INVITATION TO TENDER

ECMWF/ITT/2017/262 (SECOND CALL)

PROCUREMENT OF
IT DATA STORAGE SYSTEMS

Clarifications issued on 9 May 2019

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

1   Ref: C2_ITT262(2)

Question:

Relating to the items included in the "Annex 2 – Pricing tables? could we have further information about the required applications and performance (IOPS, MBs) for each storage item?

Response:

The pricing table is supposed to give examples of two different types of purchases that could occur in the future. Items such as Item 1, 2, or 3 are specific examples, typically ECMWF is buying more of some product, so for compatibility and ease of administration has narrowly specified the equipment type.

The "bis" items were inserted to give bidders the opportunity to propose alternative solutions to the equipment specified in the corresponding item, i.e item 1 bis, should be functionally similar to item 1. For simplicity ECMWF does not want to further specify the items, the suggested solutions will help us assess the proposed pricing mechanisms and the capability of the tenderer to provide expert knowledge.

2   Ref: C3_ITT262(2)

Question:

Can we propose different items for each storage models?

Response:

The "bis" items were inserted to give bidders the opportunity to propose alternative solutions to the equipment specified in the corresponding item. Tenderers may propose any number of solutions to these items, or any other item where the manufacturer is not specified. For the specific items, tenderers should try to meet the requirement, with only minor deviations, e.g. replacing a 6TB HDD with an 8TB one or an SSD for a 10k SAS disk.

In all cases, tenderers should avoid going too far from the suggested configuration, even if this is to a best practice configuration, as this will not necessarily fit the use case we had considered and complicate the evaluation. In cases where the tenderer is able to offer higher capacity disk drives, tenderers are free to do this but should generally quote for full enclosures with a full complement of host connections rather than maintaining the capacity in a partly populated system.

A short note explaining how the proposed option satisfies the original requirement would be considered helpful.

Tenderers do not have to quote for all equipment, only those where they believe to be competitively priced.

3   Ref: C4_ITT262(2)

Question:

Can we propose alternative storage models, such as storage consolidation? Could you explain your consolidation policy?

Response:

ECMWF is not looking to consolidate or deduplicate storage, the requirements here are to provide capacity and performance for working storage to meet a number of different technical requirements where these features would not be helpful.

4 Ref: C5_ITT262(2)

Question:

Regarding the storage software license, what do you mean for base license?

Response:

The Base license (if required) is the minimal license necessary to operate the equipment at its basic functionalities.

5 Ref: C6_ITT262(2)

Question:

Regarding Items 7,8,9. Do you require the proposal of a new storage with enclosure or only proposal of an enclosure? Regarding previous question, if only an enclosure which are the requirements for the connectivity? Or your purpose is to check the enclosure price for future expansion? Regarding Items 7,8,9. Is it ok for you to accept enclosure with different numbers of disks? For example 15, 75 and 25.

Response:

Pricing for items 7,8,9 are intended for fully populated disk enclosures (i.e. including disks). The connectivity provided should be the same of reference models of items 7,8,9 (i.e. SAS 12Gbps). It would be acceptable to bid an enclosure with a larger slot count provided that it contains the requested number of disks.

6 Ref: C7_ITT262(2)

Question:

Regarding previous question your purpose is to check the enclosure price for future expansion?

Response:

The use case could be to purchase extra disk to add to an existing controller, or it could be to provide a JBOD for a host based or software RAID solution.

7 Ref: C8_ITT262(2)

Question:

Could you explain how ECMWF will run mini competition for future tender? Is the bid price this tender the baseline for future projects?

Response:

As described in sections 1.3 and 1.4 future "lots" will be subject to competitive quoting from suppliers on the framework in a mini-competition. ECMWF imagines all members of the framework would be invited by email to submit bids against a specification and set evaluation criteria.

The specification could be a detailed specification for known equipment such as provided for Item 1, 2, 3 in the pricing table and the evaluation would be mainly against price. Alternatively, it could be against a new requirement with a specification more akin to the Item 1 bis, 2 bis or 3 bis, in which case the evaluation criteria would be more complex and could involve benchmark tests, access to test facilities and more involved acceptance procedures.

8   Ref: C9_ITT262(2)

Question:

What do you mean for "all other requirements as specified in the contract". These will be requirement that will be defined in the following mini competition?

Response:

Additional requirements for installation may indeed be specified as part of a future mini-competition.

9   Ref: C10_ITT262(2)

Question:

Could you explain how do you will evaluate Pre-Sales Technical Support, providing the rules that you will use in the evaluation process to assign the score? Could you explain how do you will assign score on pricing, providing a clear formula? Could you explain your rules of thumb in evaluating the quality of the proposal, being clear, if possible, on how you will assign the score?

Response:

ECMWF is unable to provide any more detail on the evaluation criteria.

10 Ref: C11_ITT262(2)

Question:

In Table 1 Item 10 is requested a 12Gb/s SAS Host Bus Adapter. Could be clarified the purpose of the request?

Response:

We requested pricing for that specific host bus adapter because is one of the most common SAS HBA which is known to work in most environments.