

Notification of Intent

Provide Broadcast Ship Shore and Maritime Rear Link System (BRASS) Enhancement One Target Architecture (BRE1TA) Software and Beyond Line of Sight (BLOS) Access Points with Remote Monitoring and Diagnostic (RMD) Training Capability

IFB-CO-14887-BRE1TA

Investment scope: € 6,554,500
(estimated value)

The scope of this upcoming opportunity is anticipated to provide a common software basis for implementation of national BLOS Access Points, as well as remote-monitoring, diagnostic and training capabilities that will ensure interoperability amongst users of the wireless service.

The formal Invitation for Bid (IFB) is planned to be issued in **December 2018**, with an intended Bid Closing Date of March 2019 and anticipated Contract Award in **January 2020**.

The NCI Agency Point of Contact is Sarah Hazebroek, Senior Contracting Officer

E-mail: Sarah.Hazebroek@ncia.nato.int

To: Distribution List

Subject: **NOTIFICATION OF INTENT (NOI) TO INVITE BIDS**

PROVIDE BRE1TA SOFTWARE AND BLOS AP WITH RMD AND TRAINING CAPABILITY

IFB-CO-14887-BRE1TA

References:

- A. AC/4-2261 (1996 Edition)
- B. AC/4(PP)D/27211-ADD1 (INV)
- C. AC/4-DS(2016)0028 (INV)
- D. AC/4-DS(2018)0018
- E. C-M(2002)49 NATO Security Policy

1. In accordance with Reference (D), notice is hereby given of the intent of the NATO Communications and Information Agency (NCI Agency), acting as Host Nation responsible for implementing the subject project, to issue an Invitation for Bid (IFB) in relation to "Provide BRE1TA software and BLOS AP with RMD and Training capability". The scope of this Bid will encompass the procurement, design and testing of the systems.
2. A summary of the requirements of the Invitation for Bid is set forth in Annex A, attached to this letter. These requirements are being refined and detailed as part of the preparation of the Invitation for Bid.
3. The reference for the Invitation of Bid is **IFB-CO-14887-BRE1TA**, and all correspondence concerning this IFB shall reference this number.
4. The estimated investment cost for the services and deliverables included within the basic scope of the intended Contract is EUR 6,554,500. The IFB will include non-evaluated options for the possible future acquisition of 3 Years of life-cycle support of the capability. This additional effort would be subject to a separate financial authorisation from NATO funding authorities.
5. Following authorisation from the IC, the NCI Agency will use the standard International Competitive Bidding (ICB) Procedure, lowest priced technically compliant Bid. The Contract resulting from the IFB will be a single Firm Fixed Price (FFP) Contract for the entire scope of work with an expected implementation time of approximately 18 months. The NCI Agency intends to place a single Contract with one Contractor. No partial bidding shall be allowed.
6. The formal IFB is planned to be issued in December 2018 with an anticipated Contract Award in January 2020.

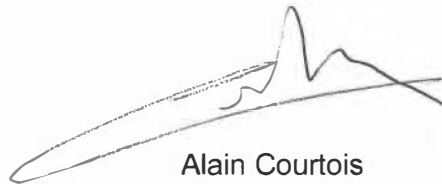
7. Details regarding a Bidders' Conference, if applicable, will be included in the IFB document.
8. Bidders will be required to declare a Bid validity of twelve (12) months from the closing date of receipt of bids, supported by a Bid Guarantee of Euro € 300,000 (three hundred thousand Euro). Should the selection and award procedure extend beyond 12 months after the Bid Closing Date, firms will be requested to voluntarily extend the validity of their Bids and Bid Guarantee accordingly. Bidders may decline to do so; however, they shall withdraw their Bid and excuse themselves from the bidding process without penalty.
9. National Authorities are advised that some parts of the IFB Package may be classified up to the level of "NATO RESTRICTED". The successful bidder may be required to handle and store classified information up to the level of "NATO SECRET".
10. In addition, execution of the proposed Contract will require unescorted access and work of Contractor personnel at NATO Class-II security areas. In accordance with Reference E, personnel of the winning bidder will be required to hold individual "NATO SECRET" security clearances. Only companies maintaining such cleared facilities and the appropriate personnel clearances will be able to perform the resulting Contract. Bidders are to note that Contract Award will not be delayed in order to allow Contractor personnel to obtain missing clearances. The Declarations of Eligibility shall state that Companies possess a facilities clearance up to NATO SECRET.
11. Pursuant to Paragraph 6 of Reference A, National Responsible Authorities are kindly requested that the NCI Agency be provided with Declarations of Eligibility, no later than 15 November 2018 of qualified and certified firms, which are interested in receiving an Invitation for Bid for this project. In addition to the certifications required under this NOI, the Declarations of Eligibility shall include the following information: Name of the firm, Telephone number, E-mail address, and Point of Contact. This information is critical to enable prompt and accurate communication with prospective bidders and should be sent to the following address:

NATO Communications and Information Agency
NATO, Boulevard Leopold III, 1110 Brussels
Attention: Sarah Hazebroek
E-mail: Sarah.Hazebroek@ncia.nato.int

12. It is requested that all firms interested in participating in this procurement be introduced by their National Authorities with the required "Declaration of Eligibility" and certification of the required security clearances. It is emphasized that requests for participation in this competition received directly from individual firms cannot be considered.
13. Please note that it is anticipated that the IFB will include a requirement for prospective Bidders to demonstrate their financial ability to undertake this project and mandatory criteria for extensive experience with the provision of similar types of projects.

14. The NCI Agency point of contact for all information concerning this NOI is Sarah Hazebroek, Senior Contracting Officer, email: Sarah.Hazebroek@ncia.nato.int.
15. Your assistance in this procurement is greatly appreciated.

On behalf of the Director of Acquisition:



Alain Courtois
Chief of Contracts

Attachments:

Annex A: Summary Description of Project Scope

Annex A

PROVIDE BRE1TA SOFTWARE AND BLOS ACCESS POINT WITH RMD AND TRAINING CAPABILITY

**CP 9A0101 - Project 2015 / OCM03074-00/09
(SHORT TITLE: BRE1TA Software and BLOS AP)**

Summary Description of Project Scope

1. Background Information

Broadcast Ship Shore and Maritime Rear Link system (BRASS) is widely implemented in NATO Nations. To take advantage of new technologies and addressing new requirements NATO developed BRASS Enhancement One Target Architecture (BRE1TA) that defines improvements to the existing shore HF stations that will become Beyond Line of Sight (BLOS) Access Points.

This project, "Provide BRE1TA Software and BLOS Access Point with Remote Monitoring and Diagnostic (RMD) and Training Capability", is important to the development of Beyond Line of Sight communication capabilities contained within the Bi-Strategic Command Capability Package 9A0101 "Wireless Communication Transmission Services (Other Than SATCOM)", through the provision of a common software basis for implementation of national BLOS Access Points, as well as remote-monitoring, diagnostic and training capabilities that will ensure interoperability amongst users of the wireless service.

2. Scope

The scope of the project is to deliver:

- State-of-the-art BRE1TA Software that will drive the BLOS Access Points systems in NATO BLOS Access Point reference system. Afterwards, this software package is envisaged to be adopted by different nations to support their own projects on BRASS enhancements.
- Enhanced information systems and communication hardware that enables the NATO BLOS Access Point reference system to handle BRASS Enhancement 1 requirements;
- The Training Package that includes self-training environment for the BRASS and BLOS Access Points system users and on-site training capability that facilitates user's trainings at NATO BLOS Access Point reference system (located in Belgium and Netherlands),
- Remote-monitoring, test, and diagnostic capability to support the project's role as NATO's reference system and interoperability test standard for national BLOS AP projects.

The key capability to be provided through deliverables of the project is the software that can be adopted by all nations that implement BLOS Access Point projects to the BRE1TA standard.

Compared to the legacy BRASS, the BRE1TA software and hardware will provide the following additional capabilities to fulfil some operational requirements of NATO Network Enabled Capability (NNEC):

- Improved HF throughput, provided through the introduction of modems exploiting higher speed HF waveforms, up to 9600 bits per second (bps) in 3-kHz channels and 19.2 kilobits per second (kbps) in 6-kHz independent side-band (ISB) channels;
- Internet protocol (IP) over HF based on NATO Standardization Agreement (STANAG) 5066 Edition 3, with mandated options from Annex F and Annex L, support to IPv4 and IPv6 will be included;
- Formal messaging in accordance with X.400 [ITU-T X.400, 1999] and [NATO STANAG 4406, 2006] for tactical military message handling systems (T-MMHS), and with the emerging revisions to NATO Military Messaging (NMS) policy as schedule coherence allows;
- Informal messaging in accordance with the Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP and applicable INTERNET standards);
- Directory services in accordance with X.500 [ITU-T X.500, 2005], ACP 133 and supporting emerging NMS policy;
- Support for mobile IPv4 based on IETF RFC 3344;
- Web and data services.

These enhancements to the BRASS architecture are viewed as the first steps to realizing full integration of NATO Maritime HF communication capability with the NNEC environment. These enhancements are not intended to eliminate the capabilities of BRASS Initial Core Capability from which significant assets are planned to be reused to implement BLOS AP projects.