**Additional information about the Contract Notice**

**Supply of personal protective equipment, protective clothing and other fire-fighting equipment and gear**

**Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria**

1. **Nature of contract**

Unit price

1. **Programme title**

Interreg-IPA CBC Programme between Republic of Bulgaria and Republic of North Macedonia CCI No. 2014TC16I5CB006

1. **Financing**

ERDF through INTERREG – IPA Cross-Border Cooperation Programme, CCI 2014TC16I5CB006, Budget line 5: Equipment and works”

1. **Legal basis, eligibility and rules of origin**

The legal basis of this procedure is Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 laying down common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action and ERDF See Annex A2 of the practical guide.

Participation is open to all natural persons who are nationals of and legal persons (participating either individually or in a grouping – consortium – of candidates/tenderers) which are effectively established in a  Member State of the European Union or in a eligible country or territory as defined under Article 8 of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 establishing common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for external action (CIR) for the applicable instrument under which the contract is financed.

Participation is also open to international organisations.

Participation in procurement and grant procedures financed by the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) and the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP)[[1]](#footnote-1) is fully untied[[2]](#footnote-2).

All goods purchased must originate in an eligible source country as defined in Interreg-IPA CBC Programme between Republic of Bulgaria and Republic of North Macedonia CCI No. 2014TC16I5CB006. For these purposes, ‘origin’ means the place where the goods are mined, grown, produced or manufactured. The origin of the goods must be determined according to the EU Customs Code or to the relevant international agreement applicable.

The Contracting Authority shall apply the “full untying” clause concerning origin of goods, products (goods, materials, components) can be of any origin if their value, or the value of each separate lot, is below the threshold of EUR 100 000. This is clearly the case since the required supplies are separated into lots based on their respective use. All supplies under this contract may originate from any country.

For UK candidates or tenderers: Please be aware that following the entry into force of the EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement\* on 1 February 2020 and in particular Articles 127(6), 137 and 138, the references to natural or legal persons residing or established in a Member State of the European Union and to goods originating from an eligible country, as defined under Regulation (EU) No 236/2014\*\* and Annex IV of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement\*\*\*, are to be understood as including natural or legal persons residing or established in, and to goods originating in, the United Kingdom \*\*\*\*. Those persons and goods are therefore eligible under this call.

\* Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community.

\*\* Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 laying down common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action.

\*\*\* Annex IV to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, as revised by Decision 1/2014 of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers (OJ L196/40, 3.7.2014).

\*\*\*\* Including the Overseas Countries and Territories having special relations with the United Kingdom, as laid down in Part Four and Annex II of the TFEU.

1. **Candidature**

**All eligible natural and legal persons (as per item 4 above) or groupings of such persons (consortia) may participate or tender.**

**A consortium may be a permanent, legally established grouping or a grouping which has been constituted informally for a specific procurement procedure. All partners of a consortium (i.e., the leader and all other partners) are jointly and severally liable to the contracting authority.**

**The participation or tender of an ineligible natural or legal person will result in the automatic exclusion of that person. In particular, if that ineligible person belongs to a consortium, the whole consortium will be excluded.**

1. **Number of requests to participate or tenders**

**No more than one request to participate or tender can be submitted by a natural or legal person whatever the form of participation (as an individual legal entity or as leader or partner of a consortium submitting a request to participate or tender). In the event that a natural or legal person submits more than one request to participate or tender, all requests to participate or tenders in which that person has participated will be excluded.**

In case of lots, the candidates or tenderers may submit only one request to participate or tender per lot. Contracts will be awarded lot by lot and each lot will form a separate contract.

1. **Sub-contracting**

Sub-contracting is allowed.

1. **Provisional commencement date of the contract**

02.09.2022

1. **Period of implementation of tasks**

From 02.09.2022 to 31.12.2022

1. **Language of the procedure**

All written communications for this tender procedure and contract must be in English.

1. **Additional information**

Financial data to be provided by the candidate in the request to participate form or in the tender submission form must be expressed in EUR. If applicable, where a candidate refers to amounts originally expressed in a different currency, the conversion to EUR shall be made in accordance with the InforEuro exchange rate of 03.2022, which can be found at the following address: <http://ec.europa.eu/budget/graphs/inforeuro.html>.

**SELECTION CRITERIA**

1. **Selection criteria**

Capacity-providing entities

An economic operator (i.e. candidate or tenderer) may, where appropriate and for a particular contract, rely on the capacities of other entities, regardless of the legal nature of the links which it has with them. If the economic operator relies on other entities, it must in that case prove to the contracting authority that it will have at its disposal the resources necessary for the performance of the contract by producing a commitment by those entities to place those resources at its disposal. Such entities, for instance the parent company of the economic operator, must respect the same rules of eligibility and notably that of nationality as the economic operator relying on them and must comply with the selection criteria for which the economic operator relies on them. **Furthermore, the data for this third entity for the relevant selection criterion should be included in a separate document**. Proof of the capacity will also have to be provided when requested by the contracting authority.

With regard to technical and professional criteria, an economic operator may only rely on the capacities of other entities where the latter will perform the tasks for which these capacities are required.

With regard to economic and financial criteria, the entities upon whose capacity the economic operator relies, become jointly and severally liable for the performance of the contract.

The following selection criteria will be applied to candidates. In the case of requests to participate submitted by a consortium, these selection criteria will be applied to the consortium as a whole if not specified otherwise. The selection criteria will not be applied to natural persons and single-member companies when they are sub-contractors.

The candidate shall not use previous experience which caused breach of contract and termination by a contracting authority as a reference for selection criteria.

1. **Economic and financial capacity** **(**based on item 3 of the request to participate form, or on item 3 of supply tender form). In case of candidate being a public body, equivalent information should be provided. The reference period which will be taken into account will be the last three years for which accounts have been closed.

Criteria for legal and natural persons:

* the average annual turnover of the candidate or tenderer for the years 2019, 2020 and 2021 must exceed/be equal to 50% of the annualised maximum budget of the contract i.e., the maximum budget stated in the contract notice divided by the initial contract duration in years, where this exceeds 1 year (minimum annual turnover requested may not exceed two times the estimated annual contract value, except in duly justified cases motivated in the tender dossier);

**2)** **Professional capacity** (based on items 4 and 5 of the request to participate form for service contracts and on items 4 and 5 of the tender form for supply contracts). The reference period which will be taken into account will be the last three years preceding the submission deadline.

The Contracting Authority does not require professional capacity

**3) Technical capacity** (based on items 5 and 6 of the request to participate form for service contracts and on items 5 and 6 of the tender form for supply contracts). The reference period which will be taken into account will be the last three years from submission deadline.

This means that the contract the candidate refers to could have been started at any time during the indicated period but it does not necessarily have to be completed during that period, nor implemented during the entire period. Candidates are allowed to refer either to projects completed within the reference period (although started earlier) or to projects not yet completed. Only the portion satisfactorily completed during the reference period will be taken into consideration. This portion will have to be supported by documentary evidence (statement or certificate from the entity which awarded the contract, proof of payment) also detailing its value. If a candidate has implemented the project in a consortium, the percentage that the candidate has successfully completed must be clear from the documentary evidence, together with a description of the nature of the services provided/supplies delivered if the selection criteria relating to the pertinence of the experience have been used.

Criteria for legal and natural persons:

* one fulfilled contract for supply of goods with similar subject during the last 3 years
* similar subject for the purposes of the present tender procedure might be, for:
  + Lot 1: Supply of personal protective equipment for firefighting or equivalent;
  + Lot 2: Supply of technical equipment, including drainage pumps and / or garden sprayers and / or chainsaws or equivalent

In case of applying for both lots simultaneously, the requirements must be met cumulatively, e.g. proof of fulfilled contract(s) with the above subjects must be presented. The tenderers must be informed that if applying for both lots, a single delivery covering both subjects may serve as proof.

Previous experience which caused breach of contract and termination by a contracting authority shall not be used as reference.

1. **Award criteria**

Price.

1. Regulation (EU) No 230/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing an instrument contributing to stability and peace (OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 1). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Article 11 CIR. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)