

**ECB - Printing and Ancillary Services for the Official Publications of the European Central Bank
(D-Frankfurt-on-Main)**

2006/S 207-219851

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: Michael W. Heath, Kaiserstraße 29, D-60311 Frankfurt-on-Main. Tel. (49-69) 13 44 86 45. 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.1.3) **Type of service contract:**
Service category 15.
- II.1.4) **Is it a framework agreement?**
Yes.
- II.1.5) **Title attributed to the contract by the contracting authority:**
Printing and Ancillary Services for the Official Publications of the European Central Bank.
- II.1.6) **Description/object of the contract:**
The European Central Bank (ECB) seeks a single provider for printing and ancillary services for its official publications.
The ECB is responsible for monetary policy within the Euro area. The ECB publishes a number of reports and papers containing economic and financial statistics, commentaries and other information targeted at economists, members of financial organisations and all those interested in economic and monetary policy. It also publishes information of a more general nature concerning the workings of the ECB and the European System of Central Banks. These publications are targeted at a wider audience including the general public.

The majority of the publications of the ECB are produced in all current 20 official languages of the EU. The number of languages may change as the EU expands. The scope for this contract includes printing in any additional official language that may arise during the contract period.

The production of the Monthly Bulletin is decentralised; the contract will cover the production of the English and German versions; the other language versions are produced by the respective National Central Banks (NCBs). The German version is produced by the Deutsche Bundesbank and this contract will also extend to that work. The reports and papers published by the ECB are market sensitive and therefore production must be done under strict confidentiality and the reports themselves are subject to strict controls prior to their formal release. Strict controls also apply to the German issue of the Monthly Bulletin produced by the Deutsche Bundesbank. Core requirements of the printing services contract are the production (pre-printing, printing, binding and preparation for dispatch) of the Monthly Bulletin (English and German version) and the Annual Report as well as promotional literature and the supply of printed stationery. Since 1999 the ECB published 590 papers in a series of economic working papers. Last year 144 papers were released.

There may be an occasional requirement to print books with a hard cover and thread binding, as well as commercially printed and stapled DIN A5 format brochures which must be provided for all 20 languages. When significant large numbers of copies are required for 1 of its general information brochures the ECB may treat such a job as separate contract outside the scope of this contract according to the capacity and circumstances of the successful tenderer. Such brochures will have been produced ready for printing by a specialist agency.

Dispatch of printed reports, bulletins and brochures is normally organised directly from the printer to multiple addresses of both bulk quantities and individually pre-addressed copies — the latter bulked for supply to/collection by the mail services to take advantage of the lowest postal charges.

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

European Central Bank — Frankfurt.
NUTS code: DE 712

II.1.8) Nomenclature

II.1.8.1) Common procurement vocabulary (CPV):

Main object: 78000000.
Additional objects: 78100000, 78210000, 78240000, 78230000.

II.1.9) Division into lots:

No.
Tenders may be submitted for: 1 lot.

II.1.10) Will variants be accepted:

No.

II.2) Quantity or scope of the contract

II.2.1) Total quantity or scope:

The ECB anticipates that it will obtain its basic printed business stationery from the successful tenderer. This printed stationery has an average value of approximately EUR 100 000 per annum out of the overall contract which currently averages EUR 3.5 million per annum.

The ECB Monthly Bulletin (MB) is released monthly. There are 300 'Press copies', printed only in black and white with 'embargo' covers. The print run has been consistent at 10,000 during the past 12 months.

ECB Annual Report

The ECB produced 19 language versions of the Annual Report, which requires specific country fonts available as well as hyphenation programmes for the languages apart from English.

The number of printed copies of 19 language versions has averaged 66,500 (with approximately 228 pages from 2003 onwards) in the past 3 years. The number of pages varies according to the language. The report is a 4-colour print with the cover requiring extra colours (5 plus varnish and cellophane).

Other regular reports

The ECB has a number of recurring reports such as Convergence Reports, General Documentation, Occasional Papers, Legal Working Papers, Financial Stability Review and its Blue Book and others, which are published at varying intervals. These reports are required to be published without undue delay.

Presentation

The ECB requires a consistent presentation of its official publications. A standardised layout is used for all ECB official publications and regular mailings, and the paper to be used for all reports is Consort Royal half matt white (usually 115g/m² in DIN A4 if not indicated otherwise). The cover paper of the Monthly Bulletin, Annual Report and other reports will be 300g/m² usually DIN A4 if not indicated otherwise.

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

None.

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

Duration: 48 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:**

No deposit is required, but where applicable, the successful tenderer (or in the case of a successful consortium bid, each member of the consortium) may be required to provide a parent-company guarantee.

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

Not applicable.

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 a temporary grouping of companies is allowed. In the application, all the members of the temporary grouping must declare in writing that: (i) in case of an order they will provide all services as a temporary grouping and (ii) all the members will have joint and several liability for the performance of the contract, (iii) a single legal entity shall represent the whole grouping. The parts of the supplies and/or services that will be performed by the individual companies shall be specified.

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:**

- a) Full company name, business address and registered address (if different) and registration number;
- b) Financial statements relating to the past 3 years of trading;
- c) Financial Capacity:

— tenderers must have achieved in each of the last 3 years a minimum turnover of EUR 9 million. In the case of a temporary grouping or consortium, 1 of the companies shall have achieved on its own 50 % of the above amount.

d) Technical Capacity — Tenderers must have demonstrated:

— a pre-press capacity to set pages in all (currently 20) of the official languages of the European Union and proven experience in a minimum of 11 of these,

— a total pre-press page setting capacity equal to or greater than 700 pages of size A4 per day,

— experience in handling and print confidential financially sensitive information,

— the infrastructure to be able to deliver multiple hard copy proofs physically to the ECB in Frankfurt by 7:30 after having received the source texts at 18:00 the previous evening.

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:

Open.

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:

None.

IV.2) Award criteria:

The most economically advantageous tender in terms of:

criteria as stated below (in descending order of priority where possible):

1. Price (50 %).

2. Qualitative and Technical criteria (50 %).

In descending order of priority: no.

IV.3) Administrative information

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

233/A/OFS/2006.

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

6.12.2006.

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

11.12.2006 (17:30), CET.

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:**

9 months from the deadline stated for receipt of tenders.

IV.3.7) **Conditions for opening tenders**

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

Officers of the ECB only.

IV.3.7.2) **Date, time and place:**

Place: Tenders shall be opened shortly after the deadline for receipt of tenders has expired, at the address in I.1.

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:**

It is expected that this will be a recurrent procurement, and any further notices shall be published prior to the termination of any new contract that results from this procurement exercise.

VI.3) **Does the contract relate to a project/programme financed by EU funds?**

No.

VI.4) **Additional information:**

The contract shall be governed by and interpreted under German civil law. Should the ECB and the contractor be unable to reach agreement on any matter arising out of any contractual relationship, the matter in dispute shall be referred to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Amtsgericht/Landgericht in Frankfurt-on-Main. The contractor hereby expressly agrees that the contact details provided will be used at all stages throughout the procurement process and will serve as an address for service in the event that dispute arises out of a contractual relationship between the parties.

It is intended to initially contract for 4 years with extensions being possible.

Tenders and all supporting documents must be priced in euro and all contract payments will be made in euro.

All discussions and meetings will be conducted in English and no interpretation facilities will be provided.

The ECB reserves the right not to make any award and reserves the right to accept all or part of any tender unless the tenderer expressly stipulates otherwise in their tender. The ECB reserves the right to disqualify any applicant who provides information which proves to be incorrect.

Tenderers are informed that part of the evaluation procedure will consist of a test print under production conditions (short deadlines) for those tenderers whose bids are rated highest.

Tenderers are also informed that site visits may take place to confirm information in their offers.

Tenderers will find details of the possibility of alternative offers in the Invitation to tender document.

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

18.10.2006.