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**Germany-Frankfurt am Main: Performance of the External Examinations of the TARGET Services
2023/S 002-002372**

Contract notice

Services

Legal Basis:

Directive 2014/24/EU

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Official name: European Central Bank
Postal address: Sonnemannstrasse 22
Town: Frankfurt am Main
NUTS code: DE712 Frankfurt am Main, Kreisfreie Stadt
Postal code: 60314
Country: Germany
Contact person: Central Procurement Office
E-mail: procurement@ecb.europa.eu
Telephone: +49 69/13440
Fax: +49 69/13447110

Internet address(es):

Main address: <http://www.ecb.europa.eu>

I.3) Communication

The procurement documents are available for unrestricted and full direct access, free of charge, at: <http://www.ecb.europa.eu/ecb/jobsproc/sourcing/html/index.en.html>
Additional information can be obtained from the abovementioned address
Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted electronically via: <http://www.ecb.europa.eu/ecb/jobsproc/sourcing/html/index.en.html>
Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted to the abovementioned address

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

European institution/agency or international organisation

I.5) Main activity

Economic and financial affairs

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title:

Performance of the External Examinations of the TARGET Services
Reference number: PRO-006288

II.1.2) Main CPV code

79200000 Accounting, auditing and fiscal services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) **Short description:**

The European Central Bank (ECB) is seeking through this call for applications suitable candidates that will be invited to participate in the negotiated procedure and to submit a tender for the provision of the examinations of the TARGET services as external examiner.

II.1.5) **Estimated total value**

Value excluding VAT: 4 000 000.00 EUR

II.1.6) **Information about lots**

This contract is divided into lots: no

II.2) **Description**

II.2.2) **Additional CPV code(s)**

79400000 Business and management consultancy and related services

72800000 Computer audit and testing services

II.2.3) **Place of performance**

NUTS code: DE712 Frankfurt am Main, Kreisfreie Stadt

Main site or place of performance:

The services will be performed both remotely at the external examiner's premises and on target services sites (see call for applications for more information).

II.2.4) **Description of the procurement:**

The European Central Bank (ECB) is seeking a supplier for the performance of external examinations of the target services, with a focus on the TARGET services shared components and the T2S specific components. The term 'TARGET services' encompasses TARGET2; TARGET2-Securities(T2S), TARGET Instant Payment Settlement (TIPS), as well as any other TARGET service/system that might go live during the lifespan of the Contract.

The scope of the examinations shall be limited to the provision of TARGET services or directly related activities. The services are expected to comprise the financial years 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026. The successful tenderer is expected to perform the annual regular examinations, starting with the hand-over from the previous examiner during 2023 and subsequent the yearly examination of financial year ('FY') 2023 that will take place in 2024.

The FY 2023 examination will focus on the TARGET services shared components and on the T2S specific components. Optionally, the ECB may require the external examiner to also perform regular examinations of the T2 and/or TIPS Specific components within the duration of the contract.

The external examiner shall perform the services in accordance with internationally recognised audit standards such as the International Standard on Assurance Engagements (ISAE) No. 3402, 'Assurance Reports on Controls at a Service Organization', which was issued in June 2011 by the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB), which is part of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC). ISAE 3402 prescribes service organization control (SOC) reports, which help give assurance to the organisation's customers and service users. There are two kinds of SOC reports:

- SOC1 Type I report: documents a 'snapshot' of the organisation's controls;
- SOC2 Type II report: documenting over a period of time showing how effectively controls have been managed over time.

The Services will be performed both remotely at the external examiner's premises and on TARGET services sites. On site examination visits are expected to take place at the ECB's premises in Frankfurt, as well as at the premises of the four Central Banks operating TARGET services, namely Banca d'Italia, Banco de España, Banque de France and Deutsche Bundesbank (4CB).

The outcome of the external examination, especially the management letter, the detailed report, and any recommendation put forward by the external examiner, shall be produced in English. However, the on-site

examination visits should be carried out by staff of the external examiner speaking fluently English (for ECB visits), or the local language of the four Central Banks operating T2S.

II.2.5) **Award criteria**

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

II.2.6) **Estimated value**

Value excluding VAT: 4 000 000.00 EUR

II.2.7) **Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system**

Duration in months: 48

This contract is subject to renewal: no

II.2.9) **Information about the limits on the number of candidates to be invited**

Envisaged number of candidates: 3

Objective criteria for choosing the limited number of candidates:

The selection/shortlisting criteria are stated in the procurement documents (see call for applications for more information).

II.2.10) **Information about variants**

Variants will be accepted: no

II.2.11) **Information about options**

Options: no

II.2.13) **Information about European Union funds**

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: no

II.2.14) **Additional information**

Section III: Legal, economic, financial and technical information

III.1) **Conditions for participation**

III.1.1) **Suitability to pursue the professional activity, including requirements relating to enrolment on professional or trade registers**

List and brief description of conditions:

As stated in the procurement documents (see call for applications for more information).

III.1.2) **Economic and financial standing**

Selection criteria as stated in the procurement documents

III.1.3) **Technical and professional ability**

Selection criteria as stated in the procurement documents

III.2) **Conditions related to the contract**

III.2.3) **Information about staff responsible for the performance of the contract**

Obligation to indicate the names and professional qualifications of the staff assigned to performing the contract

Section IV: Procedure

IV.1) **Description**

IV.1.1) **Type of procedure**

Competitive procedure with negotiation

IV.1.3) **Information about a framework agreement or a dynamic purchasing system**

The procurement involves the establishment of a framework agreement

Framework agreement with a single operator

IV.1.4) **Information about reduction of the number of solutions or tenders during negotiation or dialogue**

Recourse to staged procedure to gradually reduce the number of solutions to be discussed or tenders to be negotiated

IV.1.5) **Information about negotiation**

The contracting authority reserves the right to award the contract on the basis of the initial tenders without conducting negotiations

IV.1.8) **Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)**

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: no

IV.2) **Administrative information**

IV.2.2) **Time limit for receipt of tenders or requests to participate**

Date: 30/01/2023

Local time: 12:00

IV.2.3) **Estimated date of dispatch of invitations to tender or to participate to selected candidates**

Date: 28/02/2023

IV.2.4) **Languages in which tenders or requests to participate may be submitted:**

English

IV.2.6) **Minimum time frame during which the tenderer must maintain the tender**

Duration in months: 6 (from the date stated for receipt of tender)

Section VI: Complementary information

VI.1) **Information about recurrence**

This is a recurrent procurement: yes

Estimated timing for further notices to be published:

Every 4 years.

VI.2) **Information about electronic workflows**

Electronic invoicing will be accepted

VI.3) **Additional information:**

The total aggregate value of the orders to be issued under the framework agreement (under all lots-if applicable) shall not exceed EUR 5 000 000.

This tender procedure is conducted via the ECB's electronic tendering system (e-tendering) which can be accessed via the following internet address:

<http://www.ecb.europa.eu/ecb/jobsproc/sourcing/html/index.en.html>

If you have not used the ECB's electronic tendering system before, you need to register via the above link (click on 'Register'). Subsequently to the registration, you will receive an automated notification with your user credentials to log in (click on 'Login') and to access the tender documentation. Please note that:

— A registration to the above system is only required once and you can reuse your user credentials in all future procedures of the ECB which are conducted via the above system. Therefore, please keep your user credentials for the future;

— In case you should have participated in previous ECB tender procedure(s) in the past which were conducted via the ECB's prior online system, you nevertheless need to register once to the ECB's electronic tendering system under the above address;

— Your mere registration does not constitute an application/tender. You must submit your application/tender via the ECB's electronic tendering system as further instructed in the application/tender documentation.

The system reference number for the above procurement is: RFX-PT-2022-000096: PRO-006288-R1-T2S

External examiner

To download the tender documents, log on to the ECB's electronic tendering system with your login and password. Expand the field 'Public Tenders – Upcoming Events'. Click on 'Click to request an invitation to this event' for the above procedure and close the new window which opens. Once the request is completed (this can take a few minutes), the status of the participation request will change to 'Invited' and the RFX documentation will be accessible via the RFX tab.

Under the above link you also find user guides for detailed information on how to use the system and contact details for technical support.

Should you require technical help when using the system, please contact the ECB's technical support .team at sourcing.support@ecb.europa.eu by quoting the reference number and the problem experienced.

Any other queries relating to this procurement procedure and the content of the procurement documentation shall be submitted as message via the ECB's e-tendering system (under the tab 'Discussion').

The ECB endeavours to answer all queries as quickly as possible but cannot guarantee a minimum time response. The ECB shall not be bound to reply to queries received less than seven calendar days before the time-limit for the submission of tenders.

The tender procedure shall be open on equal terms to all natural or legal persons resident or located in the European Union and to all natural and legal persons resident or located in a country which has ratified the World Trade Organisation Agreement on Government Procurement or has concluded with the European Union a bilateral agreement on procurement under the conditions laid down in the said agreements.

The tender procedure is conducted in accordance with Decision ECB/2016/2 laying down the rules on procurement (as amended), available at

<https://www.ecb.europa.eu/ecb/legal/1001/procurement/html/index.en.html>

And in EUR-Lex:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:02016D0002-20200501>.

VI.4) **Procedures for review**

VI.4.1) **Review body**

Official name: Procurement Review Body of the European Central Bank, c/o Legal Advice Team
Postal address: Sonnemannstrasse 22
Town: Frankfurt am Main
Postal code: 60314
Country: Germany
E-mail: LegalServices@ecb.europa.eu
Telephone: +49 6913440
Fax: +352 4302100
Internet address: <http://www.ecb.europa.eu>

VI.4.2) **Body responsible for mediation procedures**

Official name: The European Ombudsman
Postal address: 1 avenue du Président Robert Schuman, CS 30403
Town: Strasbourg Cedex
Postal code: 67001
Country: France

VI.4.3) **Review procedure**

Precise information on deadline(s) for review procedures:

Within 10 days of receipt of the notification in accordance with Article 34(1) or the first sentence of Article 34(3) of Decision ECB/2016/2 laying down the rules on procurement, as amended. Further requirements are outlined in Article 39 of this Decision. A complaint to the European Ombudsman does not affect the deadline for lodging appeals.

VI.4.4) **Service from which information about the review procedure may be obtained**

Official name: Central Procurement Office of the European Central Bank c/o Legal Advice Team
Postal address: Sonnemannstrasse 22
Town: Frankfurt am Main
Postal code: 60314
Country: Germany
E-mail: procurement@ecb.europa.eu
Telephone: +49 6913440
Fax: +49 6913447110
Internet address: <http://www.ecb.europa.eu>

VI.5) **Date of dispatch of this notice:**

22/12/2022