



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

ECMWF/RFP/2026/422 STAGE 1 - PQQ MOBILE COVERAGE IN BOLOGNA

Clarification issued on 19 06 2026

ISSUED BY:
ECMWF
Administration Department
Procurement Section

We are pleased to provide the following clarification responses to the questions received:

1 Ref: C1_RFP_422

Question:

Can we use your infrastructure for both cabling and racks?

Answer:

No, you cannot. The requested solution must be fully independent from the existing ECMWF network

2 Ref: C2_RFP_422

Question:

Can antennas/repeaters be installed on the walls inside the rooms?

Answer:

Yes, they can. The antenna design, including technical features and installation positions, must be submitted for approval prior to installation.

3 Ref: C3_RFP_422

Question:

Do we need to provide the entire infrastructure ourselves (racks, cabling, etc.)?

Answer:

Yes, you do.

4 Ref: C4_RFP_422

Question:

Could you provide us with the layout drawings in DWG format?

Answer:

Yes, please refer to the attached CAD layout

5 Ref: C5_RFP_422

Question:

Where can we place our racks within the technical rooms?

Answer:

Yes, you can. Access to all the existing and new equipment must be guaranteed.

6 Ref: C6_RFP_422

Question:

Can we use the existing TV antenna mast?

Answer:

We would prefer, that you install a new mast.

7 Ref: C7_RFP_422

Question:

Is it possible to install conduits within the suspended ceiling in the office area?

Answer:

Yes, it is.

8 Ref: C8_RFP_422

Question:

Where space allows, can any new racks be installed above your existing ones?

Answer:

Yes, it is.

9 Ref: C9_RFP_422

Question:

Can antennas/repeaters be installed on the walls inside the rooms?

Answer:

Yes, they can.

10 Ref: C10_RFP_422

Question:

Are we allowed to drill through the slab of the internal boxes inside the “botte” (vault structure)?

Answer:

No, you are not allowed to do so.

11 Ref: C11_RFP_422

Question:

Is the Ballette Building owned by you?

Answer:

No, it is not. The Ballette building is excluded from this procurement.

12 Ref: C12_RFP_422

Question:

Is it possible to mount the main antenna on Building L1?

Answer:

Yes, it is. The structural design must be submitted for approval prior to the construction phase.

13 Ref: C13_RFP_422

Question:

Can additional antennas be mounted on the other buildings?

Answer:

Yes, they can. The structural design must be submitted for approval prior to the construction phase.

14 Ref: C14_RFP_422

Question:

If yes, can they be secured using reinforcement plates on the drywall “botti” walls?

Answer:

Yes, they can. The structural design with all the details must be submitted for approval prior to the construction phase.

15 Ref: C15_RFP_422

Question:

If yes, can they be mounted on the existing ladder structures?

Answer:

No, the ladder structures cannot be used.

16 Ref: C16_RFP_422

Question:

Is it possible to install an antenna on the roof of L2?

Answer:

Yes, it is. The structural design must be submitted for approval prior to the construction phase.

17 Ref: C17_RFP_422

Question:

Do you have offices on the first floor?

Answer:

No, we do not.

18 Ref: C18_RFP_422

Question:

Is it possible to obtain drawings showing the routing of cable trays across the entire site?

Answer:

Yes, it is. Please refer to the attached layout showing the main cable tray routing.

19 Ref: C19_RFP_422

Question:

Is the office ceiling on the external side walkable? If so, how can it be accessed?

Answer:

Yes, it is. Access must be provided using scaffolding or a lifting platform.

20 Ref: C20_RFP_422

Question:

Would it be acceptable to install the receiving antennas on the existing metal stair structures that provide access to the roof?

Answer:

Antenna cannot be mounted on the fixed vertical ladders.

21 Ref: C21_RFP_422

Question:

Could you please confirm that all equipment required for working at height (for example mobile scaffolding towers, MEWPs/PLE platforms, lifting equipment, etc.) may be supplied directly by us as part of the installation activities?

Answer:

Yes, all the equipment required for working at height and any safety measures must be provided by the supplier.

22 Ref: C22_RFP_422

Question:

Can you please share the .dwg maps of the site? In the document named "RFP 422 - Mobile Coverage in Bologna (PQQ)" you are referring to five buildings for approximately 12,700 square meters, but detailed maps are missing.

Answer:

Please refer to C4_RFP_422.

23 Ref: C23_RFP_422

Question:

We are a Neutral Host company, and we do not own frequency licences nor have we obtained them. We have of course agreements with all Italian Operators, and the relevant licences and authorisations given by the Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy, to operate the frequencies on their behalf. Is this enough to be considered in this PQQ/RFP?

Answer:

Yes it's enough.

24 Ref: C24_RFP_422

Question:

Can you please clarify what you are expecting in the "Executive Summary" paragraph in Annex III?

Answer:

The Executive Summary should provide a concise overview of the Tenderer's proposed solution and overall approach to meeting ECMWF's requirements. It should highlight the key features of the proposed solution, the main benefits, relevant experience, and any important assumptions, dependencies, or differentiators.

It is intended as a high-level summary, not a repetition of the detailed responses already provided elsewhere in the submission. Tenderers may also briefly summarise their delivery approach, maintenance/support model, and key risks or constraints where relevant.

As indicated in the form, the Executive Summary should be proportionate and no longer than 1,000 words.

25 Ref: C25_RFP_422

Question:

Can we assume that electrical power supply to run the DAS is provided and paid by ECMWF?

Answer:

Yes you can. ECMWF will provide the power lines to your devices

26 Ref: C26_RFP_422

Question:

Most probably, we would need optical fibre links among different elements of the DAS. Can we assume that ECMWF provides these fibre links, even between different buildings if needed? Or do we need to take care of that?

Answer:

ECMWF will not provide any network link. The supplier must take care of all required network elements

27 Ref: C27_RFP_422

Question:

Can we assume that DAS installation can take place during normal business hours (Mon–Fri, 9:00 AM–5:00 PM)?

Answer:

Yes, you can. The installation will be carried out during normal working hours

28 Ref: C28_RFP_422

Question:

Are there any areas you would like to exclude from the coverage (e.g. bathrooms, elevators, stairs)? This question is aimed at correctly calculating the 95% KPI on the desired coverage area.

Answer:

There are no area we would like to exclude

29 Ref: C29_RFP_422

Question:

Can we consider active antennas in the project, or do you prefer only passive antennas connected to Remote Units?

Answer:

ECMWF expect vendors to propose the best solution. Active antennas are acceptable.

30 Ref: C30_RFP_422

Question:

When you mention in Annex III that "price indications are expected to remain below EUR 200,000", do you refer to CAPEX only, or CAPEX + OPEX?

Answer:

The indicated threshold reflects the CAPEX expenditure only.

31 Ref: C31_RFP_422

Question:

It could happen that, during the installation phase of the DAS, some holes through walls are created to let optical fibres and/or coax cables pass. In case these new holes result in Fire Resistance Certifications needing to be reissued, can we assume that ECMWF takes care of that, or is this the Contractor's responsibility?

Answer:

It is the Contractor's responsibility.

32 Ref: C32_RFP_422

Question:

In case the documentation is too large to be sent via email, is it possible to split it into multiple emails, or can we use a file-sharing service? In the latter case, do you have a dedicated platform, or would it be acceptable to use services such as WeTransfer?

Answer:

In such cases, please split the document into multiple emails, making sure that all attachments are received within the submission deadline.

33 Ref: C33_RFP_422

Question:

Intellectual Property Rights – Clause 10.1

Clause 10.1 provides that ECMWF shall own the Deliverables and all intellectual property rights therein. Clause 10.2 carves out the Contractor's pre-existing intellectual property rights and rights developed or acquired independently.

Given that the scope of supply includes, among other things, third-party hardware and related documentation — all potentially subject to third-party ownership, licence restrictions or manufacturer pass-

through conditions — we kindly request confirmation that Clause 10.1 is intended to apply solely to Deliverables and intellectual property rights that the Contractor is lawfully able to assign or transfer.

Specifically, we seek confirmation that:

(i) any intellectual property rights, licences, warranties and use rights relating to third-party products or components shall be transferred, licensed or passed through solely to the extent permitted by the relevant manufacturer, licensor or rights holder;

(ii) the Contract shall operate on a pass-through basis with respect to such third-party rights; and

(iii) no contractual provision shall be construed as requiring the Contractor to grant rights, protections or warranties broader than those actually made available to it by the relevant third-party manufacturer or licensor.

Answer:

We would like to clarify that, although our terms and conditions are included for bidders' information, they do not apply at the PQQ stage. However, the same terms and conditions will form the basis of the subsequent RFP process. Bidders may raise reservations to a reasonable extent, which can be discussed during the negotiation stage with the preferred bidder. Should you have any reservations, please indicate them in Section 5 of the PQQ document (final question).

34 Ref: C34_RFP_422

Question:

Indemnification and Liability – Clause 11

Clause 11 requires the Contractor to indemnify ECMWF against all liabilities, costs, expenses, damages and losses arising from claims attributable to the acts or omissions of the Contractor, its employees, agents or subcontractors.

We respectfully ask whether ECMWF would be willing to consider the inclusion of a reasonable aggregate liability cap — for instance, an amount equal to the total Contract Price — subject to the customary carve-outs for fraud, wilful misconduct, gross negligence and breach of confidentiality, as well as any liabilities that cannot be limited under applicable law.

With specific regard to third-party intellectual property claims, we also request confirmation that any indemnity obligation relating to hardware, software or other third-party licensed components shall not exceed the indemnities, warranties and remedial protections actually made available to the Contractor by the relevant manufacturer or licensor, consistently with the pass-through logic described under point 1 above.

Answer:

We would like to clarify that, although our terms and conditions are included for bidders' information, they do not apply at the PQQ stage. However, the same terms and conditions will form the basis of the subsequent RFP process. Bidders may raise reservations to a reasonable extent, which can be discussed during the negotiation stage with the preferred bidder. Should you have any reservations, please indicate them in Section 5 of the PQQ document (final question).

35 Ref: C35_RFP_422

Question:

Termination and Consequences of Termination – Clauses 7.4 and 9

Clause 7.4 provides ECMWF with a termination for convenience right upon 30 days' notice (60 days for the Contractor). Clause 9 further provides that, upon termination for any reason, ECMWF may elect to retain incomplete Deliverables and pay for them proportionately, or return them without payment.

Given that performance of the Contract may require the Contractor to incur upfront costs in respect of dedicated hardware, third-party procurement, reserved production slots, logistics and deployment activities, we kindly request confirmation that, in the event of termination for convenience under Clause 7.4, the Contractor shall be entitled to recover all reasonable, documented and non-recoverable costs incurred up to the effective date of termination, including committed hardware, materials and work in progress.

We further request confirmation that the concept of "proportionate" payment under Clause 9 is intended to encompass not merely an abstract percentage of completion, but also the actual and documented costs properly incurred by the Contractor in connection with incomplete Deliverables.

Answer:

We would like to clarify that, although our terms and conditions are included for bidders' information, they do not apply at the PQQ stage, as no contract will be formed at this stage and this will only occur following the subsequent RFP process. However, the same terms and conditions will form the basis of that next stage. Bidders may raise reservations to a reasonable extent, which can be discussed during the negotiation stage with the preferred bidder. Should you have any reservations, please indicate them in Section 5 of the PQQ document (final question).

36 Ref: C36_RFP_422

Question:

Governing Law and Dispute Resolution – Clause 16

Clause 16 provides for amicable settlement, followed by ICC mediation and, failing agreement, ICC arbitration with three arbitrators, seated in London, conducted in English, with English and Welsh substantive law applying to matters not specifically covered by the T&C or where a provision is ambiguous or unclear.

Given that the Contract will be performed exclusively in Italy, at ECMWF's Bologna establishment, and that the Contractor is an Italian entity, we respectfully enquire whether ECMWF would be willing to consider (i) a dispute resolution mechanism more closely connected to the place of performance of the Contract, and (ii) a reference to the law of the Italian Republic where a matter is not specifically covered by the Contract or where a provision is ambiguous or unclear.

This request is made solely with a view to reducing procedural costs and administrative complexity, and to facilitating the efficient management of any potential disputes.

Answer:

We would like to clarify that, although our terms and conditions are included for bidders' information, they do not apply at the PQQ stage, as no contract will be formed at this stage and this will only occur following the subsequent RFP process. However, the same terms and conditions will form the basis of that next stage. Bidders may raise reservations to a reasonable extent, which can be discussed during the negotiation stage with the preferred bidder. Should you have any reservations, please indicate them in Section 5 of the PQQ document (final question).

37 Ref: C37_RFP_422

Question:

Compliance Requirements

The current draft contains detailed provisions on confidentiality, insurance and personal data, but does not appear to include an express mutual compliance clause covering anti-corruption, business ethics or the Contractor's organisational model under Italian Legislative Decree No. 231/2001.

In line with its internal governance and compliance framework, the Contractor respectfully enquires whether ECMWF would be willing to include an express mutual commitment to regulatory compliance, encompassing adherence to applicable laws, anti-corruption rules, business ethics principles and integrity standards.

The Contractor further requests confirmation that it may make reference, for informational purposes, to its organisational, management and control model adopted pursuant to Legislative Decree No. 231/2001, and that compliance with such model may be regarded as forming part of the Contractor's contractual compliance framework.

Answer:

Under Art. 3 of the ECMWF Protocol, ECMWF enjoys immunity from national jurisdiction and therefore cannot contractually commit to comply with national laws to which it is not otherwise subject. However, a contractor's own compliance obligations under applicable national laws may be reflected in the relevant contractual terms. https://www.ecmwf.int/sites/default/files/medialibrary/2022-06/ECMWF_Arbitration.pdf

We would also like to clarify that, although our terms and conditions are provided for bidders' information, they do not apply at the PQQ stage, as no contract is formed at this stage. A contract will only be concluded following the subsequent RFP process, at which point these same terms and conditions will form the basis of the agreement. Bidders may raise reasonable reservations, which can be discussed during the negotiation stage with the preferred bidder. Any such reservations should be indicated in Section 5 of the PQQ document (final question).