

# **INVITATION TO TENDER**

**FOR**

## **PROVISION OF IT SECURITY REVIEW AND CONSULTANCY SERVICES**

**REF: ECMWF/ITT/2024/364**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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TABLE OF CONTENTS .....	2
1. BACKGROUND .....	3
1.1 Definitions .....	3
1.2 Introduction .....	3
1.3 General.....	3
2. STRUCTURE OF THIS ITT .....	4
3. TIMETABLE FOR THE ITT .....	4
4. SUBMISSION OF RESPONSE .....	4
4.2 Timeliness of response .....	5
4.3 Costs of preparation of response.....	5
5. REQUIRED INFORMATION .....	6
5.1 Summary .....	6
5.2 Contact details.....	6
5.3 Track record and references.....	6
5.4 Response to the Specification of requirements.....	6
5.5 Quality of Resources.....	7
5.6 Management and implementation.....	7
5.7 Standards and procedures.....	7
5.8 Terms and Conditions.....	7
5.9 Additional matters.....	7
6. OTHER .....	8
6.1 Evaluation method and selection criteria .....	8
6.2 Confidentiality .....	8
6.3 The Tenderer shall not:.....	8
6.4 Warnings/disclaimers .....	8
6.5 Commercial (pricing) evaluation.....	9

## 1. BACKGROUND

### 1.1 Definitions

Definitions used in this Invitation to Tender (ITT) are listed here:

“ECMWF”	means European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts;
“Centre”	means ECMWF;
“ITT”	means this invitation to tender;
“Tender”	means a response to this ITT;
“Tenderer”	means a respondent to this ITT;
“You”	the recipient of this ITT, a prospective “Tenderer”.

### 1.2 Introduction

This ITT has been prepared by the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts, (governed by its Convention and associated Protocol on Privileges and Immunities which came into force on 1 November 1975, and was amended on 6 June 2010) ("ECMWF") for the purposes of obtaining proposals from suppliers for provision of IT security review and consultancy services.

ECMWF is an independent intergovernmental organisation supported by 35 States. Information on ECMWF's activities can be found at <https://www.ecmwf.int/en/about>.

ECMWF has headquarters in Reading, UK, with additional sites in Bologna, Italy, and Bonn, Germany.

### 1.3 General

The purpose of this ITT is for ECMWF to enter into an agreement with a single provider for delivery of IT security review and consultancy services to ECMWF. The contract term will be for a minimum period of two (2) years with an option of yearly extensions to a further two (2) years.

The objective of the subsequent contract is to assess and review the security posture of the IT infrastructures, including the creation of a remediation plan to resolve the discovered vulnerabilities, and to secure best value for money for the consultancy services to support the remediation plan, and for future ECMWF information security activities.

The services expected under the contract will be in the form specific deliverables for Work Packages 1-4, and optional consultancy services for WP5 that may be commissioned by ECMWF during the contract based on the resources and rates agreed.

Work Packages (WP):

- WP1 – Vulnerability assessments
- WP2 – Penetration testing services
- WP3 – Security architecture review
- WP4 – ISO 27001 GAP Analysis
- WP5 – Consultancy services

The activities such as selection, procurement and deployment of security controls, safeguards, or services as well as configuration change, patch installation or software updates identified and recommended in the remediation plan are outside the scope of this ITT. The successful Tenderer awarded as a result of this ITT, or any entities affiliated with them, shall be ineligible to participate in future potential procurements for provision of supplies or services related to the implementation of

the recommendations.

Further details of scope and requirements are provided in Annex 1.

## 2. STRUCTURE OF THIS ITT

The ITT document is structured in several parts, described below, all of which form the ITT. The ITT:

- contains an introduction to the ECMWF including background, instructions on how to respond and what information is required and a listing of the events and their dates for this ITT,
- provides detailed specifications for the requirements of this ITT in Annex 1- Specification of Requirements (SoR),
- provides a submission form to be completed by the Tenderers in Annex 2,
- provides a template for Pricing Tables to be completed by the Tenderers in Annex 3,
- provides the Terms and Conditions of Contract in Annex 4.

Also, a Contract Notice is published in the Official Journal of the European Union.

## 3. TIMETABLE FOR THE ITT

We envisage the following timetable for this procurement exercise (all times are UK local unless otherwise stated):

ITT publication date (e-procurement portal)	29 January 2024
Final date/time for receipt by ECMWF of clarification questions (Clarification Deadline)	17 February 2024, midnight
Date by which clarification questions will be answered by ECMWF	24 February 2024
<b>Closing Date, and Time (Submission Deadline)</b>	<b>1 March 2024, 15:00 UK time</b>
Evaluation by ECMWF	March 2024
Negotiation of service details with preferred bidder(s) / if applicable	March-April 2024
Sign Contract by	Latest by beginning of May 2024

The Tenderer's response shall remain valid for a period of not less than **6 months** after the Closing Date.

ECMWF reserves the right to postpone the dates from those published in this document.

## 4. SUBMISSION OF RESPONSE

Responses to this ITT must be submitted via ECMWF's eProcurement portal no later than the Closing date/time shown in section 3.

- (a) ECMWF's eProcurement portal

Tenders must be submitted using ECMWF's eProcurement Portal as described below. Hard copy (paper) submissions will not be accepted. Suppliers must register their organisation on the eProcurement Portal to be able to access the ITT documents and to be able to submit a response to

any ITTs.

You only need to register once no matter how many ITTs you are interested in.

(b) Supplier registration on the eProcurement Portal

To take part in any procurement exercise and to be able to express an interest in an opportunity, first you must register on the eProcurement Portal (ProContract) with details of your organisation. Registration is free and the process is managed by the portal provider Due North. The eProcurement Portal can be accessed from one of the following links: <https://procontract.due-north.com> or <https://procurement.ecmwf.int> (the latter redirects to the ProContract registration page).

When the registration is accepted then you will receive an email containing a confirmation of your username and the link to access the opportunity portal. Note that once you are registered, you will be able to see all the opportunities available in ProContract for various buyer organisations beside ECMWF. You will be able to narrow your search results to opportunities issued by ECMWF by selecting the corresponding portal or organisation on the ProContract Opportunities page.

Further guidance for suppliers is available at <https://supplierhelp.due-north.com>

Registration does not commit you to respond to any ITTs. ECMWF will not interpret your registration as an intention to respond to an ITT. However, you can “Register intent” to notify ECMWF that you intend to respond to an ITT if you wish to.

Once an ITT is published you must log on to the Portal and express interest in the ITT to obtain access to the ITT documents and any subsequent clarifications.

(c) Clarification questions

All correspondence must be conducted via the e-Procurement Portal. No other form of communication will be accepted.

Any questions concerning this ITT (“Clarification Questions”) must be submitted via the eProcurement Portal no later than the clarification deadline date specified in Section 3. ECMWF will respond via the portal by the date specified in Section 3 and will send the question and answer to all suppliers who have expressed an interest in the ITT unless the question is specific to a supplier’s proprietary solution. The identity of the questioner will not be revealed.

Please note that ECMWF reserves the right to contact bidders during the evaluation process to clarify points in their response, therefore the contact point should be monitored during this period.

## 4.2 Timeliness of response

ECMWF will not consider any late or partial responses to this ITT (unless this is due to a technical issue caused by either ECMWF or their e-portal) nor will it consider requests for extension of the time or date fixed for the submission of responses. It may, however, at its own absolute discretion extend the time or date fixed for submission and in such an event ECMWF will notify all Tenderers who have expressed interest.

## 4.3 Costs of preparation of response

Recipients of this ITT will be responsible for and bear all their own costs, liabilities and expenses which may be incurred in the preparation of their responses to this ITT.

#### **4.4 Diversity and inclusion**

At ECMWF, we believe that scientific progress thrives in an environment that values diversity and inclusion. We are committed to fostering an organisation that is equitable, diverse, and inclusive, and to promoting gender balance in all aspects of our operations. We recognise that diversity and 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 responses from companies who share our values and demonstrate a commitment to diversity and inclusion in their own organisations. In the event that 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. Therefore, we invite all bidders to provide details on their policies, programs, and practices related to diversity and inclusion, including gender balance and any initiatives or activities that they have implemented to support underrepresented groups in their organisation.

### **5. REQUIRED INFORMATION**

#### **5.1 Summary**

Tenderers should, at the beginning of the proposal, before setting out the answers to the questions, include a brief executive summary of the response to the ITT.

#### **5.2 Contact details**

Please supply details of the person at your organisation who can be contacted by ECMWF in relation to your proposal. Please give their name, title, address and location, telephone number and e-mail address.

#### **5.3 Track record and references**

In this section, the Tenderer is expected to provide a brief overview of the organisation. The Tenderer should describe in brief terms the company's history and recent provision of IT security review and consultancy services as described in Annex 1. Should the Tenderer propose to engage subcontractors or any other third-party suppliers, this should also be described in this section, along with complementarity of the Tenderer with its potential subcontractors.

The Tenderer shall also supply a list of three customers to whom similar services to those requested in this ITT are provided, giving details of the revenue from the relevant contract and the types of services being provided. These should be customers where you have been providing similar services to ECMWFs requirements, within the last three years.

ECMWF reserves the right to seek references from one or all of these customers and they should be able to verify the information you provided.

#### **5.4 Response to the Specification of requirements**

The response must contain all the information necessary to enable an in-depth assessment of its conformity with the specification of requirements set out in Annex 1. The Tenderer needs to complete Section 6 of the Annex 2 Tender Submission form and is free to format this section and insert as many sub-sections as necessary to provide for a logical structure of the proposal. The Tenderer shall give a short background to the proposed solution to demonstrate understanding of that solution and of the context, as well as describe the proposed approach and methodology,

including the service level, for an efficient achievement of set goals. This section shall also include a statement of compliance for each requirement formulated throughout this document, describing how the proposed solution maps to the requirements.

### **5.5 Quality of Resources**

The Tenderer shall propose a team with the skills required for providing services that meet the specification of requirements set out in Annex 1 and should explain why the proposed team is particularly well-placed to execute the contract. Any key skill or employee dependencies and the availability of replacement skills in those areas should be described in this section.

The Tenderer shall summarise the information about the proposed key personnel in Section 7 of Annex 3 Tender Submission form.

### **5.6 Management and implementation**

The management and implementation section shall contain general details of contract management, risk analysis and any aspects that will determine the implementation of the service. The Tenderer shall document aspects of contract management regarding the offer. The work organization, assignment of resources (including timeshare of personnel) and responsibilities shall be described in detail as well as the measures put in place to ensure that quality targets for the service are met. The Tenderer is free to format this section and insert as many sub-sections as necessary to provide for a logical structure of the management and implementation plan.

The Tenderer shall propose a set of specific, measurable, assignable, reasonable, and time-related Key Performance Indicators which will enable ECMWF to evaluate how effectively the Tenderer would be achieving key contractual objectives and targets.

### **5.7 Standards and procedures**

Please provide a list of your quality assurance processes and management systems and any quality related accreditations or certifications you hold if applicable.

### **5.8 Terms and Conditions**

The terms and conditions for this contract are at Annex 4.

Please note that because of ECMWF's immunity from jurisdiction, any contract resulting from this ITT must contain an arbitration clause which is offered by ECMWF to all contracting parties. Further information may be found at <http://www.ecmwf.int/en/about/suppliers> in document "ECMWF's status: Arbitration and VAT".

ECMWF reserves the right to negotiate with one or more Tenderers before taking a decision on the placing of a contract.

The proposal which you submit, clarified, if necessary, will be part of the contract.

Please confirm that you agree to the Terms and Conditions at Annex 2.

### **5.9 Additional matters**

Please set out any additional information or other relevant matters which you think have not been adequately addressed in the ITT and/or merit further consideration in your response.

## 6. OTHER

### 6.1 Evaluation method and selection criteria

Tenders will be evaluated based on the high-level evaluation criteria and weights shown in the table below:

<b>Evaluation criteria</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
Tenderer's credentials (incl. track record)	20%
Quality of tender response in meeting the specification of requirements	20%
Quality of Resources proposed	15%
Management & Implementation	10%
Prices	35%

Following notification of the result of your tender you may request feedback on the evaluation from ECMWF.

### 6.2 Confidentiality

Except where ECMWF has made its documents publicly available, the contents of this ITT together with all other information, materials, specifications, or other documents provided by ECMWF, or prepared by Tenderers specifically for ECMWF, shall be always treated as confidential by the recipients. You shall not disclose any such information, materials, specifications, or other documents to any third parties or to any other part of your group or use them for any purpose other than for the preparation and submission of a response to this ITT nor shall You publicise ECMWF's name or the project without the prior written consent of ECMWF. ECMWF in turn confirms that it shall treat all information provided to it by the Tenderer as confidential and further confirms that such information will not be disclosed by ECMWF to any third parties, other than its advisers and consultants.

You shall ensure that all third parties to whom disclosure is made shall keep any such information, materials, specifications, or other documents confidential and not disclose them to any other third party except as set out above.

### 6.3 The Tenderer shall not:

- a. Consult, communicate or agree with any other Tenderer on any matter whatsoever related to the ITT;
- b. Disclose its proposed price for the ITT, whether directly or indirectly, to any other Tenderer, but this shall not preclude the Tenderer from publishing its standard list prices;
- c. Make any attempt to induce any other person or organisation to submit or not to submit a Tender.

Please confirm that you have complied with the above conditions.

### 6.4 Warnings/disclaimers

Nothing contained in this ITT or any other communication made between the supplier and ECMWF or its representatives shall constitute an agreement, contract or representation between ECMWF and any other party (except for a formal award of contract made in writing by ECMWF). Receipt by a supplier of this ITT does not imply the existence of a contract or commitment by or with ECMWF for

any purpose.

ECMWF reserves the right to change any aspect of, or cease, the ITT at any time.

While ECMWF has taken all reasonable steps to ensure, as at the date of this document, that the information which are contained in this ITT are true and accurate in all material respects, ECMWF does not make any representation or warranty as to the accuracy or completeness or otherwise of this ITT, or the reasonableness of any assumptions on which this document may be based. ECMWF accepts no liability to Tenderers whatsoever and however arising and whether resulting from the use of this ITT, or any omissions from or deficiencies in this document.

ECMWF may use the information included in a response for any reasonable purpose connected with this ITT.

## **6.5 Commercial (pricing) evaluation**

Please complete the Pricing Tables in Annex 3 in accordance with the instructions therein and with the requirements specified in Annex 1 and below:

- The prices shall be inclusive of all constituent elements, such as unit price, overhead rates (if any), expenses etc.
- Pricing tables also contains a section for daily rates which needs to be completed for different profiles of consultancy services. These rates will be fixed for the initial two years and will be a cap on those that the successful tenderer will use to quote for specific work ECMWF may ask in the future, and they must include any mark-up. Tenderers are also requested to specify how they will approach these rates following the initial 2 years.

## **ANNEX 1 - SPECIFICATION OF REQUIREMENTS (SOR)**

Please see separate document for Annex 1

## **ANNEX 2 - TENDER SUBMISSION FORM**

Please see separate document for Annex 2

## **ANNEX 3 - PRICING TABLES**

Please see separate document for Annex 3

## **ANNEX 4– TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

Please see separate document for Annex 4