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Delegation of the European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina

Clarification No. 2

Project Title: Support to the Police Reform Process, BiH

Publication reference: EuropeAid/ /129821/C/SUP/BA

Tender number: EC/BiH/10/018

Question 1:

In your section 10 (Annex II+III), 1.3 stands:

Server Virtualization

Server Virtualization product comparable to:

VSphere 4.1 ESXi enterprise plus or equivalent

vCenter Site Recovery Manager 4 or equivalent

Necessary licenses according to the servers offered under 2.1

- a) Why do you need Site Recovery Manager, it is only for Disaster recovery solution?
- b) Do you have free Microsoft licenses for Windows and SQL (contract with Microsoft) or this is necessary to offer?
- c) For this project in the whole document you don't mention Backup solution. Whether this is something that you did not intend to implement as part of the solution?

Answer 1:

- a) Why do you need Site Recovery Manager, it is only for Disaster recovery solution?

It is for server virtualization.

- b) Do you have free Microsoft licenses for Windows and SQL (contract with Microsoft) or this is necessary to offer?

There are no free licenses. All software offered must have a valid license.

- c) For this project in the whole document you don't mention Backup solution. Whether this is something that you did not intend to implement as part of the solution?

No back-up solution is required.

Question 2:

Refers to the Detailed Design of the systems for Electronic Data Exchange between Police Agencies and Prosecutor Offices in Bosnia and Herzegovina, General requirements, point 2 - Integration and security solutions, we would like to ask you can we consider that it is sufficient to demonstrate and prove the functionality of the requested integration and security solution with two service providers.



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Answer 2:

Yes, proof of the functionality of the requested integration and security solution is satisfactory with two service providers.

Question 3:

Refers to Specification required, Item N 22, Storage system, would you clarify which interfaces are mandatory and which are recommended.

Answer 3:

Mandatory interfaces are: Fibber Channel 8Gb/s or iSCSI.

Question 4:

Refers to Specification required, Item N 22, Storage system, we would like to ask you to clarify how we have to interpret "unlimited number of host supported without additional licenses" and "unlimited capacity (only limited by architecture itself).

Answer 4:

Storage system should not require additional licenses if new hosts or extra disks/capacity is added.

Question 5:

According to the tender procurement i.e. EuropeAid/129821/C/SUP/BA and timetable for deadline request for any clarifications from the Contracting Authority is 14th February. Is it until 14th (Monday) or it is included Monday as last day when we can send questions?

Answer 5:

Monday, 14th February 2011, is a last day for sending the clarification requests.

Question 6:

On page 5, Instruction to tenderers it is written: *Technical and Financial offers must be placed together in a sealed envelope*. Does this mean that Technical and Financial offers should be in a single binder or in separate binders, but in the same envelope?

Answer 6:

Technical and Financial offers can be put in the same or in the separate binders but they must be placed in the same envelope.

Question 7:

In tender documentation, there is a requirement saying that contractor is required to provide one year on-site warranty for all HW and SW. Furthermore, it is required from bidders to provide on-site support at least a year in production time. When it comes to SW support, is it acceptable from Contracting Authority point of view to allow the bidders to include the combined on-site/remotely support in their offer?

Answer 7:

The Minimum requirement is to provide on-site support.



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Question 8:

From document entitled: Detailed Design of the systems for Electronic Data Exchange between Police Agencies and Prosecutor Offices in Bosnia and Herzegovina: *It is expected from the contractor to create at least six (6) web services for each agency and to demonstrate capabilities of functionality described in the detailed design document.* In two other documents that are also part of the tender documentation, different numbers of web services are mentioned. In the document DRAFT CONTRACT AND SPECIAL CONDITIONS, INCLUDING ANNEXES, in the Article 1 in the specification of Lot1 – Electronic data exchange system, Item 1 – Software/Licenses is defined: *Elementary Web Services Qty: 7*

In the document INSTRUCTIONS TO TENDERERS (ITT EDE.doc), in the chapter 1 Supplies to be provided in 1.1. describing Lot 1 – Electronic data exchange system, Item 1 Software/Licenses denies as a subject of the contract: *Elementary Web Services Qty: 7*

For the purpose of a more precise cost planning, what is the total number of web services required by the tender for all agencies? If there is more than 7 elementary services, how are these web services related to the 7 elementary web services from the above documents?

Answer 8:

The total number of web services required by the tender for all agencies is 42 (7 agencies times 6 web services per agency).

7 elementary web services are actually access points (please see pg. 24 Figure 7 Architecture overview diagram), additional description of elementary web services can be found in paragraph 5.2.3 pg. 31.

Question 9:

From document entitled: Detailed Design of the systems for Electronic Data Exchange between Police Agencies and Prosecutor Offices in Bosnia and Herzegovina:

9. General requirements

4. Configuration

It is expected from the contractor to create at least six (6) web services for each agency and to demonstrate capabilities of functionality described in the detailed design document. NOTE: Due to sensitivity of data fields included in web services exact web services will be given to the successful bidder.

Could you please send us an example of one average process without exposing sensitive data fields? We need it to get a feeling about complexity of algorithms and queries in web services and mapping and transformation rules on Enterprise Service Bus.

Answer 9:

One of the web services required could be query into database of stolen cars. Required entry is VIN and answer would be yes or no. In general, web services are simple queries.

Question 10:

Will you provide the successful bidder with detailed specifications for web services (use cases, functional specifications etc), or the bidder must perform requirements and functional analysis?



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Answer 10:

Detailed specifications for web services will be provided to the successful bidder.

Question 11:

Storage interconnects with 2 servers - Does this solution consider a possibility to directly connect servers to storage without SAN switches?

Answer 11:

Yes, if it is possible to satisfy requirements described in 5.2.1 Server capabilities and 5.2.2 Storage capabilities.

Question 12:

In the document entitled: Detailed Design of the systems for Electronic Data Exchange between Police Agencies and Prosecutor Offices in Bosnia and Herzegovina, *10 ANNEX II + III: TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS + TECHNICAL OFFER*, *Server Virtualization requirement: vCenter Site Recovery Manager 4 or equivalent*. Do we need to deliver this component despite the fact that the documentation does not mention a recovery site?

Answer 12:

It is required to deliver architecture described under 5. Hardware platform architecture.

Question 13:

From the Detailed Design Document, section 5.2.3 Service Provider Capabilities: *Integration and security solution plays a critical role in this scenario. It is hardware based solution - appliances preferred - which includes Accelerator (XML and XSLT Accelerator), Security Gateway (AAA, WebService Proxy, XML Firewall, Policy Enforcement (Security and Governance), Encryption / decryption, Signature Verification) and Integration Gateway (Data transformation and protocol switching) in one box*. Is hardware acceleration a mandatory requirement despite the fact that all requirement aspects can be fulfilled without hardware accelerators?

Answer 13:

Yes.

Question 14:

What is the preferred mode of operation for the middleware running on primary and secondary (backup) server - HOT-HOT, HOT-WARM or HOT-COLD?

Answer 14:

Paragraph 5.2.1 is describing how SW should be configured and HOT-HOT or HOT-WARM are acceptable.

Question 15:

What is the maximum time required for backup server to take-over the workload of the server that failed?

Answer 15:

The design team leaves it to the bidder to propose high availability solution on application layer.



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Question 16:

Will all WSDL files (web service specification) be given to the successfully bidder immediately after the contract signing?

Answer 16:

Web service specification will be given to the successful bidder no later than 2 weeks after the contract is signed.

Question 17:

Will user authenticate against Web Service using x509 or basic auth?

Answer 17

Basic authentication is required. However, solutions should provide capabilities to implement x509 certificates in the future.

Question 18:

How many agencies are expected to have only database, from which data will be accessed via Web service (via appliance)? What are other means of exposing Web services by agencies (application servers, etc)?

Answer 18:

This will vary from agency to agency. However, the requirement is to develop six web-services in each agency.

Question 19:

Processor that meets the required is Intel X7460 running at 2.66 GHz clock, is it acceptable to offer a lower processor clock if it has equal or better performance?

Answer 19:

It is accepted to offer a processor with lower clock, if it has equal or better performance than requested. This is possible of course only if performance benchmark testing is publicly presented on the web by respectful benchmark testing laboratory. Such tests results should be included in the bid.

Question 20:

Must the solution be an appliance based on Common Criteria EAL4 CERTIFIED SOLUTION?

Answer 20:

Certification is not a must. Paragraph 5.2.3, Service Provider capabilities, is only describing minimum requirements.

Question 21:

Must the solution be upgradeable just by downloading and activating an image instead of having bundled HW, Operating System and SW?

Answer 21:

Either way is acceptable.



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Question 22:

Must the solution provide Security (Web Application and XML Firewall), AAA, Transformation, Acceleration and Service Level Management functionalities by just applying rules instead of programming?

Answer 22:

Security (Web Application and XML Firewall) – Yes, security admin should be able to add new security rules without changing code.

AAA – Yes, system admin should be able to change users authorization and recording rules without coding.

Transformation – Yes, system admin should be able to add message transformation without coding.

Acceleration – No.

Service Level Management functionalities – Yes.

Question 23:

In the Supply Procurement Notice, page 2, article 8, the Eligibility and rules of origin (for goods and services) are specified - One of the eligible countries is Bosnia and Herzegovina, where the tender is published and where the goods and services will be delivered. The Foreign Trade Chamber of Bosnia and Herzegovina /Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina (based on the document submitted by the supplier) is authorized and may issue the certificate of (Bosnian) origin of goods. Could you please confirm if the certificate of origin, issued by the above mentioned entities is acceptable as a valid proof of origin for this tender, or otherwise please specify which (other) document is considered as a valid proof of origin for goods originated from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Answer 23:

Certificate of origin issued by authorized institution(s) of the country in question will be accepted as valid proof of origin of the goods.

Question 24:

In regards to the document „Detailed Design of the systems“, Chapter 5, section 5.2.3 Service Provider capabilities, could you please provide us detailed hardware specification for appliances?

Answer 24:

Hardware specification for equipment located at agencies premises has been intentionally left to bidder to decide in order to increase competition; software specification has been given under item 1.2 Elementary Web Services.

Question 25:

According to the “Detailed Design of the systems“, Chapter 9, section 4 Configuration, what information will be provided regarding web services (XSD files or technical specification)?

“3.4 Service Provider Tier

*In an ideal case, external organization will expose its web services **according to some predefined web service specification**, described by WSDL. It will then register this service to the SRR, which is a part of a solution and is positioned at the central point.*



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It is assumed, that not all external organizations will expose their own web services, but will at least provide a database, which could be transformed into service provider and participate in a service oriented architecture.

4. Configuration

It is expected from the contractor to create at least six (6) web services for each agency and to demonstrate capabilities of functionality described in the detailed design document.

*NOTE: Due to sensitivity of data fields included in web services **exact web services will be given to the successful bidder**. Project configuration shall be completed within six month after the contract is signed."*

Answer 25:

Technical specification will be provided. Data owners will take active role in working with contractor to create required web services.

Question 26:

- a) Who is responsible for Certify Authority, to provide certificates?
- b) Who is responsible for certificate specification?

Answer 26:

This question is not clear, however, if any certificates are required they will be created internally.

Question 27:

According to the requirements given in the „Supply Procurement Notice“ and „Detailed design of systems“, there are some inconsistencies. Please elaborate following:

In the document „Supply Procurement Notice“, under the 6. point, it states:

“Description of the contract

*Implementation of an electronic data exchange system utilizing web services for police agencies and prosecutors offices. The design of the electronic data exchange will be based on Service Oriented Architecture. The system shall consist of a highly available and scalable Web service registry (Central Point) and web services definition at the agencies premises (Edge Points). **The Central Point is responsible to host web services and broker requests and consolidate responses, while recording information about data request as and data responses without accessing payload of the messages. At the same time the Central point should allow Web services calls only to authorized work stations at the service requestor side. The service requestor should have detailed log of web services calls. The Edge Point is responsible to authorize the request coming from the Central Point and provide response if available.***

There are inconsistencies between the description above and the descriptions in the document “Detailed Design of the systems“, so we have next questions:

- a. *“The Central Point is responsible to host web services” – Aren’t Service Providers (in this case – Edge Points) in charge for hosting of web services?*

Answer 27 a:

Service Providers (in this case – Edge Points) are in charge for hosting of web services, however the Central Point is responsible to host Web service registry.



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- b. “At the same time the Central point should allow Web services calls only to authorized work stations at the service requestor side” – Who is responsible for the authorization, Central Point or Service Provider?

Answer 27 b:

Central point should allow Web services calls only from authorized work stations, final user based authorization is done at Service Provider side.

But, according to the document Detailed Design of the systems:

“7.3 Identification and authentication

The Central point is not responsible for individual user identification and authentication. If this will be required at the service provider side, than the appliance (on the service provider side) has to exchange security information with the provided user registry and authenticate the user using username and password from the message header.

Answer 27 c:

Please do not mix authorization with identification and authentication, however, your statement ...” than the appliance (on the service provider side) has to exchange security information with the provided user registry and authenticate the user using username and password from the message header.” is correct if required by web service definition.

7.4 Authorization

The Central point is not responsible for individual user authorization. If this will be required, the service provider side device has to exchange security information with the provided user registry and authorize the user based on credentials, stored in the user registry from the service provider.

Answer 27 d:

Your statement is correct, but it is not required.

7.5 Access Control

The Central point is not responsible to authorize access to web services on a per user basis. The access to the Central point will be restricted to trusted IP addresses with access to the Central point trough VPN and the state owned SDH network.

- a) “The service requestor should have detailed log of web services calls” – Who is responsible for logging, Service Requestor or Central Point?

Answer 27 e:

Central Point is required for logging.

But, according to the document “Detailed Design of the systems“, Central Point is responsible:

“3.3.1 Web Application and Logging database

Web application and logging database are used to log all requests without entering in to payload of the requests and response. Logging database should record information about requester and Web service that has been requested, date and time stamps should be recorded also. If there is response information about it should be recorded as well.



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Initial retention time of log data has to be 36 months. Consultation of data protection authority (AZLP) is pending and decision will specify final data retention time.”

Answer 27 f:

Your statement is correct.

Question 28:

In the document „Instruction to tenderers“, Chapter 11 Content of tenders, Part 1:Technical Offer, what is meant by „a detailed description of how the web-services will be set-up”.

- a) Does this relates to development/implementation of web services? If No, please elaborate.
- b) Does „set-up“ include installation, integration, configuration and testing?

Answer 28:

- a) **Yes, this relates to development/implementation of web services.**
- b) **No**

Question 29:

In general, it is not clear how Technical Offer should look like.

As we understood, according to the Annex II+III it should look this:

- 1. Rationale
- 2. Strategy
- 3. Timetable of activities
- 4. Log Frame
- 5. Technical Specification (table provided in Annex II).

- a) Is this the expected technical offer layout? If No, please provide the correct layout.
- b) Please, could you explain to us your expectations for the „Log frame“ chapter. What level of details is expected?

Answer 29:

Please note that this is a Supply Tender procedure. For outline of the Technical offer please refer to Article 11 of the Instruction to Tenderers, Content of Tender, Part I – Technical offer

Question 30:

In the document „Annex III (Organization and Methodology)“, Chapter 3 (Timetable of activities), it stands: „*The expected number of working days required from each category of expert each month during the period of execution of the contract (using the Excel spreadsheet linked to the Budget breakdown).*” In the template „Budget breakdown“ there are no any linked excel spreadsheets. Please, could you provide us particular spreadsheet?

Answer 30:

Please note that this is a Supply Tender procedure. Annex III (Organization and Methodology) and Annex V (Budget breakdown) are annexes used in the Service Tender



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procedure. Please follow the Instructions to Tenderers and Annexes published for this tender procedure.

Question 31:

According to the document „Detailed design of the systems“ section 5.2.3, „*It is hardware based solution - appliances preferred*“. Why are the elementary web services listed in the Software licences section (Annex II - table item 1.2 and Budget breakdown - table item 1.2)?

Answer 31:

Hardware specification for equipment located at agencies premises has been intentionally left to bidder to decide in order to increase competition; software specification has been given under item 1.2 Elementary Web Services.

Question 32:

According to calculation done by the information provided in the document „Instruction to Tenderers“ chapter 21.4, the total cost of 7 additional access points cannot exceed more than 25% of the tender price. Is this correct? Please elaborate.

Answer 32:

At the time of contracting, whatever change in quantities of equipment purchased can not result in an increase (or decrease) of the contract value of more than 25% of the tender price.

Question 33:

In „Budget breakdown“ document, what is included in the unit costs for „Additional Access Point“ (hardware, development/implementation, etc.)?

Answer 33:

The unit cost is the cost for a completely functioning access point.

Question 34:

In virtual environment at premises of agencies, would a dedicated processor or processor core be considered as hardware acceleration for xml and other listed protocols? This processor or processor core will be used for this purpose.

Answer 34:

Yes. However, we do not understand why you called this “virtual environment.”

Question 35:

Question is related with item No. 2.5. Firewall type A Central Point:

When you request Total 10/100/1000Mbps interface or 10/100/1000Mbps in any combination – min 15, are the 10000Mbps interfaces mandatory, or we can offer devices with 10/100/1000Mbps ports in quantity more than 15, and without 10/100/1000/10000Mbps ports?



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Answer 35:

Minimum requirement is 15 interfaces 10/100/1000Mbps in any combination.

Question 36:

Annex II + 111: Technical specifications + technical offer, Item No, 2.5. and Item No. 2.6. The technical requirement described unique models. We have contacted four major vendors/manufacturers of network equipment and on the basis of information received follow that the specified equipment can offer only one manufacturer? That manufacturer has confirmed that the specified equipment is not produced in the European Union nor in the countries eligible for this project.

To allow bidders to offer the specified equipment, please exclude these items from the rules of origin, or please change the technical specification for these particular items.

Answer 36:

All items must respect the rule of origin of the procedure. For details please check point 8 of the procurement notice.

Question 37:

Annex II + III: Technical specifications + technical offer, Item No. 2.3.

Technical specifications Item No, 2.3. has specified a device that can offer only one vendor/manufacturer. At the same time so specified device determines the choice of virtualization infrastructure because it is specifically designed for only one virtualization platform. These requirements prevent a fair and active competition, and all other bidders have put in an unfavorable position? Please amend the tender documents with a goal to secure an active and fair competition.

Answer 37:

Technical specifications of Item No, 2.3. have been reduced to Virtual network switch: Certified to be compatible with Virtualization SW offered under item 1.3. Please see corrigendum #2.

Question 38:

Detailed Design ElectronicDataExchange - 5.2.3. Service Provider capabilities

Under the tender document Detailed Design ElectronicDataExchange - 5.2.3, Service Provider capabilities, integration and security solution, is expressly required hardware based solution - appliances preferred. This requirement not only that prevents a fair and active competition; it prejudices the solution of one of the vendor and also prevents all bidders to offer software based solution with the same functionalities?

Please to amend the tender documents with a goal to secure an active and fair competition.

Answer 38:

Agencies that will participate in data exchange are on different levels of ICT maturity, and some of them cannot afford yet another system to support.

No limits on the HW to be used for appliance are set. It is possible for all bidders to integrate SW and HW in appliance, therefore a SW based solution is acceptable if it fulfills all functional requirements.



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Question 39:

Annex II + Hi: Technical specifications + technical offer, Item No 1.1.

Please give us further explanation what is meant by the request that "The Central Point Service can be implemented with unrestricted numbers of virtual servers."

Answer 39:

There should not be any licensing restriction if there is a need in the future to create additional virtual servers on delivered hardware.

Question 40:

FC hard drives are usually specified as: 10K rpm or 15K rpm. 4Gb/s Single or Dual Port (dual-port makes it 8Gb/s total). Since performance is your main concern, is it acceptable to offer hard drives of equivalent or higher specification?

Answer 40

It is accepted to offer hard drives of equivalent or higher specification, if it has equal or better performance than requested. This is possible of course only if performance benchmark testing is publicly presented on the web by respectful benchmark testing laboratory. Such tests results should be included in the bid.

Question 41:

In technical documentation, item No. 2.1., since the 4-processor server systems are based on Intel platforms providing models 4C processors with maximum 1.86 GHz. whether the same can be applied in the configuration?

Answer 41:

It is accepted to offer a processor with lower clock, if it has equal or better performance than requested. This is possible of course only if performance benchmark testing is publicly presented on the web by respectful benchmark testing laboratory. Such tests results should be included in the bid.

Question 42:

If the bidder is a consortium, do all members of the consortium should meet the demands on the financial criteria: Total annual turnover for each of last 3 years must exceed the financial proposal offered under this tender?

Answer 42:

If the tender is being submitted by a consortium, the data in the Financial data of the Tender submission form table must be the sum of the data in the corresponding tables in the declarations provided by the consortium members. The Consortium as a whole has to satisfy the financial capacity criterion.

Question 43:

What if all elements of offer cannot meet criteria for country of origin (Is it acceptable some percentage of total value outside from requested country of origin)?



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Answer 43:

All items must respect the rule of origin of the procedure. For details please check point 8 of the procurement notice.

Question 44:

Could you clarify general requirements?

- a) Proof of concept (within one month after the contract is signed) Could you explain in more details architecture of the example which contractor needs to deliver within first month?
- b) Integration and security solution (within three months from the start of the project) Will you provide specific tasks that need to be accomplished in order to demonstrate and prove system functionality?
- c) System Test and Training. Should we include time necessary for these tasks executions in the overall estimate?

Answer 44:

a) Within one month - Proof of concept – architecture can be as simple as contractor could deliver to demonstrate all functionalities required; there is no need to use real data or users for proof of concept.

b) Within three months – integration and security solution – system has to be up and running in at least two agencies and in central location. Exchange of real data using real web services should be possible.

c) Yes, see articles 13 and 19 of the special conditions.

Question 45:

The existing databases located in the Agencies have different implementations (MS SQL, DB2, Oracle). Are these databases similar in structure/schema or they are totally different?

Answer 45:

They are similar in structure/schema.

Question 46:

Should web services/data adapters publish a unified interface?

Answer 46:

Question is not clear, however, the interface requirements are in section 2 of the technical specifications.

Question 47:

We suppose that web services/data adapters should be located within the infrastructure of particular Agency. Who determines where the web services should be placed within the agency infrastructure (on the server with the database, on the different existing server, etc.)?

Answer 47:

It should be in the appliance delivered by contractor.

Question 48:

The software of Database Server isn't included in the tender requirements. 'Is contractor free to choose DB Server based on his own experience?



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Answer 48:

Yes.

Question 49:

What exactly should be placed on two required server on the Central Point? Do they have identical configuration (for example, in the case of failover and load balancing)? Where should be located the Central Point's database?

Answer 49:

The server configuration is described under 5.2.1 of the Technical Specification. There is no database in central services, only logs information.

Question 50:

Could you provide us with the example when web service may serve as both service requestor and service provider?

Answer 50:

Agency can serve as both service requestor and service provider, not a web service.

Question 51:

"MTOM / SwA (suggestion for future exchange of binary attachments)" - Requirement or suggestion?!

Answer 51:

Requirement.

Question 52:

Could you please confirm that establishment of any secure web services based information system in the past three years will be considered as a valid reference satisfying the selection criteria 3 asking for the establishment of an information exchange system including integration and security of web services messaging in the past three years. Also, could you please specify what you consider to be substantiated evidence?

Answer 52:

It can not be confirmed since the requirement is for the tenderer to have successfully completed at least one contract for the establishment of an information exchange system including integration and security of web service messaging in the past three years. Employers (client) confirmation letter, showing dates, value and scope of the assignment, is considered substantiated evidence.

Question 53:

We have found all of documents stated inside of your letter of invitation (attached in this letter) to be the part of the tender dossier except the ANEX III (TECHNICAL OFFER) stated under section B. inside of the mentioned letter of invitation. Since there stays in the brackets: "to be tailored to the specific contract" does this mean that we need to ask from you for this ANEX III or someone else or it is in the tender dossier after all but under a different name? Since there are a lot of documents we kindly ask you to clarify this.



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Answer 53:

The Annex III (Technical offer) is part of the document called Detailed design. For outline of the Technical offer please refer to Article 11 of the Instruction to Tenderers, Content of Tender, Part I – Technical offer.

Question 54:

After researching EU market and market of countries candidates, we came to conclusion that items 1.3, 2.3, 2.5 and 2.6 are not produced by any manufacturer who is capable of issuing EUR1 certificate for EU or country candidate origin. Is it possible to offer these items as items with other origin than EU or country candidate?

Answer 54:

All items must respect the rule of origin of the procedure. For details please check point 8 of the procurement notice. EUR 1 document is not necessary. A certificate of origin issued by authorized institutions however is.

Question 55:

Pg. 31, ch. [5.2.3](#): Please provide more information on the required functionality of hardware based integration solution as defined in the chapter 5.2.3. Please provide more information on "appliances", and "accelerator"

Answer 55:

All relevant requirements are laid down in section 5.2.3

Question 56:

Pg. 40, ch. 9: It is stated that 6 services per agency should be created, for a total of 7 agencies, i.e. in the scope of this proposal a total of 42 services have to be delivered. Services for further agencies, following information that there are 7-20 agencies on pg. 24, ch. 3.1.2., is out of scope according to Annex II+III. Please provide confirmation and/or clarification.

Answer 56:

Number of 7-20 agencies is used only to size the system. From the contracting party is expected to deliver only to these 7.

Question 57:

Annex II+III: Please provide more information on the systems and technologies in use in the seven agencies, e.g. do all systems in the agencies differ, or they use the same solution (installed on their respective locations)? How many systems are there in each agency (or provide an average per agency)?

Answer 57:

All systems in the agencies differ.

Question 58:

In ANNEX II + III: TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS + TECHNICAL OFFER; item 2.1: Can you confirm that „extend" in specification means to be able to upgrade to 8 or more core processors?

Answer 58:

It should state in point 2.1: "ability to extend to 8 4-core processors". Please see corrigendum #2.



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Question 59:

In ANNEX II + III: TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS + TECHNICAL OFFER; items:

- 1.3
- 2.3
- 2.5
- 2.6

are impossible to obtain in any of EU countries with EURI certificate. Would equipment from another country of origin be accepted?

Answer 59:

All items must respect the rule of origin of the procedure. For details please check point 8 of the procurement notice. EUR 1 document is not necessary. A certificate of origin issued by authorized institutions however is.

Question 60:

In ANNEX II + III: TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS + TECHNICAL OFFER; item 1.2:

Can separate processor in VMware environment, dedicated to encryption of XML and SOAP protocols, be considered as hardware encryption requested in design document on page 31?

Answer 60:

Yes, if it can be demonstrated that it is dedicated to encryption of XML and SOAP protocols.

Question 61:

Page 43, specification table (chapter 10. ANNEX II + III: TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS + TECHNICAL OFFER), item 1.2. Elementary Web Services

Can you please explain compliance (evaluation) criteria for Elementary Web Services solution, i.e. is solution based on standard hardware server with standard software compliant or not?

Rational: Detailed Design Document contains two specifications for Elementary Web Services solution.

First specification is very open and allow different solutions to be offered (see inline reference for **Elementary Web Services**).

Second specification restricts solutions **ONLY TO SPECIAL DEVICE** (see reference for question 2):

- It is hardware based solution - appliances preferred ...
- Provide hardware based XML acceleration for SOAP message parsing
- Provide hardware based XML encryption and XML signature

Please notice that having requirements as specified in ***Detailed Design Document***, you will restrict solution for this only to few hardware vendors who are producing this special device (IBM, Intel), thus dramatically reducing competitiveness and number of possible solutions to one or two solutions.

Answer 61:



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Evaluation is conducted by comparing the specifications of the proposed products with the minimum requirements laid down in the Tender Dossier.

Your statement is not true. There are other vendors producing this special device.

Question 62:

Page 31, section 5.2.3 Service Provider capabilities

Why do you prefer hardware based solution if there are many other solutions on the market working equally or better than this special appliance?

Rational: Please notice that by favouring hardware based solution/appliance specified like in **Detailed Design Document** (see inline reference) you are becoming the hostage of your own requirement - solution is locked-in to specific hardware vendor, solution depends on appliance development roadmap, and therefore it is very inflexible. Having specification like it is **(hardware based solution, hardware based XML acceleration, encryption/decryption, and XML signature)** you are eliminating all solutions which could be based on standard hardware with standard software able to support Web Services and XML processing, AAA, support for PKI, support for integration with Service Registry and Repository. No mention that these solutions are more flexible (can be programmatically changed), they are less expensive, there is very large number of software vendors producing these solutions, and Open Source community and solutions are not excluded.

Answer 62:

Agencies that will participate in data exchange are on different levels of ICT maturity, and some of them cannot afford yet another system to support.

No limits on the HW to be used for appliance are set. It is possible for all bidders to integrate SW and HW in appliance, therefore a SW based solution is acceptable if it fulfills all functional requirements.

Question 63:

Page 43, specification table (chapter 10.ANNEX II + III: TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS + TECHNICAL OFFER), item 1.2. Elementary Web Services

How do you plan to compare solution for Elementary Web Services based on XML appliance against solution based standard hardware servers and standard software?

Is this metric based on exact parameters like:

- Number of processing requests per Hour
- Number of available Web Services
- Number of End Points
- Number of concurrent users

or you don't have comparison metric?

Rational: There are many vendors who have specified functionality at a software level, including many add-on features hardware based appliance does not have (users cannot add additional business logic programmatically).

Answer 63:

Evaluation is conducted by comparing the specifications of the proposed products with the minimum requirements laid down in the Tender Dossier.



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Question 64:

Page 44, specification table (in chapter 10.ANNEX II + III: TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS + TECHNICAL OFFER), item 2.1. Servers

In order to understand your demands for very large hardware platform (please see inline reference), can you please provide us with answer what is the methodology you used for hardware capacity planning or you did it without sizing tools and methods?

Answer 64:

Such hardware platform is required to accommodate future extension of the system

Question 65:

Page 24, section 3.1.1 Central Point Service (Enterprise Service Bus and WS Repository)

If potential supplier can prove that required capacity (please see inline reference) can be achieved on smaller hardware platform, would you accept that solution?

Rational: It is obvious that hardware platform is oversized and it will be not utilized more than 10%.

Answer 65:

No.

Question 66:

Page 43, specification table (in chapter 10.ANNEX II + III: TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS + TECHNICAL OFFER), item 1.3. - Server Virtualization

Can you please name any virtualization platform other than VMWare which has products comparable to these two products from VMWare?

Rational: Please notice that having requirements as specified in reference (see inline reference) you will restrict solution only to VMWare reducing competitiveness and number of possible solutions only to one vendor - VMWare, even there is many other virtualization solutions and vendors on the market:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_platform_virtual_machines.

Answer 66:

Please see corrigendum #2.

Question 67:

Page 45, specification table (in chapter 10.ANNEX II + III: TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS + TECHNICAL OFFER), item 2.3. - Network devices

Can you please any other product able to satisfy requirements you specified other than Cisco Nexus 1000V?

Rational: There is only one device able to support this specification (see inline reference). It is Cisco Nexus 1000V. With specification for virtualization platform as like it in reference for **Server Virtualization**, you will not only restrict solution for virtualization platform to single vendor – VMWare, but also for one vendor and one product for Network Distributed Switch to Cisco Nexus 1000V.

Answer 67:

Please see corrigendum #2.



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Question 68.

In Chapter 3.1.1 Central Point Service (Enterprise Service Bus and WS Repository) on page 24., implementation of unlimited number of virtual servers is required. Please clarify, weather unlimited number refers to the virtual server licensing policy or actual number of virtual servers that have to be implemented.

Answer 68:

Unlimited number refers to the virtual server licensing policy.

Question 69.

In Chapter 5.2.3. Service provider capabilities (page 31.), a hardware based solution for Integration and security is required. Detailed specification of such hardware is missing from technical specification in Annex II. Please provide technical specification for the required hardware device.

Answer 69:

Hardware specification for equipment located at agencies premises has been intentionally left for the bidder to decide in order to increase competition; software specification has been given under item 1.2 Elementary Web Services.

Question 70.

Chapter 3.4 Service provider Tier (page 26.) – For organizations that do not provide external web service, whose responsibility (and required effort) is to transform a database into service provider to participate in a service oriented architecture?

Answer 70:

The contractor is responsible to deliver 6 web services per agency.

Question 71.

Chapter 3.4 Service provider Tier (page 26.) – Will the provided web services be heterogeneous or based on the same scheme?

Answer 71:

Most of web services will be based on same scheme.

Question 72.

Chapter 3.3.2. Central point service (page 25). What is the approximate number of message exchange scenarios that central point service will have to handle?

Answer 72:

Between 6 and 10