
ECB - Automated measuring equipment for the infrared properties of euro banknotes (D-Frankfurt-on-Main)

2006/S 118-124934

Contract notice

Services

Is this contract covered by the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)? Yes.

Section I: Contracting authority

- I.1) **Official name and address of the contracting authority:**
European Central Bank, attn: Alberto Molon, Kaiserstraße 29, D-60311 Frankfurt-on-Main. Fax (49-69) 13 44 71 10. E-mail: procurement@ecb.int. URL: www.ecb.int.
- I.2) **Address from which further information can be obtained:**
As in I.1.
- I.3) **Address from which documentation may be obtained:**
As in I.1.
- I.4) **Address to which tenders/requests to participate must be sent:**
As in I.1.
- I.5) **Type of contracting authority:**
EU institution.

Section II: Object of the contract

- II.1) **Description**
- II.1.1) **Type of works contract**
- II.1.2) **Type of supplies contract**
- II.1.3) **Type of service contract:**
Service category 8.
- II.1.4) **Is it a framework agreement?**
No.
- II.1.5) **Title attributed to the contract by the contracting authority:**
Automated measuring equipment for the infrared properties of euro banknotes.
- II.1.6) **Description/object of the contract:**
The European Central Bank (ECB) intends to award a contract for the development and manufacture of a system for automatically measuring the infrared properties and patterns of euro banknotes to the highest standards of precision and quality. To be eligible to participate in the tender, applicants must comply with the requirements set out in this contract notice.
- II.1.7) **Site or location of works, place of delivery or performance:**

D-Frankfurt-on-Main.

Nuts code: DE712.

II.1.8) **Nomenclature**

II.1.8.1) **Common procurement vocabulary (CPV):**

73000000.

II.1.9) **Division into lots:**

No.

II.1.10) **Will variants be accepted?**

Yes. With the limitations indicated in the tender documents.

II.2) **Quantity or scope of the contract**

II.2.1) **Total quantity or scope:**

The infrared properties of euro banknotes are, together with other security features, used in banknote authentication.

At present, a spectrophotometer is used to define the specification of and check this feature. However, this tool is not considered to be the most appropriate. In particular, the measurement area does not cover the whole surface of the banknote, banknotes must be positioned manually under the measurement head and banknotes can only be measured 1 at a time, rather than in bundles.

The Eurosystem is seeking a measurement and quality-control tool that will enable it to define the specification and check the quality of the infrared features of euro banknotes in an optimal manner. The system to be developed should measure the infrared patterns of banknote bundles automatically and accurately, both by reflection and by transmission, over the whole surface of the banknotes.

The successful tenderer shall carry out, in particular, the following tasks:

- 1) definition of the equipment specification and functional requirements;
- 2) recommendation of technologies;
- 3) development and manufacture of 3 examples of the tool;
- 4) definition of the specification of the infrared properties of existing samples;
- 5) testing, documentation, installation and training.

II.2.2) **Options. Description and time when they may be exercised**

II.3) **Duration of the contract or time limit for completion:**

The successful tenderer shall be required to complete his study and, in particular, tasks 1 to 5 listed in point II.2.1 above within 6 months from the signature of the contract by both parties.

Section III: Legal, economic, financial and technical information

III.1) **Conditions relating to the contract**

III.1.1) **Deposits and guarantees required**

III.1.2) **Main terms of financing and payment and/or reference to the relevant provisions:**

Invoicing upon the satisfactory achievement of defined milestones.

III.1.3) **Legal form to be taken by the grouping of suppliers, contractors or service providers to whom the contract is awarded:**

The establishment of temporary groupings is permitted. A bid from a temporary grouping will only be considered

if, at the time the bid is submitted, the members of the grouping have declared in writing that:

- in the event that their bid is successful, they will provide all services as a temporary grouping, and
- they shall have joint and several liability for the performance of the contract.

Furthermore, the temporary grouping shall name a representative who is authorised to report to the ECB, to make legal statements and to accept unrestricted payments, on behalf of the grouping or on behalf of each of the members of the grouping.

The parts of the services that will be performed by individual companies shall be specified.

III.2) **Conditions for participation:**

Applicants shall:

- (a) have the financial and technical resources and infrastructure necessary to perform the services;
- (b) have a management structure and procedures capable of sustaining reliable and consistent production in order to meet the ECB's deadlines (as outlined in point II.3 above) and of ensuring full compliance with the time frame indicated;
- (c) have previously developed and provided similar devices (either in the banknote or security document industries);
- (d) have, in the last 3 years, participated in the development and manufacture of at least 2 sensors and/or quality-control tools for infrared measurement;
- (e) have an adequate number of technicians with a good working knowledge of English among their local staff;
- (f) undertake to appoint a person with excellent English language skills to liaise with the ECB's representatives;
- (g) undertake to provide full security arrangements in order to protect against the loss and disclosure of information, if awarded the contract.

For the evaluation of applicants, each application shall include the following documentation:

- (a) the applicant's full postal and e-mail addresses, as well as telephone and fax numbers;
- (b) copies of original documents proving the applicant's legal status, place of registration and/or registered office and, if different, its principal place of business;
- (c) information about which offices, branches and/or partnerships would be involved in the administration and implementation of the contract;
- (d) a description of how the applicant's company is organised internally (i.e. an organisational chart showing the company structure, including any branches and partnerships) and the measures which guarantee that the services would be provided without interruption; and
- (e) a list of the main contracts entered into and/or similar experience gained by the applicant over the past 3 years.

Each applicant shall also provide:

- (a) information about his background and relevant experience in the banknote and security document industries (this information shall include proof of compliance with point III.2(d) above);
- (b) an indication of the number of technicians and other staff employed by the applicant, their location and information about their knowledge of the English language;
- (c) statements of overall turnover, as well as statements of turnover for the last 3 years for the type of services involved in this contract. Where applicable, a distinction shall be made between contracts carried out by the service provider himself and those carried out by subcontractors;
- (d) copies of his audited accounts and balance sheets for the past 3 years, or equivalent certified documentation demonstrating the applicant's financial position;

(e) a written declaration stating that, if awarded the contract, the applicant will undertake to provide full security arrangements in order to protect against loss and disclosure of information.

III.3) Conditions specific to services contracts

III.3.1) Is provision of the service reserved to a specific profession?

No.

III.3.2) Will legal entities be required to state the names and professional qualifications of the personnel responsible for execution of the contract?

Yes.

Section IV: Procedure

IV.1) Type of procedure:

Restricted.

IV.1.1) Have candidates already been selected?

IV.1.2) Justification for the choice of accelerated procedure

IV.1.3) Previous publication concerning the same contract

IV.1.3.1) Prior information notice concerning the same contract

IV.1.3.2) Other previous publications

IV.1.4) Envisaged number of suppliers which will be invited to tender:

Minimum: 5.

IV.2) Award criteria:

The most economically advantageous tender in terms of criteria as stated in contract documents.

IV.3) Administrative information

IV.3.1) Reference number attributed to the file by the contracting authority

IV.3.2) Conditions for obtaining contract document and additional documents

IV.3.3) Time-limit for receipt of tenders or requests to participate:

17.7.2006 (17:30), CET, for questions and further information about this notice.

21.7.2006 (12:00), CET, for the submission of applications.

IV.3.4) Dispatch of invitations to tender to selected candidates:

Estimated date: 1.8.2006.

IV.3.5) Language or languages in which tenders or requests to participate can be drawn up:

All tenders shall be submitted in English.

IV.3.6) Minimum time frame during which the tenderer must maintain its tender

IV.3.7) Conditions for opening tenders

IV.3.7.1) Persons authorised to be present at the opening of tenders

IV.3.7.2) Date, time and place

Section VI: Other information

VI.1) Is this notice non-mandatory?

No.

- VI.2) **If applicable, indicate whether this procurement is a recurrent one and the estimated timing for further notices to be published**
- VI.3) **Does the contract relate to a project/programme financed by EU funds?**
No.
- VI.4) **Additional information**
- VI.5) **Date of dispatch of this notice:**
14.6.2006.