

CLARIFICATIONS

ECMWF/ITT/2017/262 Procurement of IT data storage systems

Clarifications issued 05 September 2017

This document will be updated as additional clarifications are published. See version history below.

Note: The clarifications window is now closed.

Ref: ECMWF/ITT/2017/262
ISSUED BY: ECMWF Administration Department Procurement Section
First issue: 29 August 2017 Second issue: 30 August 2017 Third issue: 5 September 2017

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

First issue clarifications:

1 Ref: C1 ITT 262

A: For the configuration which you are requested to price in Annex 2 Table 1 - Item 1 please price for 92 6TB 7200rpm drives (instead of 4TB drives) as it has been brought to our attention that 4TB drives are not available in the HD enclosure. ECMWF apologises for the error in the specification. The correct table is given below:

IBM Disk system v5030 with 5U enclosure		
Component	no.	Description
Model v5030	1	IBM Spectrum Virtualize software for Storwise v5030
Cache	1	64GB
Host connections per cntrl	4	16Gb/s Fibre Channel (8 in total)
Disks	92	6TB @7.2k rpm
Enclosures	1	5U 92 drive enclosure
Licensing	1	Base
Support	1	5 year hardware and software 24/7 4hr initial response
Installation required		Yes
Quantity	1	Total price UK (GBP): Total price Italy (GBP):

Second issue clarifications:

2 Ref: C2 ITT 262

A: Section 6.5 Commercial Arrangements of the ITT state that it is possible that for future lots, bids may be sought in Euro. We are now able to clarify that it is likely that for deliverables to, or maintenance in, Italy, contracts will be made in Euro.

For absolute clarity, responses to this tender, including Lot 1, must be made in pounds sterling (GBP)

3 Ref: C3 ITT 262

Q: Considering ECMWF has one of the largest IT data storage facilities in the world, please could you confirm whether your long-term storage strategy is formal (i.e. documented and available) or more ad hoc, (i.e. you will address each storage requirement when it arises)

If it is available, please could you provide it?

A: Due to the size of the data storage requirement and the governance structure at ECMWF we do have a long-term strategy as well as more detailed one and four-year plans. These are presented to

our governing Council and their advisory committees for scrutiny and approval. This strategy is not available outside ECMWF.

4 Ref: C4 ITT 262

Q: Do you, or are you planning to, have any storage virtualisation capability covering the storage infrastructure in question?

A: Storage capacity grouping and management through mechanisms such as SAN, NAS, or parallel file-systems is used at ECMWF. The need for policy-based provisioning and more sophisticated management of data storage independent of the underlying hardware is likely to increase as we transform ourselves to support the new Data Centre in Italy.

5 Ref: C5 ITT 262

Q: The IBM Storwize V5030 also has the capability of holding 12 x 6TB NL-SAS drives in the main controller as well as the 92 drives in the attached high density. Should we include a further 12 x 6TB drives in the controller raising the overall drive count to 104 drives or do you wish to leave the controller empty?

A: Whilst this is correct, we would like to keep the controller tray as the standard 24 drive variant (2078-324), and for now keep it empty. We may later use this space for metadata SSDs.

6 Ref: C6 ITT 262

Q: The requested drive count of 108 drives can be accommodated in 9 expansion drawers each with 12 drives. The IBM Storwize V5030 can also accommodate 12 drives in the main controller. Should this request be for a total of 120 drives to include the 12 drives in the base controller as well?

A: No. As above, we would like to keep the controller tray as the standard 24 drive variant (2078-324), and for now keep it empty. We may later use this space for metadata SSDs.

Third issue clarifications:

7 Ref: C7 ITT 262

Q: For the specified equipment are there any advanced software features required?

A: No, only the 'base software' functionality is required

8 Ref: C8 ITT 262

Q: Please could you advise what systems the specified equipment will be used with?

A: ECMWF currently uses servers belonging to the HPE Proliant DL and Dell PowerEdge families. However other types of server may be used in future.

9 Ref: C9 ITT 262

Q: With regard to the HP parts of this response, can you confirm what servers are intended to be used with the SAS HBA's (table 1 – item 8) and the disk shelves (Table 1 – Items 6 & 7)?

A: Although the SAS HBA adapter (Table 1 - item 8) is compatible with a wider range of servers, it would be used together with the disk shelves (Table 1 - item 6 & 7) on a server belonging to the HPE Proliant DL server family or Dell Poweredge server family. Please note that the quote request for these items is for the adapter and the disk shelves only (without servers).

10 Ref: C10 ITT 262

A: As stated in the ITT documentation under clause 6.8, the terms and conditions for this contract are as per the attachment, Annex 4, and bidders must confirm acceptance of such as part of their bid.

However, following an internal review of the terms, and taking into account the nature of the ITT and the requirements for future purchases, ECMWF proposes to amend clause 4.1 as follows:

Current wording

4.1 Before delivering Goods, the Contractor shall inspect and test them for compliance with the Contract and shall provide ECMWF with such test sheets and certificates as ECMWF may require.

New wording

4.1 Before delivering Goods, the Contractor shall inspect and test them for compliance with the Contract and shall provide ECMWF with such test sheets and certificates as ECMWF may require or shall warrant that the goods will correspond to the terms of the order and be of satisfactory quality.

In your response to clause 6.8 please state whether you accept the Terms and Conditions published as part of the ITT documents and, in addition, please state whether you would accept these terms and conditions with clause 4.1 amended as shown above.

11 Ref: C11 ITT 262

Q: Can an EU temporary grouping of economic operators submit a bid?

A: Yes, however ECMWF will only enter into a contract with a single legal person/entity. Due to the need to include performance and compliance obligations in the contract, ECMWF will contract only with a single legal person or entity which is competent to undertake and commit to these obligations.

ECMWF recognises that some bids will involve a number of organisations which may wish to work together to deliver the contract requirements. In such cases, these organisations must identify a lead

contractor who will sign the contract with ECMWF and who will be responsible for putting in place legal arrangements to ensure that it can guarantee that all other organisations will also meet the contract obligations.

ECMWF will not enter into multiple contracts with individual members of consortia or groups of service providers.