

Call for expressions of interests to participate in a call for tenders

This publicity aims to alert the economic operators on the market that a call for tenders will be launched. The main information relating to this invitation for expression of interests is set out below.

Title: Lump sum ex-post audit

Reference: EU-Rail.22.MVP.01

Type of call for tenders: Negotiated procedure for a middle value contract (point 14 annex I [EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046](#)¹)

Contracting Authority: Europe's Rail Joint Undertaking

Type of contract: direct contract for services

Maximum total value of the contract: EUR 50.000

Duration of the contract: 8 months

Deadline for expression of interests: 10/11/2022

Indicative(*) date of dispatch of the invitations to tender (launch of the procedure): 02/12/2022

Indicative (*) deadline for submission of tenders: 03/02/2023

() Those dates are for indicative purposes only and do not constitute any obligation for the contracting authority. The exact deadlines, e.g., the deadline for the submission of tenders will be indicated in the invitation to tender.*

Description of the services/supplies to be purchased:

Subject of the competition is the conclusion of the contract with one independent external audit firm. The audit firm shall provide its expertise and advice to the EU-Rail Authorising Officer in establishing a framework for assurance process for lump sum grants to be implemented by means of reviews/audits as referred to in the Model Grant Agreement for lump sum grants.

¹ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1–222

The provision of services by the audit firm resulting from the specific contract will comprise the following main tasks:

1. Provision of the general standardised review/audit framework for lump sum grants containing, as a minimum, the deliverables as defined above (template programme, template questionnaire/checklist, template report). Provision of a version of the review/audit programme and of the review/audit questionnaire/checklist tailored to the particular lump sum grant agreement concluded with a particular beneficiary.
2. Support (ad hoc consultation/advice) to the conduct of the pilot review/audit performed by EU-Rail and independent expert.
3. Secondary consultation and finetuning of the proposed framework after its internal review by EU-Rail and its testing in a pilot review/audit

The main task of the successful tenderer shall be to design the audit framework to perform the reviews/audits of lumps sum grants, defining audit programme, checklist, questionnaire(s), and any other relevant elements. The foreseen overall objective of the framework for the conduct of reviews/audits which should result from the contract is to set up a framework that would provide the EU-Rail Authorising Officer in obtaining reasonable assurance primarily, but not exclusively, on:

- the technical implementation of the action, in particular on the fulfilment of the conditions identified per the respective work package (in the sense that the agreed activities were performed),
- compliance with other aspects following from the grant agreement such as ethics and research integrity, dissemination and exploitation of results, management of intellectual property, and gender equality etc

Participation in this call for tenders

Participation in this procurement procedure is open on equal terms to all natural and legal persons coming within the scope of the Treaties.

It is also open to all natural and legal persons established in Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) as listed in the Annex II of the TFEU and to all natural and legal persons established in Iceland, Norway and Lichtenstein, as per the EEA Agreement.

If you are interested in participating in this call for tenders, please send us an email to the following EU-Rail functional mailbox procurement@rail-research.europa.eu and indicate your contact details (name, organisation, address, country and email address) **no later than 10/11/2022.**

Economic operators who do not express in writing their interest before the deadline indicated above and to the above e-mail will not be invited to submit a tender. The latter restriction does not apply to the economic operators directly invited by the Europe's Rail Joint Undertaking.