



2 July 2014

Clarification No 3

Reference: Open call for tenders No EEA/MDI/14/005

Title: *IT and GIS consultancy services on implementation of Copernicus Reference Data Access (RDA) Component and on supporting EEA in other Copernicus related activities (2 lots)*

Question 1

In section 2 of the Tender Specifications, it reads that the Envelope 1 shall include “the evidence documentation demonstrating the fulfilment of the selection criteria as required under section (...) 10.2.3 (technical and professional capacity)”.

It is clear that the bidder has to include the CVs of the staff, the staff cross table, the description of the ongoing/past contracts and details on Quality Control procedures and environmental policy.

However, it is unclear to us whether “evidence documentation” requires in addition the delivery of formal documents from third parties (customers, auditors, etc.) such as copies of contract award notifications, contract termination certifications, environmental certifications, quality certifications, certificates proving that the staff has the alleged experience, etc. Can you please clarify on this point?

Answer 1

Documentation about the technical and professional capacity shall include, as you mentioned, the detailed CVs of the staff, the staff cross table, the description of the ongoing/past contracts and details on Quality Control procedures and environmental policy.

Copies of environmental certificates (if any), as well as copies of quality assurance accreditation documents shall be also provided.

However, we do not request evidence of the past contracts nor of the experience of service providers.

Question 2

Annex 8 specifies that “CORDA is ...hosted and maintained at EEA”. Is EEA open to the concept of CORDA being delivered as a “Software as a Service” model from a contractor’s secure cloud environment? If so, how can we account for the pricing of the SaaS element within our response?

Answer 2

EEA is not open to the concept of CORDA being delivered as “Software as a Service” model. The source code of the developed software must be provided to EEA for its free reuse by EEA.

Question 3

Annex I – Tender specifications - Paragraph 10.2.3 “Technical and professional capacity”: for Lot1 it is required a proven experience in the development of cloud SaaS services in Windows Azure, but this seems to be in contrast with Annex 8 Copernicus Reference data Access Node Concept paper – par 2.3.4 Harvesting module that says “Cloud based solutions shall be physically on EU-28 territory and managed under the combined legislation of the hosting member state and the European Union”. Can you please clarify this apparent contradiction? Can you please clarify if a cloud based solution different from Windows Azure would be acceptable?

Answer 3

Windows Azure can be operated by private clouds and therefore run under the combined legislation of the hosting member state and the European Union. Other cloud based solutions could be suggested as long they can be run from a private cloud as well.

Question 4

Annex I – Tender specifications - Paragraph 6.3.1 “Lot 1: technical support for set up and maintenance of the Copernicus Reference Data Access node”: this paragraph mentions that the node shall consist of a server side system, can you please clarify if all the necessary hardware and software resources to host this system (storage and processing hardware resources, virtualization software, ...) are provided as CFI (Customer Furnished Items) or if they shall be procured by the Contractor? In the latter case, how would these costs be quoted?

Answer 4

IT infrastructure required to host the node is not in the scope of this framework contract. All hardware and software resources necessary to host the developed system will be provided to the Contractor.

Question 5

Annex I - Tender specifications: Can you please provide a clear and comprehensive list of CFI (Customer Furnished Items)?

Answer 5

EEA cannot provide the requested list at this stage of the project. It is not considered as necessary for the tendering purposes.

Question 6

Annex 8 - Copernicus Reference data Access Node Concept paper – par 2.5.1 Tasks of the operator: It is stated that the CORDA operator will be responsible for “engaging data providers and registering CORDA system datasets available from the providers”. Will a comprehensive list of data providers and respective datasets be provided as an input to Contract activities?

Answer 6

As input to the contract activities initial list of the data providers and the datasets will be provided. This list will be updated as more relevant national and regional reference data will be made available free of charge to Copernicus services. The Contractor will be provided with the updated list as soon as it is available.

Question 7

Annex 8 - Copernicus Reference data Access Node Concept paper – par 1.1 Background: it is stated that “It is expected that in the beginning this node will provide access to the pre-selected national and/or regional reference datasets linked to INSPIRE Annex I and II (addressing essential reference data needs of the Copernicus Land Monitoring and Emergency Management services)”, but this is contradicting what stated further on in par 2.4.1 Land scenario and 2.4.2 Emergency scenario where also themes from INSPIRE ANNEX III are mentioned as essential to the service. Can you please clarify?

Answer 7

It is expected that in the beginning the node will provide access to the pre-selected essential national and/or regional reference datasets linked to INSPIRE Annex I and II. Please consider the scenarios described respectively in 2.4.1 and 2.4.2 as general examples and please note that the criticality of the identified required reference data is specified in the column “Criticality of the data”.