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**ECB - Negotiated tender procedure for the operation of a pilot Extended Custodial Inventory programme for euro banknotes (D-Frankfurt-on-Main)**

**2006/S 91-096829**

**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: Mr Alberto Molon, Kaiserstraße 29, D-60311 Frankfurt-on-Main. Fax (49-69) 13 44 71 10. E-mail: [procurement@ecb.int](mailto:procurement@ecb.int). URL: [www.ecb.int](http://www.ecb.int).
- I.2) **Address from which further information can be obtained:**  
European Central Bank, attn: Mr Alberto Molon, Kaiserstraße 29, D-60311 Frankfurt-on-Main. E-mail: [procurement@ecb.int](mailto:procurement@ecb.int). URL: [www.ecb.int](http://www.ecb.int).  
Further information (question and answer) is provided in a forum at the above-mentioned Internet address.
- I.3) **Address from which documentation may be obtained:**  
European Central Bank, attn: Mr Alberto Molon, Kaiserstraße 29, D-60311 Frankfurt-on-Main. E-mail: [procurement@ecb.int](mailto:procurement@ecb.int). URL: [www.ecb.int](http://www.ecb.int).  
The application form is available for download from a forum at the above-mentioned Internet address.  
All applications must be submitted using the application form prepared by the ECB in accordance with the instructions.
- I.4) **Address to which tenders/requests to participate must be sent:**  
As in I.1.
- I.5) **Type of contracting authority:**  
EU institution.  
The contracting authority is purchasing on behalf of other contracting authorities:  
No.

**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 6.
- II.1.4) **Is it a framework agreement?**  
Yes.

The notice involves: a public contract.

II.1.5) **Title attributed to the contract by the contracting authority:**

Negotiated tender procedure for the operation of a pilot Extended Custodial Inventory programme for euro banknotes.

II.1.6) **Description/object of the contract:**

The European Central Bank (hereinafter 'ECB') intends, by way of a negotiated tender procedure, to contract 2 private banks operating in the field of wholesale banknote trading (hereinafter 'ECI Banks') to run a pilot Extended Custodial Inventory programme (hereinafter 'pilot ECI programme') for euro banknotes on 1 site each in east Asia for a period of 1 year.

Under an ECI programme, cash — in this case euro banknotes — is held by a designated wholesale bank on a custodial basis in a segregated vault. The Deutsche Bundesbank (hereinafter 'BBk') will act as the national central bank supplying the euro banknotes on behalf of the Eurosystem. For all euro banknotes in transit between the BBk and the ECI Bank and held in the ECI Bank's segregated vault/areas a claim of the BBk for payment against the ECI Bank is created. The amount of this claim varies on a day-to-day basis depending on the ECI Bank's cash transactions with the BBk and the ECI Bank's customers. The account held by the ECI Bank with the BBk will be debited only when the ECI Bank sells euro banknotes to its customers, and will be credited when the ECI Bank buys euro banknotes from its customers. The ECI bank arranges the transport and pays all transport costs between the BBk and its vault. The ECI Bank has to report on the origin and destination of the banknotes sent and received, sort the banknotes for fitness, authenticate the banknotes and report on the counterfeits detected.

II.1.7) **Site or location of works, place of delivery or performance:**

East Asia.

NUTS code: AA07, AA08, AA11, AA22.

II.1.8) **Nomenclature**

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

67133000.

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

No.

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

No.

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

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

The ECI Bank shall agree that for all banknotes belonging to the pilot ECI and being in transit or in the ECI vault at the ECI site, a claim of the BBk for payment against the ECI Bank is created.

The ECI account and ECI securities account will be held with the BBk. The ECI Bank will arrange all transport and pay the related costs of banknote transport between the BBk and the ECI site. The ECI Bank will be allowed to store/have in transit euro banknotes totalling a maximum of EUR 200 000 000 and must ensure that the risks of its becoming insolvent or of non-payment, damage, theft or robbery of banknotes held by it are fully covered up to that amount for the duration of the contract. This will be achieved by providing the BBk, as the beneficiary, with eligible collateral (as defined in Guideline of the European Central Bank of 31.8.2000 on monetary policy

instruments and procedures of the Eurosystem (ECB/2000/7), Official Journal L 310, 11.12.2000, p. 1, as last amended by Guideline of the European Central Bank of 3.2.2005 amending Guideline ECB/2000/7 on monetary policy instruments of the Eurosystem (ECB/2005/2), Official Journal L 111, 2.5.2005, p.1) to cover this amount.

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

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

12 months from the award of the contract.

**Section III: Legal, economic, financial and technical information**

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

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

Details may be provided in the invitation to tender (ITT).

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

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

Temporary groupings of companies with a view to obtaining the contract to perform the service may be established under the conditions set out in the ITT.

**III.2) Conditions for participation**

**III. 2.1) Information concerning the personal situation of the contractor, supplier or service provider and information and formalities necessary for the evaluation of the minimum economic, financial and technical capacity required:**

Companies or organisations have to fulfil the qualification criteria listed below:

- have adequate experience in the global trading of banknotes and thus be competent to fulfil the tasks of an ECI Bank; specific experience in trading in banknotes in (or with) east Asian countries will, where applicable, be taken into account for the purposes of evaluating tenderers' experience,
- have a minimum worldwide trading volume (euro banknote purchases and sales) totalling EUR 1 000 000 000 in 2005,
- have the financial capacity to fulfil the contract, and
- commit themselves to complying with the requirements laid down in the 'Framework for the detection of counterfeits and fitness sorting by credit institutions and other professional cash handlers' (hereinafter 'Framework'; see annex 2).

For the evaluation of the applications, each applicant shall include the following documents:

- (a) copies of original documents defining the applicant's legal status and establishing its place of registration and/or statutory seat and, if different, its main place of business;
- (b) other specifications relating to the background of the applicant and any subcontractor(s), together with a profile and organisational chart showing the structure — including branch offices and partnerships — of the applicant and any subcontractor(s);
- (c) information as to which offices, branch offices and/or partnerships will be involved in the administration and execution of the contract;
- (d) should an applicant already have experience as an ECI Bank for other currencies, it will provide a list of the relevant contract(s) governing its ECI activities over the past 3 years, together with a short description of the activities carried out, the names of the contractual party/parties involved, the term of the contract(s) in question

as well as figures on the volumes of shipments handled. The ECB reserves the right to request documentary evidence that the listed contract(s) have indeed been performed. In addition, the applicant will provide figures on the volumes of the shipments of euro banknotes together with their origins and destinations over the past 3 years;

(e) the applicant shall provide copies of its audited accounts and balance sheets for the past 3 years or equivalent certified documentation demonstrating its financial position;

(f) statement about the applicant's worldwide trading volume (euro banknote purchases and sales) in 2005.

**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:**

Negotiated.

**IV.1.1) Have candidates already been selected?**

No.

**IV.1.2) Justification for the choice of accelerated procedure:**

Not applicable.

**IV.1.3) Previous publication concerning the same contract:**

Not applicable.

**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: 4.

**IV.1.5) Reduction of the number of operators during the negotiation or dialogue:**

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

**IV.2.1) Award criteria:**

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

**IV.2.2) An electronic auction will be used:**

No.

**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:**

26.6.2006 (12:00), CET.

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

**IV.3.5) Language or languages in which tenders or requests to participate can be drawn up:**  
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:**  
Not applicable.

**IV.3.7.2) Date, time and place:**  
Place: at ECB premises.

**Section VI: Other information**

**VI.1) Is this notice a non-mandatory one?**  
No.

**VI.2) If applicable, indicate whether this procurement is a recurrent one and the estimated timing for further notices to be published:**  
Not applicable.

**VI.3) Does the contract relate to a project/programme financed by EU funds?**  
No.

**VI.4) Additional information:**  
Shortlisted applicants will be invited to submit a detailed offer.

**VI.5) Date of dispatch of this notice:**  
5.5.2006.