

This notice in TED website: <http://ted.europa.eu/udl?uri=TED:NOTICE:456382-2015:TEXT:EN:HTML>

**Germany-Frankfurt-on-Main: ECB - Provision of support for project management, quality assurance on asset quality reviews, stress-testing, and the provision of non-statutory audit services
2015/S 250-456382**

Contract notice

Services

Directive 2004/18/EC

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name, addresses and contact point(s)

European Central Bank
Sonnemannstraße 22
For the attention of: Ramón van Deelen
60314 Frankfurt-on-Main
GERMANY
Telephone: +49 6913440
E-mail: procurement@ecb.europa.eu
Fax: +49 6913447110

Internet address(es):

General address of the contracting authority: <http://www.ecb.europa.eu>

Further information can be obtained from: The above mentioned contact point(s)

Specifications and additional documents (including documents for competitive dialogue and a dynamic purchasing system) can be obtained from: The above mentioned contact point(s)

Tenders or requests to participate must be sent to: The above mentioned contact point(s)

I.2) Type of the contracting authority

European institution/agency or international organisation

I.3) Main activity

Economic and financial affairs

I.4) Contract award on behalf of other contracting authorities

The contracting authority is purchasing on behalf of other contracting authorities: no

Section II: Object of the contract

II.1) Description

II.1.1) Title attributed to the contract by the contracting authority:

Provision of support for project management, quality assurance on asset quality reviews, stress-testing, and the provision of non-statutory audit services.

II.1.2) Type of contract and location of works, place of delivery or of performance

Services

Service category No 11: Management consulting services [6] and related services
NUTS code DE712

II.1.3) Information about a public contract, a framework agreement or a dynamic purchasing system (DPS)

The notice involves the establishment of a framework agreement

II.1.4) Information on framework agreement

Framework agreement with several operators

maximum number of participants to the framework agreement envisaged: 10

Duration of the framework agreement

Duration in years: 4

II.1.5) Short description of the contract or purchase(s)

The ECB intends to select external service providers to support the ECB upon specific request with tasks related to project management, quality assurance on asset quality reviews, stress-testing, and the provision of non-statutory audit services. The scope of the services to be provided is divided into 4 different lots.

With regard to the services of lot 1 (project management and organisation services) the ECB intends to select highly-qualified external providers that have at their disposal a pool of professionals who collectively possess in-depth knowledge and experience in the project management and planning of large-scale projects.

With regard to the services of lot 2 (quality assurance services on asset quality reviews) the ECB intends to select external service providers that have at their disposal a pool of professionals who collectively possess in-depth knowledge and experience in order to support the ECB in the field of quality assurance on asset quality reviews, in particular with regard to the review of compliance with the prudential rules and accounting principles in the areas of:

- (i) asset quality;
- (ii) accuracy of carrying values of banks' assets;
- (iii) derivative pricing model review;
- (iv) accounting practices, processes and policies; and
- (v) capital position.

With regard to lot 3 (support with regard to stress-testing), the ECB intends to select highly-qualified external providers that have at their disposal a pool of professionals who collectively possess in-depth knowledge and experience in order to support the ECB in the field of stress-testing.

With regard to the services of lot 4 (non-statutory audit services) the ECB intends to select external service providers that have at their disposal a pool of professionals who collectively possess in-depth knowledge and experience in order to support the ECB in the field of non-statutory audit services, in particular with regard to the review of compliance with the prudential rules and accounting principles in the areas of:

- (i) asset quality;
- (ii) accuracy of carrying values of banks' assets;
- (iii) derivative pricing model review;
- (iv) accounting practices, processes and policies; and
- (v) capital position.

All of the services for all of the lots shall be provided in English, which is the working language of the European Central Bank. The services to be provided under the scope of lot 4 (non-statutory audit services) shall, in addition to English, also be provided in any of the other official and working languages of the EU (Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Irish, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Maltese, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovak, Slovene, Spanish, Swedish).

The services for lot 1 (project management and organisation services) and lot 3 (support with regard to stress-testing) shall be performed at the ECB's premises in Frankfurt-on-Main in Germany. The services for lot 2 (quality assurance services on asset quality reviews) shall be performed mainly at the ECB's premises in Frankfurt-on-Main in Germany, but might also have to be performed at the locations of the NCAs, or at the premises of the entities under the SSM supervision, which may be located either in or outside the Member

States of the European Union. The services for lot 4 (non-statutory audit services) shall be performed at the premises of the banks, which may be located either in or outside the Member States of the European Union.

II.1.6) **Common procurement vocabulary (CPV)**

79400000

II.1.7) **Information about Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)**

The contract is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA): no

II.1.8) **Lots**

This contract is divided into lots: yes

Tenders may be submitted for one or more lots

II.1.9) **Information about variants**

Variants will be accepted: no

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

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

Please refer to Section II.1.5 above.

II.2.2) **Information about options**

Options: no

II.2.3) **Information about renewals**

This contract is subject to renewal: no

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

Duration in months: 48 (from the award of the contract)

Information about lots

Lot No: 1

Lot title: Project management and organisation services

1) **Short description**

With regard to the services of lot 1 (project management and organisation services) the ECB intends to select highly-qualified external providers that have at their disposal a pool of professionals who collectively possess in-depth knowledge and experience in the project management and planning of large-scale projects. For further details please see the details in the application/tender documentation to be requested from the contact point indicated in Sections I.1 and VI.3.

2) **Common procurement vocabulary (CPV)**

79400000

3) **Quantity or scope**

Please refer to Section II.1.5 of this contract notice.

4) **Indication about different date for duration of contract or starting/completion**

Duration in months: 48 (from the award of the contract)

5) **Additional information about lots**

Lot No: 2

Lot title: Quality assurance services on asset quality reviews

1) **Short description**

With regard to the services of lot 2 (quality assurance services on asset quality reviews) the ECB intends to select external service providers that have at their disposal a pool of professionals who collectively possess in-depth knowledge and experience in order to support the ECB in the field of quality assurance on asset quality

reviews, in particular with regard to the review of compliance with the prudential rules and accounting principles in the areas of:

- (i) asset quality;
- (ii) accuracy of carrying values of banks' assets;
- (iii) derivative pricing model review;
- (iv) accounting practices, processes and policies; and
- (v) capital position.

For further details please see the details in the application/tender documentation to be requested from the contact point indicated in Sections I.1 and VI.3.

2) **Common procurement vocabulary (CPV)**

79400000

3) **Quantity or scope**

Please refer to Section II.1.5 of this contract notice.

4) **Indication about different date for duration of contract or starting/completion**

Duration in months: 48 (from the award of the contract)

5) **Additional information about lots**

Lot No: 3

Lot title: Support with regard to stress-testing

1) **Short description**

With regard to lot 3 (support with regard to stress-testing), the ECB intends to select highly-qualified external providers that have at their disposal a pool of professionals who collectively possess in-depth knowledge and experience in order to support the ECB in the field of stress-testing. For further details please see the details in the application/tender documentation to be requested from the contact point indicated in Sections I.1 and VI.3.

2) **Common procurement vocabulary (CPV)**

79400000

3) **Quantity or scope**

Please refer to Section II.1.5 of this contract notice.

4) **Indication about different date for duration of contract or starting/completion**

Duration in months: 48 (from the award of the contract)

5) **Additional information about lots**

Lot No: 4

Lot title: Non-statutory audit services

1) **Short description**

With regard to the services of lot 4 (non-statutory audit services) the ECB intends to select external service providers that have at their disposal a pool of professionals who collectively possess in-depth knowledge and experience in order to support the ECB in the field of non-statutory audit services, in particular with regard to the review of compliance with the prudential rules and accounting principles in the areas of:

- (i) asset quality;
- (ii) accuracy of carrying values of banks' assets;
- (iii) derivative pricing model review;
- (iv) accounting practices, processes and policies; and
- (v) capital position.

For further details please see the details in the application/tender documentation to be requested from the contact point indicated in Sections I.1 and VI.3.

- 2) **Common procurement vocabulary (CPV)**
79400000
- 3) **Quantity or scope**
Please refer to Section II.1.5 of this contract notice.
- 4) **Indication about different date for duration of contract or starting/completion**
Duration in months: 48 (from the award of the contract)
- 5) **Additional information about lots**

Section III: Legal, economic, financial and technical information

- III.1) **Conditions relating to the contract**
 - III.1.1) **Deposits and guarantees required:**
No deposit required.
 - III.1.2) **Main financing conditions and payment arrangements and/or reference to the relevant provisions governing them:**
Payment arrangements in line with the terms and conditions of the contract. Please see the details in the tender documentation to be requested from the contact point indicated in Sections I.1 and VI.3.
 - III.1.3) **Legal form to be taken by the group of economic operators to whom the contract is to be awarded:**
The establishment of a temporary grouping of companies is allowed under the conditions laid down in the application/tender documentation. Temporary groupings do not need to have a specific legal form but will be jointly and severally liable for all obligations under the contract. Please see the details in the application/tender documentation to be requested from the contact point indicated in Sections I.1 and VI.3.
 - III.1.4) **Other particular conditions**
The performance of the contract is subject to particular conditions: no
- III.2) **Conditions for participation**
 - III.2.1) **Personal situation of economic operators, including requirements relating to enrolment on professional or trade registers**
Information and formalities necessary for evaluating if the requirements are met: Please see the details in the application/tender documentation to be requested from the contact point indicated in Sections I.1 and VI.3.
 - III.2.2) **Economic and financial ability**
Information and formalities necessary for evaluating if the requirements are met: Please see the details in the application/tender documentation to be requested from the contact point indicated in Sections I.1 and VI.3.
Minimum level(s) of standards possibly required: Candidates shall have the economic, financial, technical and professional capacity to perform the contract. The ECB reserves the right to exclude candidates if it becomes aware that they do not have the economic, financial, technical and professional capacity to perform the contract. In particular, with regard, to the candidate's economic and financial status, the ECB may consult databases and credit scoring/rating agencies. Depending on the outcome hereof, the ECB may request additional information and/or clarification. In duly justified cases the ECB may hereafter request a financial guarantee or undertake other measures as the case may be.
 - III.2.3) **Technical capacity**
Information and formalities necessary for evaluating if the requirements are met:
Please see the details in the application/tender documentation to be requested from the contact point indicated in Sections I.1 and VI.3.

Minimum level(s) of standards possibly required:

With regard to lot 1: project management and organisation services:

- a. candidates need to submit 20 reference assignments performed for banks during the preceding 4 years (December 2011 to December 2015 inclusive), relating to project management and organisation services;
- b. candidates shall be subject to a system of quality assurance;
- c. candidates shall have at their disposal a pool of professionals at the level of assistant, junior professional, senior professional, manager, senior manager and partner, who collectively possess:
 - i. in-depth knowledge and experience in performing the tasks relating to project management and organisation services, as further specified in Chapter I, Sections 1 (background) and 2 (scope of the services to be provided) of the call for applications; and
 - ii. advanced oral, reading, and writing skills in English in accordance with the common European framework of reference (CEFR) C1 level or equivalent; and
 - iii. the ability to travel and perform the services at the ECB's premises in Frankfurt-on-Main in Germany.

With regard to lot 2: quality assurance services on asset quality reviews (AQRs):

- a. candidates need to submit 20 reference assignments performed for banks, during the preceding 4 years (December 2011 to December 2015 inclusive), relating to the assessment of assets of credit institutions and/or the performance of quality assurance for credit institutions.
- b. candidates shall be subject to a system of quality assurance;
- c. candidates shall have at their disposal a pool of professionals at the level of assistant, junior professional, senior professional, manager, senior manager and partner who collectively possess:
 - i. in-depth knowledge and experience in performing the tasks relating to the assessment of assets of credit institutions and/or the performance of quality assurance for credit institutions, as further specified in Chapter I, Sections 1 (background) and 2 (scope of the services to be provided) of the call for applications; and
 - ii. advanced oral, reading, and writing skills in English in accordance with the common European framework of reference (CEFR) C1 level or equivalent; and
 - iii. the ability to travel to perform the services at the ECB's premises in Frankfurt-on-Main in Germany, the locations of the NCAs, or at the premises of the banks, which may be located either in or outside the Member States of the European Union;
- d. among the pool of available professionals defined in item c. above, candidates shall have a team of at least 3 professionals who individually possess in-depth knowledge and experience in assessing at least one of the 5 areas:
 - (i) asset quality;
 - (ii) accuracy of carrying values of banks' assets;
 - (iii) derivative pricing model review;
 - (iv) accounting practices, processes and policies; and
 - (v) capital position,with the aim to cover all 5 areas.

With regard to lot 3: support with regard to stress-testing:

- a. candidates need to submit 2 reference assignments performed either for banks and/or regulatory authorities and/or supervisory/competent authorities and/or international organisations and/or regional financial organisations during the preceding 6 years (December 2009 to December 2015 inclusive), related to any or a combination of the following items:
 - i. the development and/or enhancement of a flexible, highly automated, efficient and robust stress-testing infrastructure, or specific modules thereof;

- ii. the development and/or enhancement of stress testing methodologies and models, including model validation;
- iii. software programming;
- iv. data management and processing;
- v. the development and/or enhancement of quality assurance tools;
- vi. the development and/or enhancement of reporting infrastructures;
- vii. the conduct and/or the process management of stress-testing exercises for selected financial institutions, including the review and quality assurance of financial institutions' bottom-up stress-testing results, involving a large group of stakeholders;
- b. candidates shall be subject to a system of quality assurance;
- c. candidates shall have at their disposal a pool of professionals at the level of assistant, junior professional, senior professional, manager, senior manager and partner who collectively possess:
 - i. in-depth knowledge and experience in performing the tasks relating to support with regard to stress-testing, as further specified in Chapter I, Sections 1 (background) and 2 (scope of the services to be provided) of the call for applications; and
 - ii. advanced oral, reading, and writing skills in English in accordance with the common European framework of reference (CEFR) C1 level or equivalent; and
 - iii. the ability to travel and perform the services at the ECB's premises in Frankfurt-on-Main in Germany.

With regard to lot 4: non-statutory audit services:

- a. candidates need to submit 20 reference assignments performed for Banks, during the preceding 4 years (December 2011 to December 2015 inclusive), relating to the assessment of Banks' accounting practices, processes and policies, credit files, collateral and real estate valuations, the conduct of a collective provisioning analysis, the review of 'Level 3' fair value exposures and/or determination of AQR-adjusted CET1 ratio;
- b. candidates shall be subject to a system of quality assurance;
- c. candidates shall have at their disposal a pool of professionals at the level of assistant, junior professional, senior professional, manager, senior manager and partner who collectively possess:
 - i. in-depth knowledge and experience in performing the tasks relating to non-statutory audit services as further specified in Chapter I, Sections 1 (background) and 2 (scope of the services to be provided) of the call for applications; and
 - ii. advanced oral, reading, and writing skills in English in accordance with the common European framework of reference (CEFR) C1 level or equivalent, and in addition to English, in all the other official and working Languages of the EU as specified in Chapter I, Section 1 (background) of the call for applications; and
 - iii. the ability to travel and perform the services at the premises of the banks, which may be in or outside the Member States of the European Union;
- d. among the pool of available professionals defined in item c. above, candidates shall have for each of the 24 official and working languages of the EU a team of at least 3 professionals who individually possess in-depth knowledge and experience in assessing at least one of the 5 areas:
 - (i) asset quality;
 - (ii) accuracy of carrying values of banks' assets;
 - (iii) derivative pricing model review;
 - (iv) accounting practices, processes and policies; and
 - (v) capital position,with the aim to cover all languages and all 5 areas.

III.2.4) **Information about reserved contracts**

III.3) **Conditions specific to services contracts**

III.3.1) Information about a particular profession

Execution of the service is reserved to a particular profession: no

III.3.2) Staff responsible for the execution of the service

Legal persons should indicate the names and professional qualifications of the staff responsible for the execution of the service: no

Section IV: Procedure

IV.1) Type of procedure

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Accelerated negotiated

IV.1.2) Limitations on the number of operators who will be invited to tender or to participate

Envisaged minimum number 1: and maximum number 10

Objective criteria for choosing the limited number of candidates: Please see the details in the application/tender documentation to be requested from the contact point indicated in Sections I.1 and VI.3.

IV.1.3) Reduction of the number of operators during the negotiation or dialogue

IV.2) Award criteria

IV.2.1) Award criteria

The most economically advantageous tender in terms of the criteria stated in the specifications, in the invitation to tender or to negotiate or in the descriptive document

IV.2.2) Information about electronic auction

An electronic auction will be used: no

IV.3) Administrative information

IV.3.1) File reference number attributed by the contracting authority:

PRO-000740.

IV.3.2) Previous publication(s) concerning the same contract

no

IV.3.3) Conditions for obtaining specifications and additional documents or descriptive document

Payable documents: no

IV.3.4) Time limit for receipt of tenders or requests to participate

15.1.2016

IV.3.5) Date of dispatch of invitations to tender or to participate to selected candidates

IV.3.6) Language(s) in which tenders or requests to participate may be drawn up

English.

IV.3.7) Minimum time frame during which the tenderer must maintain the tender

IV.3.8) Conditions for opening of tenders

Section VI: Complementary information

VI.1) Information about recurrence

This is a recurrent procurement: no

VI.2) Information about European Union funds

The contract is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: no

VI.3) Additional information

The documentation for this procurement can be downloaded from an Internet platform. If you are interested in participating in the procurement procedure please register via the Internet platform using the following Internet address, user name and password:

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

User ID: 000740/MS3/2015

Password: A0577F

After you have registered an e-mail will be sent to you with a new user name and password. The Internet address will remain the same. Please use the new user name and password to download the application/tender documentation.

However, your mere registration and downloading the documentation does not constitute an application/tender. You must submit your application/tender in hard copy version to the ECB, on time, in the format requested and including the content as further instructed in the application/tender documentation.

Should you experience any problems in accessing the Internet platform for registration and/or downloading the application/tender documentation please do not hesitate to contact the ECB under the following e-mail address: procurement@ecb.europa.eu quoting the procurement number and problem experienced.

The ECB shall endeavour to answer all queries concerning access as quickly as possible but cannot guarantee a minimum response time. The ECB shall not be bound to reply to queries received less than 7 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 Decision of the European Central Bank of 3.7.2007 laying down the Rules on Procurement (ECB/2007/5) (as amended), available on the ECB website at <http://www.ecb.europa.eu> (please look for the link 'for suppliers').

During the tender procedure tenderers shall not contact any other ECB staff members or organisations/persons working for the ECB with regard to this tender procedure 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.

VI.4) **Procedures for appeal**

VI.4.1) **Body responsible for appeal procedures**

Procurement Review Body of the European Central Bank, c/o Legal Advice Team

Sonnemannstraße 22

60314 Frankfurt-on-Main

GERMANY

Telephone: +49 6913440

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

Fax: +49 6913446886

Body responsible for mediation procedures

European Ombudsman

1 avenue du Président Robert Schuman

67001 Strasbourg

FRANCE

VI.4.2) **Lodging of appeals**

Precise information on deadline(s) for lodging appeals: 15 days from the receipt of the information specified in Article 28(3) of Decision of the European Central Bank of 3.7.2007 laying down the Rules on Procurement (ECB/2007/5) or, if no information is requested, 15 days from the receipt of the notification to unsuccessful tenderers. Further requirements are outlined in Article 33 of this Decision. A complaint to the European Ombudsman does not affect the deadline for lodging appeals.

VI.4.3) **Service from which information about the lodging of appeals may be obtained**

Central Procurement Office
Sonnemannstraße 22
60314 Frankfurt-on-Main
GERMANY
Telephone: +49 6913440

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

18.12.2015