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**ECB - Automated quality control system for future euro banknotes series (D-Frankfurt-on-Main)**

**2006/S 54-055677**

**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 75 03. E-mail: [procurement@ecb.int](mailto:procurement@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: 7.
- II.1.4) **Is it a framework agreement?**  
No.
- II.1.5) **Title attributed to the contract by the contracting authority:**  
Automated quality control system for future euro banknotes series.
- II.1.6) **Description/object of the contract:**  
The European Central Bank intends to award a contract for the development of a dedicated system capable of automatically measuring the printing quality of euro banknotes to the highest standards. The parties eligible to participate in the tender shall comply with the requirements set out in the contract notice.
- II.1.7) **Site or location of works, place of delivery or performance:**  
Frankfurt am Main (Germany).

NUTS code: DE712.

II.1.8) **Nomenclature**

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

74131500

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

No.

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

Yes, with the limitations indicated in the contract documents.

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

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

To improve the control of banknote printing quality, specific subtle design elements should be integrated into the printing area which can be automatically recognised and checked with a specific Quality Control (QC) tool, providing critical print quality measurement. This mainly concerns features in the visible range, but could also be extended to invisible features.

Depending on the characteristics controlled, these control elements should be integrated either inside or outside the area of the banknotes, and should facilitate the evaluation of production sheets by the printers against reference sheets produced/assessed by a reference QC tool. The system that is to be developed will need to be specific to the origination and printing techniques involved in banknote security printing.

The tenderer will have to carry out the following tasks in particular:

- 1) Development/adaptation of QC methods and standards.
- 2) A study of euro banknotes in circulation, as well as benchmarking.
- 3) Development of robust QC design features for automatic measurement.

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

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

The Tenderer shall be required to complete the study within 14 months as 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 a temporary grouping is allowed. Bids from temporary groupings will only be considered if their members, at the time of placing the bid, have declared in writing that:

in case of a successful bid, they will provide all services as a temporary grouping, and they shall have joint liability for the performance of the contract.

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

member of the grouping.

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

**III.2) Conditions for participation**

Tenderers shall:

- (a) have the technical resources and structure necessary to meet the requirements of this ITT; and
- (b) have the management organisation and procedures capable of sustaining reliable and consistent production in order to meet the deadlines imposed by ECB; and
- (c) have previously developed and provided similar services (either in the banknote or conventional printing industries) and
- (d) have received contracts during the last three years to provide at least two similar services; and
- (e) have an adequate number of technicians with a good working knowledge of English among the local staff; and
- (f) commit themselves to appointing a person with good English skills to liaise with the ECB representatives; and
- (g) if awarded the contract, commit themselves to providing full security arrangements in order to protect against loss and disclosure of information.

The above conditions shall be adequately detailed and, where necessary, confirmed by relevant documentation.

**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**

**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:**

**IV.2) Award criteria:**

The most economically advantageous tender in terms of criteria as stated in contract documents.  
Criteria as stated below (in descending order of priority where possible).

**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:**

26.4.2006 by 17:30 for questions and further information about the tender as such.

2.5.2006 before 12:00 for the final submission of tender documents.

**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.

All tenders shall be submitted in English.

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

6 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**

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

**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**

**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:**

10.3.2006.