

Clarification Note #2

EUSPA internal reference: 308818

Procurement procedure: EUSPA/OP/20/24

Title: Penetration Testing Support Services

Question #2:

If the currently procured backup contract had already been in place, how many times would you have relied on it in the past year to cover the activities due under the incumbent contract?

Answer #2:

We cannot provide any information on the performance of the ongoing incumbent contract. The purpose of the procurement is to secure a backup service provider to mitigate any potential risks and increase the robustness of the Programme. It cannot be anticipated whether these risks will materialise. The conditions under which EUSPA may implement the back-up contract are described in Section 1.4 of the Tender Specifications.

Question #3:

How much time in advance will the backup contractor get in case the implementation of the backup contract is triggered to cover the activities due under the incumbent contract? What is the expected time between the signature of the specific contract and the start of the activities?

Answer #3:

Should the present contract be implemented, the Agency will first submit Specific Terms of Reference for the relevant Specific Contract (SC) to the future contractor (first in cascade, if applicable), requesting to be provided with an SC offer, typically within ten (10) working days. Subject to the acceptance of the contractor's offer, the SC shall then be signed. Please refer to Article I.3 of the draft Framework Contract for further details.

After the signature of the SC, each activity will be activated by issuing a Task Request that specifies the details (parameters) of the specific activity (example: review of a datapack, or execution of an audit). The contractor has typically five (5) days (see section 2.1.6 of Tender Specifications) to provide an offer for the tasks defined in the Task Request. One of the parameters is the timeline of the execution of the task. In normal situations, EUSPA endeavours to keep the Contractor informed of the overall schedule. Hence, in typical situations, there are some weeks between the Task Request and the task execution. In emergency situations, contractor might be asked to provide services on a shorter notice, i.e. 5 days.

Question #4:

Should the CVs of the proposed consultants (pentesters) be anonymised?

Answer #4:

The CVs of the proposed consultants (pentesters) do not have to be anonymised. Please note that each profile proposed for the pool of pentesters shall be accompanied by a valid Personal Security Clearance (please refer to section 2.2.4.4 of the Tender Specifications for further details).

Question #5:

How many concurrent tests are expected to take place simultaneously in the same period?

Answer #5:

In accordance with the Section 2.1.1.1 of the Tender Specifications, EUSPA requests at least two pentest teams (each of two consultants) to be able to be engaged in two parallel tests at a given time, when needed. However, there will be periods when only one team is activated, and even periods when no pentest is needed.

Question #6:

Are the slides of the Industry Day Webinar available online?

Answer #6:

The slides presented during the Industry Day Webinar have been published on the EUSPA website dedicated to the procurement.

Question #7:

As this is a backup contract, is the budget calculated in the same volume as in the incumbent contract to allow for a “full backup”?

Answer #7:

Please note that the procured contract does not represent a “full backup” of the incumbent contract. While the scope of the incumbent contract is larger, the present backup contract is limited to its (most critical) subset, being the penetration testing support activities.

Question #8:

Is it possible to submit a tender in a situation where the consultants (pentesters) do not yet possess the Personal Security Clearance at the moment of tender submission, but the process has been initiated?

Answer #8:

Please refer to the Clarification Note No. 1 published on the EUSPA website dedicated to the procurement. The proposed consultants (pentesters) need to possess the Personal Security Clearance at the moment of submission of tender, i.e. the process needs to be accomplished at that moment.

On the other hand, in which concerns the CRYPTO authorisation(s), section 2.2.4.9 of the Tender Specifications allows (at the moment of tender submission) for a submission of an LSO statement in a situation where the process of acquiring the CRYPTO authorisation(s) has been initiated. In such case, the process must be accomplished before the award. Please refer to sections 2.2.4.4 and 2.2.4.9 of the Tender Specifications.

Question #9:

Is the participation in this procurement procedure open to entities from outside of the EU?

Answer #9:

Please refer to section 2.2.1 of the Tender Specifications: Participation in this procurement is open only to entities established in an EU Member State with further conditions applying.

Question #10:

Does the scope of the procured contract involve digital/cyber penetration testing or physical security and physical vulnerability assessment?

Answer #10:

It involves digital/cyber penetration testing.