Q&A to ICB 01-2023 – status as of 22.02.2023

Q1
Can HQ MNC NE please confirm the Bidders understanding that the satellite segment (Ku-band) purchased must originate, be operated and controlled from a company registered in a NATO country?

A1

Yes the segment must originate, be operated and controlled from a company registered in a NATO country.

Q2
Is it correctly understood that the Bidder must have access to, and be a provider of, UHF TACSAT 25kHz channels, to be compliant?

A2

Yes, but only on request, not in Phase I.

Q3

With reference to Enclosure 5 Part I, No. 2 "Upgrade and maintenance of VSAT stations". May the level/type and frequency of VSAT station maintenance be defined in more detail?

A3

Once a year technical inspection, assistance with identifying malfunctions, support by phone. Upgrade of the devices only if needed to achieve higher speeds listed in contract for higher phases or current equipment do not have necessary technical capabilities

Maintenance and potential upgrade will be only applicable to:
a)    MNC NE (Szczecin) static central station:
-    3,7 m Andrew antenna;
-    Ku Band OMT;
-    LNB - PLL 1109HC (10,95 – 11,7 GHz);
-    Ku Band RF system 20 W;
-    3 x SCPC/VSAT L-Band Satellite Modem: Datum PSM-4900L with V.35 interface.
b)    Remote Station A (on a trailer):
-    2,4 m Vertex antenna;
-    Ku Band OMT;
-    LNB - PLL 1109HC (10,95 – 11,7 GHz);
-    Ku Band RF system 8 W;
-    2 x SCPC/VSAT L-Band Satellite Modem: Datum PSM-4900L with V.35 interface.
c)    Remote Station B (transportable ground station):
-    2,4 m Prodelin antenna;
-    Ku Band OMT;
-    LNB - PLL 1109HC (10,95 – 11,7 GHz);
-    Ku Band RF system 8 W;
-    2 x SCPC/VSAT L-Band Satellite Modem: Datum PSM-4900L with V.35 interface.
Terminals should be able to work on provided satellite segment both in SCPC and TDMA modes.

And the setup have to be compatible and able to cooperate with:

VSAT terminals (Portable/Transportable Satellite Terminal PPTS-1.8v2) provided by HQ MNC NE Command Support Brigade (CSB):
-    2,4 m antenna, gain: 47.0 – 49.0 dBi;
-    Ku Band; Rx: 10.950 – 12.750 GHz, Tx: 13.750 – 14.500 GHz ;
-    LNB – 3 types: NORSAT HS1057CN/LO 10GHz, 1107HAN/LO 10.75GHz, 1507HBN/LO 11.3GHz
PPTS-1.8v2 terminals should be able to work on provided satellite segment both in SCPC and TDMA modes.

Q4

In technical specifications (PART III) in Phase II the Contracting Party requires possibility of significantly extending the band in use.

*Question:*

Due to the inability to determine the availability of the required band at the tender stage, will the Ordering Party accept a possible change during the implementation of Phase II frequency, LNB sub-band, polarization or even a satellite?

(The purpose of this would be to provide the Contracting Party with frequencies in one segment, which would allow free modeling of the satellite system)

A4

YES, provided that this information (which satellite in Phase II) is known at the time of signing of the contract; should be specified in the bid.

Q5

In the technical specifications (PART III) point 1 there are some limitations in the possibilities of the offered band. This applies to antennas with LNB only in the lower operating range (10.95-11.7 GHz).

*Question:*

Will the Contracting Party also accept the band supplied in the upper LNB operating range 12.2-12.75 GHz, provided that the Contractor provides the appropriate device free of charge under the contract?

A5

YES, provided that the solution is included in the bid and device is delivered at the time of signing the contract.

Q6

In the technical specification (PART III), the Contracting Party requires in point 4 the delivery and configuration of 12 Iridium 9575 Extreme satellite telephones with a 24-month warranty. On the other hand, in point 7a, the Contracting Party specifies the deadline for providing services for terminals and satellite telephones for a period of 36 months without including these telephones.

*Question:*

Does the Contracting Party expect form the Contractor to provide also the service for delivered new Iridium 9575 terminals for a period of 36 months as for other devices?

A6

We currently have 8 iridium phones and we want to expand our capabilities by acquiring 12 more. The services would cover all telephones (20 units) and Explorer 710 terminals (6 units) – the telephones are included in para 3 (“..+12 new…”) to which point 7a refers to.

Q7

In the technical specification (PART III) item 7, the Ordering Party requires the provision of service for a period of 36 months, e.g. for point 5, which refers to the optional extension of the satellite segment on request at an unspecified date. In a special case (while the second phase will be implemented, e.g. during the half of the period of validity of Phase I), this will result in the Contractor providing the Phase II satellite segment without providing the segment for Phase I.

*Question:*

Does the Contracting Party uphold this requirement?

A7

Yes, during Phase II we allow the possibility to change the satellite to one offering sufficient bandwidth and we will only use the new augmented one. However, information about potential satellites Phase 2 satellites must be provided in the offer and included in the contract.

Q8

In the technical specification (PART III) in points 1 and 7 d. The Employer requires, if necessary, the upgrade of modems and 3 VSAT stations and ensuring the service of these stations during the term of the contract.

*Questions:*

1. Could the Contracting Party specify what kind of upgrade is expected?

2) Is it to be a replacement of modems for a newer, more advanced model, or are only additional functionalities of the current modems required, if possible?

3) What activities are required from the Contractor to operate the 3 VSAT stations?

4) Does the Contracting Party only require, for example, an annual inspection of the station and possibly a diagnosis and valuation of the resulting malfunctions?

A8

Ad 1) Upgrade will be required should the current modems or LNBs are be able to handle Phase II speeds;

Ad 2) SCPC and TDMA are our main requirements as well as cooperation with PPTS-1.8v2 terminals, but we mainly want to support higher speeds (above 30m) if available in Phase II.

Ad 3) Inspection and maintenance once a year (if there is a need to replace or the repair of equipment, assistance in its disassembly).

Ad 4) Yes, annual inspection of the station and, possibly, diagnosis and valuation of the resulting malfunctions.

Q9

In the technical specification (PART III) in point 7 e., the Contracting Party requires the Contractor to provide technical support to the Contracting Party on request during exercises and missions.

*Questions:*

1) Can the Contracting Party specify the indicative scope of work in this matter?

2) Is, for example, the physical presence of the Contractor's technician at the site of the exercises required?

3) How are any travels to be settled?

A9

Ad 1) Scope of work includes assistance (intermediation in the creation of transmission plans) in removing faults;

Ad 2) The presence of the Contractor’s technician will not be necessary, but should be possible if needed and desired (if telephone support is not enough to solve issue);

Ad 3) Needed travels on contractors requests including costs calculation can be covered when approved by HQ MNC NE.

Q10

In the technical specification (PART III) the Ordering Party specifies in point 1 2) the specification of the PPTS-1.8v2 terminal. Is the specified terminal to cooperate with the terminals listed in point 1 1)

*Question:*

Is the Contractor to provide only the appropriate satellite segment required for the correct operation of this terminal?

A10

Such cooperation with terminals is crucial for us, however, we do not expect their modernization. Maximum speeds specified in the technical specifications refers to:

1)        VSAT terminals owned by HQ MNC NE:

a)        MNC NE (Szczecin) static central station:

-       3,7 m Andrew antenna;

-       Ku Band OMT;

-       LNB - PLL 1109HC (10,95 – 11,7 GHz);

-       Ku Band RF system 20 W;

-       3 x SCPC/VSAT L-Band Satellite Modem: Datum PSM-4900L with V.35 interface.

b)        Remote Station A (on a trailer):

-       2,4 m Vertex antenna;

-       Ku Band OMT;

-       LNB - PLL 1109HC (10,95 – 11,7 GHz);

-       Ku Band RF system 8 W;

-       2 x SCPC/VSAT L-Band Satellite Modem: Datum PSM-4900L with V.35 interface.

c)        Remote Station B (transportable ground station):

-       2,4 m Prodelin antenna;

-       Ku Band OMT;

-       LNB - PLL 1109HC (10,95 – 11,7 GHz);

-       Ku Band RF system 8 W;

-       2 x SCPC/VSAT L-Band Satellite Modem: Datum PSM-4900L with V.35 interface.

However, they must cooperate with the following terminals at the maximum possible speed offered by the terminals below:

VSAT terminals (Portable/Transportable Satellite Terminal PPTS-1.8v2) provided by HQ MNC NE Command Support Brigade (CSB):

- 2,4 m antenna, gain: 47.0 – 49.0 dBi;

- Ku Band; Rx: 10.950 – 12.750 GHz, Tx: 13.750 – 14.500 GHz;

- LNB – 3 types: NORSAT HS1057CN/LO 10GHz, 1107HAN/LO 10.75GHz, 1507HBN/LO 11.3GHz

PPTS-1.8v2 terminals should be able to work on provided satellite segment both in SCPC and TDMA modes.

Q11

In the technical specification (PART III), the Ordering Party specifies the date of implementation of phase II on request, "no later than 14 days after receiving the order by the Contractor".

A11

Recommended time for implementation is up to 14 days however maximum time cannot exceed 30 days.

Q12

In the light of the current market evolutions, the Bidder kindly requests HQ MNC NE the following clause to be added in order to cover excess inflation: Should the inflation rate increase annually by more than 1% compared to the inflation rates included in the Bidder’s Proposal at the time the Contract is concluded, the Contractor shall, on a yearly basis, be entitled to a reasonable adjustment of the Contract prices for the contractual supplies and services affected by this increase. The reference value for determining the increase in the inflation rate is price index HICP as published by the European Central Bank

A12

Should the inflation rate increase annually by more than 3 % compared to the inflation rates included in the Bidder’s Proposal at the time the Contract is concluded, the Contractor shall, on a yearly basis, be entitled to a reasonable adjustment of the Contract prices for the contractual supplies and services affected by this increase. The reference value for determining the increase in the inflation rate is the overall price index HICP as published by the European Central Bank (e.g. April x to April x+1)