REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

ECMWF/RFP/2020/302

FOR

Software Developers Framework

Clarifications issued on 3 March 2020

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

1 Ref: C3_RFP302

Question:

Now that the UK is no longer in the EU, can you confirm that the UK is still an ECMWF "Member State"?

Answer:

ECMWF is an independent intergovernmental organisation supported by 34 States. United Kingdom will continue to be a Member State of the ECMWF regardless of its membership in other organisations or political, economic or other types of unions. For an up to date list of ECMWF Member States please visit: https://www.ecmwf.int/en/about/who-we-are/member-states.

2 Ref: C4_RFP302

Question:

Are we correct in assuming that successful suppliers will be selected on the basis of bids alone (possibly with follow-up clarification questions) and that no additional formal evaluation stage (e.g. presentation) is anticipated?

Answer:

The evaluation method and selection criteria are described in Section 1.9 of the RFP document. No additional stages (e.g. formal presentations, interviews) are envisaged at this moment, however ECMWF reserves the right to seek clarifications from the respondents in the course of evaluation. Such clarifications could be sought in written form or via a virtual or face-to-face meeting. For future mini-competitions, evaluation of bids may include interviews / presentation, but this will be made clear within the documentation relevant to that specific mini-competition.

3 Ref: C5_RFP302

Question:

Can you explain the rationale for requiring developers possess a first degree in computing science?

Answer:

In lieu of a first degree in computing science requirement ECMWF will accept specialists possessing an extra 2 years of experience in a specific area of interest in addition to the 5 years of experience, which is a minimum requirement.

4 Ref: C6_RFP302

Question:

To what extent do you expect developers to be able to deliver across all of the specific areas of interest (on the one hand) and be specialists in one or more of those areas (on the other)? Is it acceptable for suppliers to only bid for 1 area of interest, for example?

Answer:

According to Section 3.3 of the RFP document, respondents are requested to fill in the "Areas of Expertise" table in Annex 3 (Response Submission Form), indicating the area(s) of interest they wish to be considered for by "checking" the respective boxes in the "Yes/No" column of the table. Respondents may bid for one or several areas of interest. They may also provide multiple, or different, or the same specialists across any combination of the areas of expertise required by ECMWF.

5   Ref: C7_RFP302

Question:

How many suppliers do you expect to appoint onto the framework, in total and for each area of interest?

Answer:

There is no lower or upper limit in the number of suppliers to be accepted onto the framework, neither in terms of total number, nor for each area of interest. ECMWF however reserves the right to limit the number of suppliers for each area of expertise where it considers it to be over-subscribed, or to re-open the framework at a future date(s) in order for additional suppliers to respond.

6   Ref: C8_RFP302

Question:

What is the value of work you expect to procure annually through the framework, in total and for each area of interest?

Answer:

According to Section 1.10 of the RFP document, it is envisaged that all pre-approved developers will have the opportunity to quote for services during the lifetime of this arrangement. However, there is no guarantee as to the level of work to be offered. Whilst details of future spend levels are not defined at this stage, it is estimated that ECMWF's requirements will range between €150k and €300k over the initial duration of the framework arrangement (i.e. three years).