr. Ole Hubner

E-mail: IFBCO115754LTXR@ncia.nato.int

Subject : Notification of Intent to Invite Bids for the Implementation and Service Delivery of the 'Revised Leased Transmission Services (LTX-R)'
IFB-CO-115754-LTX-R

References : A. Budget Committee Budget Procurement Guidance, document BC-D(2018)0004-FINAL dated 29 January 2018;
B. NCIO Financial Rules and Procedures, document AC/337-D(2016)0014 dated 16 March 2016.
C. C-M(2002)49 – NATO Security Policy

1. In accordance with References (A) and (B), notice is hereby given of the intent of the NATO Communications and Information Agency (NCI Agency), acting as a Host Nation responsible of implementing the subject requirement, to issue an Invitation for Bids (IFB) for the implementation and provision of In-Service Support of the 'Revised Leased Transmission Services (LTX-R)'. This contract will provide layer 2 network services across all NATO countries (approximately 85 different locations).
2. A summary of the requirements of the future IFB is set forth in Annex A attached to this letter.
3. The reference for the Invitation for Bid is IFB-CO-115754-LTX-R, and all correspondence concerning the IFB should reference this number.
4. The Not to Exceed Ceiling Price for the services and deliverables included within the scope of the intended service provision contract is EUR 48M (including the period of three option years), for a minimum of three years of the base contract period of performance. The NCI Agency reserves the right to amend the envisaged base contract duration throughout the IFB stage, as may be directed by the Budget Committee.
5. The NCI Agency will use the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) Procedure, Best Value (BV) evaluation. The successful bid for the LTX-R delivery, pursuant to the IFB following this NOI, will be the bid which is deemed to offer the best value in accordance with predefined bid evaluation criteria, which for the contract will be detailed in the IFB. The top-level criteria weightings will be 50% Technical and 50% Price.
6. It is planned to award a single contract for the entire scope of work and services. No partial bidding will be allowed. Award of the contract is planned to be made on a Firm Fixed Price Basis. The ceiling price for the BV procedure is set at 48 Million EURO for the three years base period and three option years.
7. The IFB is planned to be issued by the end of Q3 2022. The Contract Award is expected in Q3 2023 followed by a 15 months implementation period with the Service Delivery starting on the 1st of Jan 2025. Contract Award is subject to BC authorization and funding priority and availability as determined by the NATO Budget Committee. The NCI Agency reserves the right to amend the requirements and schedule as may be directed by the Budget Committee.
8. Bidders will be required to declare a bid validity of twelve (12) months from closing date for receipt of bids, supported by a Bid Guarantee of 300,000.00 EUR (three hundred thousand EUR). Should the selection and award procedure exceed the twelve (12) months after Bid Closing Date, firms will be requested to voluntarily extend the validity of their bids

and Bid Guarantee accordingly. Bidders may decline to do so, however they shall withdraw their bid and excuse themselves from the bidding process without penalty.

9. Firms from all 30 NATO Member Nations may respond to the future solicitation once issued. Firms that wish to participate in this procurement must be nominated to the NCI Agency through their national delegation to NATO and such nomination must be accompanied by a **“Declaration of Eligibility”** (DoE) and certification of their security clearances executed by their national authorities. Requests for participation received directly from firms shall not be considered.
10. The nominated companies must be one of the National Public or Commercial Telecommunication Operators incorporated in one of the NATO Member Nations and comply with the national and EU (where applicable) regulatory bodies.
11. The closing date for additions/ nominations to the Bidders List of qualified and certified firms which may be interested in receiving an Invitation for Bid for this Project is **15 September 2022**. The Declarations of Eligibility shall include the following information for each of the nominated firms: the NAME of the FIRM, the TELEPHONE and FAX NUMBERS, E-MAIL ADDRESS and POINT OF CONTACT. This information is critical to enable prompt and accurate communication with prospective bidders.
12. Delegations are requested to provide the prospective bidders list to the NCI Agency Point of Contact (POC) at the following address:

NATO Communications and Information Agency
Attention: Ole Hubner, Senior Contracting Officer
E-mail: IFBCO115754LTXR@ncia.nato.int

Attn: Tiziana Pezzi, Principal Contracting Officer
Cc: Ole Hubner, Senior Contracting Officer
13. The participating National Authorities are advised that the IFB package will only contain “NATO UNCLASSIFIED” material. However, execution of the proposed contract will require unescorted access and work of contractor personnel at NATO Class II security areas and in accordance with reference C, personnel of the winning bidder will be required to hold individual security clearances of “NATO SECRET”. Only companies maintaining appropriate personnel clearances will be able to perform the resulting contract. Bidders are to note that contract award will not be delayed in order to allow Contractor personnel to obtain missing clearances.
14. Your assistance in this procurement is greatly appreciated

FOR THE CHIEF OF ACQUISITION:

Mr Ole Hubner
Senior Contracting Officer

Enclosures:

Annex A (Summary of Requirements)

ANNEX A

Summary of Requirements

The Revised Transmission Leased Services project, hereafter referred to as LTX-R, describes the enhanced Ethernet capability, interconnecting approximately 85 NATO Edge Nodes to the three NATO Core Nodes, which serve as the NATO Data Centre (DC) locations. Edge nodes are not co-located with Core nodes, while the latter ones (Core Nodes) are located as follows:

- a. Evere, Belgium as a first option and Castlegate, Germany, as alternative option
- b. Mons, Belgium
- c. Lago di Patria, Italy

The scope of the NATO Core Nodes are covered under the current Transport Core Services (TCS) and is not part of the intended IFB.

LTX-R will address technical specifications and operational requirements with regards to interconnectivity, capacity, performance, availability and resiliency.

LTX-R shall migrate and replace (where applicable) any existing interconnectivity and services already provided to the Purchaser via other contracts, in a fully controlled transition period, without impacting or affecting existing service operations.

LTX-R shall ensure the proper design, transition, service operation, continual service improvement and life-cycle management of the provided services.

LTX-R shall ensure monitoring and performance reporting capabilities of the provided services.

LTX-R shall rely on MEF-compliant Ethernet Transport services, delivered over Contractor Owned and Contractor Operated (CO-CO) infrastructure. Services will be terminated on NATO Owned equipment (Purchaser Furnished Equipment – PFEs) as point-to-point Ethernet Virtual Circuits (EVCs).

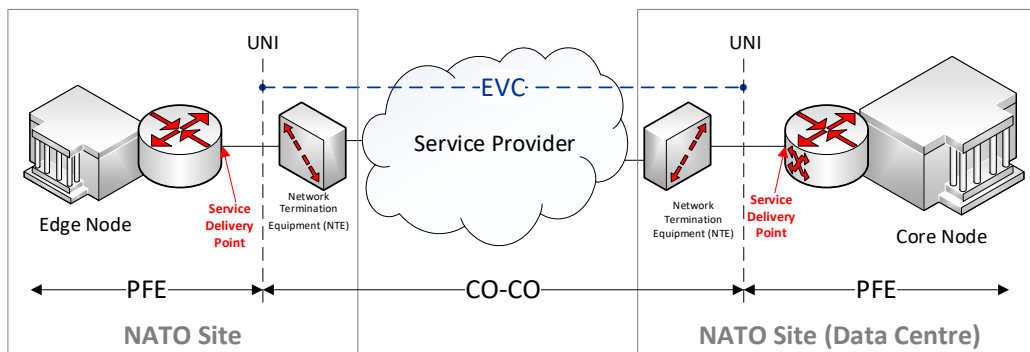


Figure 1. LTX-R CO-CO and NO-NO boundaries

With regards to the timelines, the Effective Date of Contract (EDC) is envisaged in Q3 2023, with an implementation period of 15 months and a Service Activation date on the 1st of January 2025.

The Contract performance base period will be three (3) years, followed by three (1+1+1) optional years.

