

Clarification Note #7

GSA internal reference: 261567

Procurement procedure: GSA/IP/10/20

European Union Governmental Satellite Communications (EU GOVSATCOM) Hubs

Question #39: Annex I.C. ‘Template power of attorney’ states that “[...] if awarded, the group coordinator shall sign the Contract and addenda thereto, issue any invoices related to the supplies or the services and receive payments from the GSA on behalf of the group members.” Can you please confirm whether, in case of consortium, it is possible for each consortium member to issue an invoice directly to the GSA, while the coordinator will be responsible for transmitting them to the GSA?

Answer #39: As per the Annex I.C, in case of consortia, the coordinator submits one invoice to the GSA for the total payment, and the GSA executes the total payment to the coordinator; it is then the coordinator’s obligation to distribute the relevant payment among the consortium as per the shares agreed between the consortium members. It is underlined that the GSA is discharged from its payment obligation upon executing the total payment to the coordinator, and is not involved in the further distribution of the shares to the consortium. In exceptional and justified cases, the GSA may provide for the possibility of executing separate payments to each consortium member.

Question #40: Annex I.C. ‘Template power of attorney’ states that “Payments by the GSA for the supplies or related services shall be made through the group coordinator’s bank account” and that “[...] the group coordinator shall sign the Contract and addenda thereto, issue any invoices related to the supplies or the services and receive payments from the GSA on behalf of the group members.” We understand that the following procedure will be accepted for each payment:

- The group coordinator will collect the related invoices, that will be issued by the group members to the GSA;
- The group coordinator will join all these invoices together with a cover letter detailing the total amount and the amounts per group member, including the bank account details of the group coordinator. The payment of the total amount by the GSA will be made through this bank account.

Answer #40: The understanding is not correct. Please refer to answer #39 above which describes the relevant process.

Question #41: What is the GSA’s understanding of the operation of the Hub(s) services? Is a delegation to industry foreseen as for the case of Galileo and EGNOS or rather a proper operation run by GSA (or the Commission) itself? Could you please communicate on any programmatic planning and/or scheduling regarding the operation of the Hub(s) services?

Answer #41: The operation of the Hub(s) will be entrusted to an economic operator via a separate procurement procedure; you can refer also to the answer #35 in Clarification Note #4.

With regard to the schedule regarding the operation of the Hub(s), the attention of Candidates is drawn to the indicative timeline of the innovation partnership contract under section 7 of the Descriptive Document (Annex II to the Invitation to Participate). According to said schedule, the conclusion of the activities under Option 2 (Readiness for operations and acceptance), if exercised, is scheduled 4 months after the Qualification Review 2. Considering that one of the pre-conditions for the exercise of Option 2 is the appointment of the Hub(s) operator (see section 6.5.2.5 of the Descriptive Document), Candidates can deduce the indicative schedule of the Hub(s) operation. No further information on the schedule can be provided at this stage.

Question #42: Is it be possible for the GSA to share more details on its vision about what the GOVSATCOM Hub should include, e.g. a functional diagram? This is paramount in order to finalise the structure of the industrial team.

Answer #42: Please refer to figure #1 under section 5.1 of the Descriptive Document, as well as to the information found throughout that document. No further information can be provided at this stage.

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