Invitation to Tender

Destination Earth Initiative

Configurable Regional AI Modelling Capability

Volume II

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1 Introduction

Destination Earth aims to create a highly accurate replica or Digital Twin of the Earth. This constitutes a new type of information system, with unprecedented levels of detail, quality, and interactivity to support EU-policy makers and users who implement these policies to better respond and adapt to the challenges posed by environmental change.

Several thematic digital twins of the Earth-system are developed over the course of different phases of DestinE. DestinE's digital twins exploit the latest advances in digital technology, science, artificial intelligence, and the huge opportunities offered by the world-leading supercomputing capacities of the European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking (EuroHPC JU). By combining cutting-edge Earth-system physical and data-driven models and observations, DestinE's digital twins accurately simulate natural and human activity and allow to test scenarios that would enable more sustainable development and support European environmental policies.

DestinE thus significantly augments the capabilities in support of the European Commission's Green Deal, Data strategy and Digital Strategy, complementing existing efforts in this direction from national and European environmental services like the Copernicus services.

DestinE is funded by the European Commission's Digital Europe programme and implemented through a partnership between ECMWF, ESA and EUMETSAT. The DestinE information system relies on several key elements, which are being developed and implemented by the 3 entrusted entities:

- The Core Service Platform (DESP; responsibility ESA)
- The Data Lake (DEDL; responsibility EUMETSAT);
- The DestinE Digital Twin Engine (DTE, responsibility ECMWF);
- The Digital Twins (DTs; responsibility ECMWF). The priority topics of the first two DTs are:
    - Weather-induced and geophysical extremes for providing capabilities and services for the assessment and prediction of environmental extremes at very high spatial resolution and real-time decision-making support at continental, country, coastline, catchment and city scales in response to meteorological, hydrological and air quality extremes.
    - Climate change adaptation for providing capabilities and services in support of climate adaptation policy and scenario testing at multi-decadal timescales aiming at a real breakthrough at the level of reliability at regional and national levels.

Within this context, ECMWF is tasked with developing the first two high-priority digital twins as well as the Digital Twin Engine (DTE) as well to implement a range of AI activities, in collaboration with partners across Europe. The Digital Twins are highly accurate replicas of the Earth-system that simulate the system behaviour at temporal and spatial scales where weather extreme events happen and where the effects of climate change are felt. They combine several cutting-edge Earth-system models and Earth observations as well as advanced data analytics and integration or interoperability with impact sector applications. They allow to monitor and predict environmental change and test scientific hypotheses and adaptation scenarios. The Digital Twin Engine is a software-defined environment to operate DestinE's DTs and manage their corresponding control and data flows across distributed HPC and cloud computing resources.

Within DestinE AI is used to complement physics-based Digital Twin capabilities, leveraging the fast prediction speed to deliver uncertainty quantification and models that can be easily deployed using the forecast-in-a-box concept on a range of platforms, including the DESP. As part of ECMWF's led activities, a central objective is the development of an open-source European ML-based Earth system model: a modular, data-driven simulation system capable of producing high-quality outputs from hours to decades ahead, including under different climate forcing scenarios. This ML-based model is designed to complement physics-based simulations and provide rapid, flexible alternatives, supporting more efficient uncertainty quantification and rapid "what-if" scenario testing. Crucially, the model is being developed as an extensible

and open-source framework - enabling further refinement by European Member States and allowing integration of complementary developments from other European initiatives.

In Phase 3, the focus shifts to upgrading the ML Earth system components built in Phase 2 and coupling them with existing atmospheric ML models - such as ECMWF's AIFS, and to build a production-ready open-source ML-based Earth system model. Phase 3 also expands the ML capabilities by developing an open-source regional capability that can be flexibly deployed where extremes emerge- over Europe and regions of European interest - which builds on existing open-source European ML models (e.g. AIFS, Bris); through tailored refinement for specific extreme event types (e.g. tropical cyclones); and through ensemble generation and evaluation of AI model quality and reliability to ensure fitness-for-purpose in a changing climate.

DestinE's ML capabilities are developed in synergy with a broader set of European initiatives for advancing AI for weather and climate. This currently includes ECMWF's and its Member States activities, the EUMETNET E-AI initiative, EU's AI Factories and relevant Horizon Europe projects such as WeatherGenerator.

2 Contract Summary

The aim of this ITT is to develop a production-ready open-source European probabilistic high-resolution regional data-driven modelling capability, capable of making state-of-the-art high-resolution Earth system predictions on configurable European domains. This capability, which builds on existing open-source European ML models (e.g. AIFS, AICON, Bris); will be able to function as a complement to the physics-based regional component of the Weather-induced Extremes DT, providing key uncertainty quantification. The physics-based regional component developed by a strong partnership involving many meteorological services across Europe under the lead of Météo-France, builds on the ACCORD system and can be configured (e.g. for regions, event types) for selected extreme events over Europe at sub-kilometre resolutions (500 to 750 m). Through the first two phases of DestinE hundreds of regional extremes DT simulations have been performed, providing a valuable source of training data for the regional data-driven modelling framework developed in this ITT. Within this ITT, ML-ready views of a subset of these simulations will be created and used for training of the regional ML capability.

The data-driven regional modelling capability developed in this contract will deliver ML-capabilities that can be flexibly and rapidly deployed to predict extreme events over Europe and regions of European interest. The ML models will be containerised using the Forecast-in-a-box concept, to enable GUI-based initialisation by expert or non-expert users. This will strengthen European sovereignty and enhance preparedness efforts in Europe and beyond, while also supporting United Nations/ WMO's Early Warning for All initiative.

This regional data-driven modelling capability should remain modular and adaptable, enabling users to customize AI solutions to regional priorities. Key priorities include optimizing AI model design, evaluating simulation realism to build trust in these new capabilities, defining fitness-for-purpose in a changing climate and for local application domains, as well as building scalable, efficient and interoperable ML model components on heterogeneous HPC and cloud infrastructures.

The development must be guided by principles of collaboration, transparency, and in compliance with the EU AI act, to ensure AI-driven Earth system models are reliable, inclusive and impactful.

We expect the delivery of a solution at a technical readiness level (TRL) of 8 or higher which implies that the entry points for this contract need to be based on existing developments with sufficient maturity to achieve at least TRL8 in the given contract period.

Tenderers should submit proposals that address the topics outlined in the technical specification (Section 3) below. If a consortium of suppliers is involved in delivering the proposal, a prime contractor should be identified to lead the bid. The various ML/DL based software solutions delivered by the tenderer shall build

on the Anemoi open-source ecosystem – developed by ECMWF and several national meteorological services across Europe, on open-source existing European models (e.g. AIFS, AICON, Bris) and the Digital Twin Engine solutions, to enable their incorporation into the overall DestinE workflows.

Technical criteria for selection will include scientific and technical credibility, feasibility of the solution, proven technology readiness (TRL of at least 8 and reaching a production-ready status), output quality, and the ability to seamlessly integrate the developed ML modelling framework with the physics-based regional Extremes DT work and dataflows, supported by the DTE. The technical requirements are described in the following sections.

3 Technical Specification

The successful Tenderer selected under this procurement will have a proven track record in probabilistic machine learning (ML) modelling and, in particular, in applying ML to build data-driven weather forecasting systems for operational use. The proposed solutions must fully comply with the criteria defined in this section. Tenders should clearly demonstrate how each of the below points will be addressed, including providing examples of existing expertise in developing comparable systems.

Tenders shall use machine learning to deliver a production-ready flexible regional probabilistic data-driven modelling capability that can be rapidly deployed to forecast extreme events across several Earth system components. The modelling capability, which may comprise multiple data-driven models, shall build on the Anemoi ecosystem and on existing open-source European ML models (e.g. AIFS, AICON, Bris). These models, in combination or individually, should deliver functionality to:

- Deliver high-resolution probabilistic/ensemble forecasts (2km or higher) on configurable regional spatial domains, with emphasis on short- to medium-range regional capabilities over Europe, or regions of European interest.
- Provide output frequency of at least hourly temporal resolution.
- Make predictions for key atmospheric quantities, including, but not limited to, 2m temperature, 10m winds and precipitation.
- Make predictions for at least two additional Earth system components beyond the atmosphere, e.g. wave and land predictions.
- Demonstrate tailored refinement capabilities for extreme event types, e.g. tropical cyclones.
- Complete an individual ensemble member 5-day prediction in less than 10 minutes for regional domains comprising up to 1million horizontal grid points on a single HPC-grade GPU (e.g. NVIDIA GH200 or similar).
- The output of the system should have coherent and realistic structure across space, time and variables. For example, physical consistency for the zonal and meridional direction of the wind vector as well as physical consistent covariances between variables.
- Demonstrate seamless inference capabilities on EuroHPC and AI Factories to enable the system's integration into the regional Extremes DT work, including outputting GRIB standard output to enable dataflows into the DTE.
- Be containerised following the Forecast-in-a-box solution, enabling easy initialisation and running of the models, as well as post-processing and visualisation of their output.

Additionally, the above work should leverage regional Extremes DT datasets by generating and delivering AI-ready training datasets from a subset of this data and utilise this data in training of the above capability.

To allow efficient negotiations and minimise the complexity of any future adjustments, each development activity should be formulated, as far as possible, as a self-contained module detailed in its own work package including deliverables and milestones, with clearly assigned responsibilities.

Clear training methodologies that can provide the above functionality should be described in the response.

The delivery methodology for the system should be clearly described in the responses, capturing what capabilities will be provided, the workflows used and documentation guiding optimal use of the system (e.g. selection of specific models for specific tasks if several models are delivered within the system).

3.1 Modelling capability

Tenders should describe the technology to build the data-driven regional modelling capability, including the neural network architectures, training methodologies and the training datasets. They should also explain how this technology builds on Anemoi and on existing open-source European ML models (e.g. AIFS, AICON, Bris). Tender submissions should describe the tenderer's expertise with deploying similar technologies to both demonstrate the necessary skills and that a TRL8 or higher can be achieved during this contract.

The methods used to develop the flexible high-resolution regional modelling capability should be described, and where possible evidence of already demonstrated capabilities should be cited. Methods for building models capable of operating on unseen, configurable domains, and for refining them for specific extreme events (e.g. tropical cyclones) should be described. The technologies used to develop probabilistic/ensemble forecasts should also be described and motivated.

Tenders should explain how the regional ML capability integrates with Anemoi and what functionalities will be needed to be added to Anemoi to support is delivery at a production-ready level.

3.2 Software

Software development should follow industry-standard procedures, including version control, consistent and uniform coding styles, code reviews, issue and bug tracking, branching and merge strategies, continuous unit and acceptance testing, and continuous integration

To enable interoperability with the global AI models developed in DestinE, the Tenderer should use the Anemoi framework to build AI-ready datasets, train the models and for deployment in inference. To ensure maintainability of the delivered capability, the final solution will use released Anemoi packages, meaning all required technical developments are merged into Anemoi's main repositories; so the tenderer shall allocate resources for this activity. The Anemoi-inference system will be used as the primary deployment method for inference. Another deployment of the delivered system will be through the Forecast-in-a-box solution, which enables GUI-based interaction with the delivered models, and requires models to be executed via Anemoi-inference and, in addition, provide sufficient compatible metadata to populate the internal product catalogue. The Tenderer shall allocate resources to integrate the delivered systems into a Forecast-in-a-box solution.

3.3 Computing

The EuroHPC Joint Undertaking (JU) allows the European Union and the EuroHPC JU participating countries to coordinate their efforts and pool their resources for reaching new levels of supercomputing in Europe.

DestinE relies on partnerships with the EuroHPC JU for the computing resources, and with the computing centres hosting these HPC systems (e.g. CSC, CINECA, BSC, MeLuxina, FZJ) for their efficient use.

The main allocations of HPC resources for digital twin production and AI activities in DestinE will be provided by the EuroHPC JU. The EuroHPC JU's current commitment to activities of strategic importance for Europe (e.g., DestinE and similar activities) is 5% of the total node-hour budget available to the JU.

The Tenderer shall include an estimate of the number of GPU hours required to implement the tender, along with an overview of how the GPU hours will be used for the different deliverables. The tender should also include a detailed list of the project's storage requirements. The Tenderer shall describe in detail any other specific dependencies, e.g. on software used or data governance (availability, usability, short/medium storage and persistence, etc.) that are important to facilitate the proposed work.

Based on the above requested estimates, a quota on GPU-equipped nodes could be made available for the tender from the overall DestinE compute budget (subject to availability). The selected tenderer will, furthermore, be eligible and is fully expected to apply for additional EuroHPC compute time, or national one if applicable, to complement the quota to achieve the GPU-hours required in the estimate.

3.4 Quality control, support and documentation

The quality of the data-driven regional ML capability shall be demonstrated based on available reference datasets that are considered state of the art, as well as in comparison with the physics-based regional component of the Extremes DT, in collaboration with the partnership implementing it. The description of the quality assessment framework shall describe the metrics to be used, and the products of the delivered system that will be assessed.

The training process for creating the ML capability, as well as the capability delivered, must be documented to enable users to understand the methodology, the contributing data sources, and to be informed of configuration and version changes to the ML pipeline and tools used. This documentation should be delivered alongside the ML capability.

Documentation on the use of the delivered system, including inference through the Anemoi-inference and Forecast-in-a-box interfaces should be delivered alongside the ML capability.

The Tenderer is required to document the scope of security and information management to be provided, and the assets to be protected, in accordance with ISO 27001.

3.5 IPR

It is a condition of EU funding for DestinE that ownership of any Deliverables (as defined in Volume V Agreement) developed with DestinE funding passes from the suppliers to the European Union via ECMWF. Ownership will pass from the date of creation.

All Background IPR (e.g. software and products) used by the successful Tenderer to produce the results (Deliverables) will remain the property of the owner, e.g., the successful Tenderer. The successful Tenderer will have to provide a royalty-free, non-exclusive, irrevocable, worldwide and perpetual license to Background IPR to the EU via ECMWF under the conditions set out in Volume V Agreement.

Developments or modifications to Background IPR which constitute Deliverables or Improvements and are explicitly created for DestinE purposes will be owned by the European Union via ECMWF.

Modifications to closed-source software should be factored out as software extensions that can be uniquely identified and will be (as Deliverables or Improvements) owned by the EU via ECMWF.

A license will be granted to the supplier to use the Deliverables for the provision of services. Upon request, suppliers may be granted a non-exclusive licence, at the discretion of ECMWF and subject to the approval by the European Commission, to use for other purposes the Deliverables which they have provided to DestinE.

4 General Requirements

4.1 Implementation schedule

ECMWF intends to award a contract, with an estimated value of ca. €7,000,000, for a maximum duration of 24 months, expected to commence by July 2026. The Tenderer is invited to propose optional activities amounting to ca. €1,000,000 in addition to the mandatory activities outlined in Section 3. Any optional activity and its associated Deliverables shall be clearly identified using the label “OPT”. This will facilitate the traceability of the optional budget, which shall be considered outside the baseline scope.

The successful Tenderer is expected to provide a detailed schedule as part of the tender response. The proposed time plan and schedule shall address the main tasks, inputs, outputs, intermediate review steps, milestones and deliverables. A roadmap of future developments beyond the contracted period is also highly desirable.

4.2 Meetings

Regular progress meetings will be held (video conferencing) with ECMWF during the contract to assess contract status, risks, and actions. ECMWF will organise annual physical meetings to bring together all DestinE capability providers, at which the successful Tenderer is expected to be present with 2 persons. The successful Tenderer must attend monthly (video-conferencing) meetings to review progress and other topics that cut across different aspects of DestinE. The cost of attending the physical meetings shall be covered by each successful Tenderer and must be included in the tendered price. ECMWF may adjust meeting frequency as needed with the option of physical meetings at ECMWF’s Bonn duty station during the contract to demonstrate progress on this contract. In addition, the successful Tenderer may be asked to demonstrate/ present their work at conferences and workshops on behalf of ECMWF, and should allocate budget accordingly (2 conferences/ workshops).

4.3 Deliverables

Deliverables are to be defined by the Tenderer based on the requirements outlined above. They can be in the form of software, documents or reports, datasets and support to other related DestinE activities. Note

the requirements related to the delivery of software and data have been described above (see Section 4). The requirements for all other types are described in the following subsections.

Each deliverable must have an associated resource allocation (person-months and financial budget).

Tenderers are encouraged to focus on outcomes and to propose a lean set of deliverables limited to what is necessary to meet the contract objectives.

Milestones should be designed as markers of demonstrable progress in capability development and/or quality of capability delivery, as applicable. They should not duplicate deliverables but provide auditable evidence of progress and as such should be part of the proposal and not incur additional costs.

4.3.1 Documents and reports

All project reports must be produced in English. Unless otherwise specified in the specific contract, deliverable documents and reports shall be made available to ECMWF in electronic format (Microsoft Word/PDF/Microsoft Excel or compatible), via the DestinE Deliverables Repository portal; the details will be agreed at the negotiation stage.

Please refer to Clause 2.3 and the Annex 5 of the Volume V Agreement for details on Reporting Obligations.

4.3.2 User Support

The Tenderer is expected to contribute to the delivery of technical support for the data and functionality they provide. Such technical support shall take the form of a direct response to individual queries from ECMWF as required, as well as potential contributions to FAQs, user guides and knowledge bases. The Tenderer must cost this as a separate task within the respective work package.

4.3.3 Other related DestinE activities

The successful Tenderer is required to support the wider DestinE activities, for example the DestinE partnership activities, communication, and training and outreach. Sufficient resources for covering these aspects shall be foreseen and included in the tender price

Outreach activities will be organised by ECMWF during the period of the contract. In such instances, the contractors will be approached by ECMWF for support on developing and delivering content. Similarly, DestinE will require contributions to training material on relevant topics from the contractor.

Contractors shall not establish their own brand for the selected projects but adopt and use DestinE and ECMWF branding. A communications package (including guidelines, logos and templates) will be provided by ECMWF at the start of the contract.

4.4 Price and Payment Plan

4.4.1 Type of price

It is envisaged to use pre-agreed (fixed) price for this Agreement. This might be subject to discussion during the negotiation phase, if need be.

4.4.2 Travel costs

The travel costs shall be presented in accordance with the following provisions:

Travel costs should, in principle, be based on the European Commission's calculator [Table 3: Unit cost per distance band for air or combined air/rail travel, Commission Decision C(2024)5405], and consider a daily subsistence allowance not to exceed €300.

Travel costs must reflect **estimated actual costs and must not include any profit margin**.

If the proposed travel costs deviate from these reference values, the deviation shall be clearly indicated and duly justified.

Tenderers are requested to provide a summary table as shown below as part of their Tender.

Type of cost	Route/Destination	Estimated number of missions	Estimated unit price [€]
Travel/Subsistence			
Travel/Subsistence			

ECMWF will reserve the right to re-claim any declared unspent or unaccounted budget for “Travel”, as it will be described in the Annex 2 Pricing Tables of the Agreement.

4.4.3 Payment Plan

The Tenderer shall propose a Payment Plan in its Tender with the ITT Volume IIIA “Pricing and deliverables” (cf. Excel spreadsheet “Payment Plan preparation”):

- It is foreseen to assess the Services and Deliverables on a (Payment) Milestone basis in accordance with Clause 4.5.3.4 of the ITT Volume V. Therefore, the Payment Milestones should relate to the Deliverables and Milestones delivered during the period subject of the corresponding Payment Milestone (e.g. the payment covering the period January-June must relate to the Deliverables and Milestones whose due dates are part of the same period).
- It is recommended to have Payment Milestones, and therefore payments, with an anticipated date of completion ca. every 6 months. Any other frequency can be proposed by the Tenderer but shall be duly substantiated.
- The due dates of the Progress Review Meetings shall be adjusted to ensure that each Payment Milestone has an associated Progress Review Meeting.
- In case of request for a payment at contract signature, please note that this should be duly substantiated (e.g. in terms of necessary investment prior to implementation or during first weeks/months for ensuring the initial set up of the project). It is necessary to relate this payment to activities and prices subject to other Payment Milestones.

5 Tender Format and Content

General guidelines for the tender are described in Volume IIIB. Specific requirements to prepare the proposal for this particular tender are described in the next sub-sections.

5.1 Page limits

As a guideline, it is expected that individual sections of the Tenderer's response do not exceed the page limits listed below. These are advisory limits and should be followed wherever possible, to avoid excessive or wordy responses.

Section	*Page Limit*
Executive Summary	2
Track Record	2 (for general) and 2 (per entity)
Quality of resources to be Deployed	2 (excluding Table 1 in Volume IIIB and CVs with a maximum length of 2 pages each)
Technical Solution Proposed	2 + 3 per Work package (Table 2 in Volume IIIB, the section on references, publications, patents and any pre-existing IPR is excluded from the page limit and has no page limit)
Management and Implementation	6 (excluding Table 4 and Table 5 in Volume IIIB) + 2 per each Work package description (Table 3 in Volume IIIB)
Pricing Table	No limitation

Table 1: Page limits

5.2 Specific additional instructions for the Tenderer's response

The following is a guide to the minimum content expected to be included in each section, additional to the content described in the general guidelines of Volume IIIB. This is not an exhaustive description and additional information may be necessary depending on the Tenderer's response.

5.2.1 Executive summary

The Tenderer shall provide an executive summary of the proposal, describing the objectives, team and service level.

5.2.2 Track Record

The Tenderer shall demonstrate for itself and for any proposed subcontractors that they have experience with relevant projects in the public or private sector at national or international level. ECMWF may ask for evidence of performance in the form of certificates issued or countersigned by the competent authority.

5.2.3 Quality of Resources to be Deployed

The Tenderer shall propose a team that meets at least the following requirements:

- A senior team member with more than 5 years of experience in managing activities related to this ITT (referred to as Service Manager). This person will be the point of contact on technical matters.
- A team member with experience of managing projects and contracts of this type and size (referred to as Contract Manager). This person will be the main point of contact for administrative matters.
- Team members with demonstrated experience in performing activities related to the various aspects of this ITT.

These team members shall be involved in the activities of this ITT at a minimum level of 10% of their total working time.

5.2.4 Technical Solution Proposed

The Tenderer is expected to provide a short background to the proposed technical solution to demonstrate understanding of the solution proposed, as well as an exhaustive and detailed description of the proposed technical solution and its organisation into work packages.

5.2.5 Management and implementation plan (Work Package 0)

As part of the general project management description, and in addition to the guidance provided in Volume IIIB of this ITT, the Tenderer shall consider the elements described below.

The Tenderer shall provide a detailed implementation plan of proposed activities for the duration of the contract. Deliverables should be consistent with the technical requirements specified in Section 3.

The Tenderer is requested to include management and implementation activities within a dedicated work package (WP0). The maximum number of milestones is not prescribed, but they should be designed as markers of demonstrable progress in capabilities development or quality of capability delivery to keep progress monitoring manageable.

Adjustments to the proposed implementation plan can be proposed by the Successful Tenderer, depending on the needs for the evolution of the technical solution, changed user requirements, or other requirements, but must be agreed to by ECMWF.

As part of the general project management description the Tenderer shall consider the following elements (this is not an exhaustive list):

- Annual work Plan and Semestrial, annual and final reports shall be provided in accordance with the Volume V Agreement Clause 2.3 and Annex 5.
- Monthly videoconferencing with ECMWF and a proposal for involvement of ECMWF in major project reviews shall be provided as part of the management plan. The Tenderer is responsible for the organisation of such meetings, including provision of minutes.
- If relevant, a list of sub-contractors and details of their contribution, key technical personnel involved in the contract, legal names and addresses shall be provided. The Tenderer shall describe how the Volume V Agreement, particularly Clause 2.9, has been communicated to all their sub-contractors.
- The Tenderer shall describe in the Proposal the management of personal data and how this meets the requirements of Clause 2.8 and Annex 6 of Volume V Agreement.

WP0 management and coordination is expected to amount to approx. 7-10% of the total effort (person months) allocated to the entire Agreement.

The table below provides the template to be used by the Tenderer to describe the complete list of deliverables, milestones, and schedules for this work package. All milestones and deliverables shall be numbered as indicated. All document deliverables shall be periodically updated and versioned as described in the table. Tenderers shall provide preliminary versions of the completed tables as part of their bid.

Deliverables for this work package shall include the following reports:

WP0 Contractual Obligations Template			
#	*Nature*	*Title*	*Due*
D0.y.z-YYYY	Report	Semestrial Implementation Report (Jan-June 202X). This includes a specific Financial Report	15/07/202X (first due 15/07/2027)
D0.y.z-YYYY	Report	Annual Implementation Report YYYY being the Year n-1 This includes a specific Financial Report	15/01/202X (first due 15/01/2027)
D0.y.z-YYYY	Report	12-month Work Plan YYYY being the Year n+1	On 31st August each year (first due 31/08/2026)
D0.y.z-YYYY	Other	Copy of prime contractor's general financial statements	Annually (no-cost

		and audit report YYYY (YYYY being the Year n-1)	associated)
D0.y.z	Report	Final Implementation Report This includes a specific Financial Report	At the end of the contract

Important note: Where a Tenderer proposes the involvement of one or more sub-contractors, Tenderers are encouraged to ensure that such sub-contractors are appropriately involved in the preparation of the proposal, with a view to presenting a comprehensive and realistic Tender. This may include collaborative planning, alignment on project timelines, and a shared understanding of the proposed Deliverables and Milestones, including their respective due dates. This approach is intended to support the development of a coherent and feasible project plan, reflecting effective cooperation among all participating entities.

5.2.6 Key Performance Indicators

Contractors shall provide a set of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) suitable for monitoring various aspect of service performance, including (but not limited to):

- Capability development
- Capability demonstration
- Output quality
- Technical performance
- User support including documentation

The KPIs, to be defined by the Tenderer, are subject to review by ECMWF and may be updated if necessary.

5.2.7 Diversity and inclusion

If multiple bidders present equally qualified proposals (discrepancy lower than 1%), ECMWF will take into consideration the diversity and gender balance of each bidder's organisation as a tiebreaker when making the final decision. We recognise that diversity and a collaborative environment are essential for advancing scientific discovery and innovation, and we are dedicated to creating a culture that encourages and supports the contributions of individuals from all backgrounds. As part of this commitment, we encourage bids from companies who share our values and demonstrate a commitment to diversity and inclusion in their own organisations. We believe that working with suppliers who support our efforts to create a more inclusive and diverse community is key to achieving our goals and driving progress forward in all our areas of activities. Therefore, the Centre encourages all potential bidders to take these values into consideration when submitting proposals.