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**Germany-Frankfurt am Main: Audit of the Target2-Securities (T2S) Financial Statements
2022/S 072-191011**

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: Mr Spyridon Panagopoulos
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:

Audit of the Target2-Securities (T2S) Financial Statements
Reference number: PRO-006397

II.1.2) Main CPV code

79212100 Financial auditing services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) **Short description:**

The ECB wishes to establish a contract for the provision of works for the voluntary, external audit of the T2S annual financial statements. The contractor shall provide the following works (the 'deliverables') to the ECB:

1. external auditor's report/opinion on the T2S annual financial statements; and
2. external auditor's internal management letter on the audit of the T2S annual financial statements.

The initial scope of the contract comprises the performance of the audit of the TARGET2-Securities (T2S) financial statements for the financial years 2022, 2023, and 2024.

The ECB may decide to extend the scope of the deliverables to comprise the annual T2S financial audits for the financial years 2025 and 2026.

II.1.5) **Estimated total value**

Value excluding VAT: 850 000.00 EUR

II.1.6) **Information about lots**

This contract is divided into lots: no

II.2) **Description**

II.2.3) **Place of performance**

NUTS code: DE Deutschland

NUTS code: DE712 Frankfurt am Main, Kreisfreie Stadt

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

The ECB wishes to establish a contract for the provision of works for the voluntary, external audit of the T2S annual financial statements. The contractor shall provide the following works (the 'deliverables') to the ECB:

1. external auditor's report/opinion on the T2S annual financial statements; and
2. external auditor's internal management letter on the audit of the T2S annual financial statements.

The initial scope of the contract comprises the performance of the audit of the TARGET2-Securities (T2S) financial statements for the financial years 2022, 2023, and 2024.

The ECB may decide to extend the scope of the deliverables to comprise the annual T2S financial audits for the financial years 2025 and 2026.

T2S is a European securities settlement engine which offers centralised delivery-versus-payment (DvP) settlement in central bank money across European securities markets.

T2S has removed barriers and eliminated differences between domestic and cross-border settlement by offering a single market infrastructure solution. It allows market participants to optimise their liquidity and collateral management.

T2S also offers central securities depositories (CSDs) harmonised rules for settlement of domestic and cross-border transactions.

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: 850 000.00 EUR

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

Duration in months: 36

This contract is subject to renewal: yes

Description of renewals:

The initial scope of the contract comprises the performance of the audit of the TARGET2-Securities (T2S) financial statements for the financial years 2022, 2023, and 2024.

The ECB may decide to extend the scope of the deliverables to comprise the annual T2S financial audits for the financial years 2025 and 2026.

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

Envisaged number of candidates: 3

II.2.10) Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: no

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: yes

Description of options:

The initial scope of the contract comprises the performance of the audit of the TARGET2-Securities (T2S) financial statements for the financial years 2022, 2023, and 2024.

The ECB may decide to extend the scope of the deliverables to comprise the annual T2S financial audits for the financial years 2025 and 2026. The ECB may exercise this option twice, namely once for deliverables referring to the financial year 2025 and again once for the deliverables referring to the financial year 2026.

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.

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.2.1) Information about a particular profession

Execution of the service is reserved to a particular profession

Reference to the relevant law, regulation or administrative provision:

As stated in the procurement documents.

III.2.2) Contract performance conditions:

In line with the terms and conditions of the draft contract that will be attached to the invitation to tender (second stage of the procedure).

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

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**

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: 02/05/2022

Local time: 12:00

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

Date: 30/06/2022

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: no

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

Electronic invoicing will be accepted

VI.3) **Additional information:**

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-2022-000007: PRO-006397-R1- T2S External Auditor.

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 ECB Decision 2016/2 laying down the Rules on Procurement (as amended), available on the ECB website at <https://www.ecb.europa.eu/ecb/legal/1001/procurement/html/index.en.html>.

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: generalcourt.registry@curia.europa.eu

Telephone: +49 6913440

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 ECB Decision 2016/2 laying down the Rules on Public Procurement. 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
Postal address: Sonnemannstrasse 22
Town: Frankfurt am Main
Postal code: 60314
Country: Germany
E-mail: procurement@ecb.europa.eu
Telephone: +49 6913440
Internet address: <http://www.ecb.europa.eu>

VI.5) **Date of dispatch of this notice:**
31/03/2022