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**Germany-Frankfurt-on-Main: ECB - The provision of external  
quality assessment services for internal audit functions  
2017/S 031-055270**

**Contract notice**

**Services**

Directive 2014/24/EU

**Section I: Contracting authority**

I.1) **Name and addresses**

European Central Bank  
Sonnemannstraße 22  
Frankfurt am Main  
60314  
Germany  
Contact person: Ramón van Deelen  
Telephone: +49 69/13440  
E-mail: [procurement@ecb.europa.eu](mailto:procurement@ecb.europa.eu)  
Fax: +49 69/13447110  
NUTS code: DE712

**Internet address(es):**

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

I.2) **Joint procurement**

I.3) **Communication**

The procurement documents are available for unrestricted and full direct access, free of charge, at: <http://www.ecb.europa.eu/home/html/index.en.html>  
Additional information can be obtained from the abovementioned address  
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:**

The provision of external quality assessment services for internal audit functions.  
Reference number: PRO-001759.

II.1.2) **Main CPV code**

79212000

II.1.3) **Type of contract**

Services

**II.1.4) Short description:**

This contract notice relates to the ECB's joint open tender procedure conducted in accordance with Article 4 of the Decision of the European Central Bank of 17.11.2008 laying down the framework for joint Eurosystem procurement (ECB/2008/17) and Article 2(2) of the Decision (EU) 2016/245 of the European Central Bank of 9.2.2016 laying down the rules on procurement (ECB/2016/2) for the allocation of contracts for the provision of external quality assessment services for (i) the internal audit function of the Eurosystem/ESCB/SSM, i.e. the Internal Auditors Committee (IAC); and/or (ii) the local internal audit functions of the central banks (CBs)/national competent authorities (NCAs) of the Eurosystem/ESCB/SSM, in accordance with the Institute of Internal Auditors ('the IIA') international standards for the professional practice of internal auditing ('the standards').

**II.1.5) Estimated total value**

Value excluding VAT: 1 100 000.00 EUR

**II.1.6) Information about lots**

This contract is divided into lots: no

**II.2) Description**

**II.2.1) Title:**

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

79212200

**II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS code: DE712

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

The scope of the joint procurement is the conclusion of multi-supplier framework agreements with at least 3, but potentially more, economic operators for the performance of external quality assessment services for the internal audit functions as outlined in Section II.1.4) (the 'services'), provided that a sufficient number of suppliers meet the selection and award criteria. The framework contractors shall provide the beneficiaries with the services during a period of 4 years starting from the signature of the contracts by both parties (indicative starting date is 1.6.2017). The services to be provided by the suppliers shall cover all aspects and processes of the internal audit activity described in the tender specifications (see invitation to tender (ITT), Annex 1 — tender specifications). The contracts do not confer on the framework contractors any exclusive right to provide the services. This means that any beneficiary will have the option, but not the obligation, to order the services directly from the selected framework contractors, after reopening competition, in conformity with the provisions of the contracts and of the provisions of Decision (EU) 2016/245 of the European Central Bank of 9.2.2016 laying down the rules on procurement (ECB/2016/2), in particular its Article 18(4)(b). Notwithstanding the expiry of the contract(s), specific orders agreed on the basis of the contract(s) prior to their expiry may continue until the completion of the respective services.

**II.2.5) Award criteria**

Criteria below

Quality criterion - Name: Quality of the proposed concept for conducting the EQAs, and the proposed methodology for coordinating the tasks and ensuring consistency in the performance of EQAs / Weighting: 45  
Price - Weighting: 55

**II.2.6) Estimated value**

**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.2.10) **Information about variants**

Variants will be accepted: no

II.2.11) **Information about options**

Options: no

II.2.12) **Information about electronic catalogues**

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:

The ECB shall exclude tenderers that do not fulfil the selection criteria and minimum capacity levels set out in this Section.

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

List and brief description of selection criteria:

The tenderers' economic and financial capacity will be assessed on the basis of their financial situation (turnover and profit and loss) during the last 3 financial years. As a minimum, tenderers shall have had, in the last 3 financial years, an annual net turnover of at least 250 000 EUR. If the tenderer is a temporary grouping, it may add the respective turnover of its members.

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

List and brief description of selection criteria:

The tenderers' technical and professional capacity will be assessed on the basis of the tenderers' experience in providing comparable services to those requested by the ECB. Tenderers shall have completed during the period starting as of 1.1.2014 until the date specified in Section III.1.1 of the ITT (time limit for submission of tenders) at least 3 contracts in the financial industry, the scope of which shall be on external quality assessment services at 3 different internal audit functions consisting of at least 7 staff members. For further specifications, refer to Annex 1 (tender specifications).

III.1.5) **Information about reserved contracts**

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

III.2.1) **Information about a particular profession**

III.2.2) **Contract performance conditions:**

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

**Section IV: Procedure**

IV.1) **Description**

IV.1.1) **Type of procedure**

Open procedure

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 several operators

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

**IV.1.6) Information about electronic auction**

**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.2.1) Previous publication concerning this procedure**

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

Date: 22/03/2017

Local time: 18:00

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

**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)

**IV.2.7) Conditions for opening of tenders**

Date: 23/03/2017

Local time: 9:00

**Section VI: Complementary information**

**VI.1) Information about recurrence**

This is a recurrent procurement: no

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

**VI.3) Additional information:**

The tender documents can be downloaded from an Internet platform by using the following Internet address and credentials:

Internet address: <https://www.ecb.europa.eu/secure/procurement/>

User name: 001759/IA/2017/ITT

Password: 4BDC64

After registration an e-mail will be sent with a new user name and password. The Internet address will remain the same. Use the new credentials to download the tender documents.

Your mere registration and downloading the tender documents does not constitute a tender. You must submit your tender to the ECB, on time, in the format requested and including the content as further instructed in the tender documents.

In case of problems in accessing the Internet platform for registration and/or downloading the documents please contact the ECB under the following e-mail address: [procurement@ecb.europa.eu](mailto:procurement@ecb.europa.eu) quoting the procurement number and problem experienced.

The tender procedure shall be open on equal terms to all natural or legal persons resident or located in the EU 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 EU a bilateral agreement on procurement under the conditions laid down in the said agreements.

During the procurement procedure tenderers shall not contact any ECB staff members or organisations/ persons working for the ECB with regard to this tender procedure other than the person indicated in Section I.1). Tenderers shall also not contact potential competitors unless they intend to form a temporary grouping with them

or to involve them as subcontractors. Any violation of this communication rule may lead to the exclusion of the tenderer in question.

This joint tender procedure is carried out by the ECB, on its own behalf and for the benefit of institutions entitled to participate in the activities of the EPCO, such as central banks of the ESCB and national competent authorities of the Member States of the EU participating in the single supervisory mechanism, which are or may become members of EPCO, in accordance with Decision of the European Central Bank of 17.11.2008 laying down the framework for joint Eurosystem procurement (ECB/2008/17) (beneficiaries).

List of EPCO members: <http://www.epco.lu/links.php>

In accordance with Decision of the European Central Bank of 17.11.2008 laying down the framework for joint Eurosystem procurement (ECB/2008/17), any other central bank of the ESCB is entitled to become an EPCO member at any time.

Institutions other than central banks may also participate in EPCO's activities, such as national authorities of Member States, EU agencies and bodies or international organisations, upon invitation by the Governing Council. Among these non-ESCB institutions entitled to participate in EPCO's activities, the present EPCO joint tender procedure is carried out by the ECB for the benefit of national competent authorities (NCAs) of the Member States of the European Union, participating in the SSM, and all ESCB central banks. List of institutions entitled to participate in EPCO's activities (beneficiaries) and the date from which they obtain that right: <http://www.epco.lu/links.php>

Institutions that expressed so far potential interest in participating in the procedure are the Internal Auditors Committee, National Bank of Belgium, Deutsche Bundesbank, Central Bank of Ireland, Bank of Greece, Banco de España, Banque de France, Banca d'Italia, Central Bank of Cyprus, Lietuvos Bankas, Banque centrale du Luxembourg, Central Bank of Malta, De Nederlandsche Bank, Banco de Portugal, Národná banka Slovenska, Suomen Pankki, European Central Bank, Hrvatska Narodna Banka, Banca Națională a României, Sveriges Riksbank, Malta Financial Services Authority, Finanzmarktaufsicht.

Where reference is made, in the ITT, to the ECB, this reference relates to the ECB acting both on behalf of itself and for the benefit of the institutions referred to above, as the leading central bank in accordance with Article 2(g) and Article 4 of Decision of the European Central Bank of 17.11.2008 laying down the framework for joint Eurosystem procurement (ECB/2008/17) (OJ L 319, 29.11.2008, p. 76, as amended) and in line with Decision (EU) 2016/245 of the European Central Bank of 9.2.2016 laying down the rules on procurement (ECB/2016/2).

**VI.4) Procedures for review**

**VI.4.1) Review body**

Procurement Review Body of the European Central Bank, c/o Legal Advice Team  
Sonnemannstraße 20  
Frankfurt am Main  
60314  
Germany  
Telephone: +49 6913440  
Fax: +49 6913446886  
Internet address: <http://www.ecb.europa.eu>

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

European Ombudsman  
1 avenue du Président Robert Schuman  
Strasbourg  
67001  
France

VI.4.3) **Review procedure**

Precise information on deadline(s) for review procedures:

Unsuccessful tenderers may request the ECB's Procurement Review Body to review the decision to reject their tender under the conditions set out in Article 39 of Decision (EU) 2016/245 of the European Central Bank of 9.2.2016 laying down the rules on procurement (ECB/2016/2). Any appeal shall be submitted to the Procurement Review Body of the ECB. Tenderers shall submit the appeal within 15 calendar days from the receipt of the information specified in Chapter V, Section 1.2 or if no information is requested, within 15 calendar days from the receipt of the notification. The appeal shall be submitted in English and include all supporting information and reasoned objections.

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

Central Procurement Division of the European Central Bank

Sonnemannstraße 22

Frankfurt am Main

60314

Germany

E-mail: [procurement@ecb.europa.eu](mailto:procurement@ecb.europa.eu)

Fax: +49 6913447110

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

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

02/02/2017