



**Acquisition Directorate**

Boulevard Leopold III  
B-1110 Brussels, Belgium

Telephone: +32 (0)2 707 8421  
Fax: +32 (0)2 707 8421

NCIA/ACQ/2020/6716  
21 October 2020

**Notification of Intent to Invite International Competitive Bids**

**Reorganisation of Ship-Shore-Ship Buffer (SSSB) Capability Including  
Associated Communications Systems**

**IFB-CO-15577-SSSB**

**€30,849,828**  
(estimated value)

The project Reorganisation of Ship-Shore-Ship Buffer (SSSB) Capability Including Associated Communications Systems, serial 2015/OCM03072-02,03&05, will replace and modernize existing SSSB obsolete radio and control equipment in The United Kingdom (three sites), Greece (six sites) and The Netherlands (four sites).

The scope of the project is broken down into Work Package 1 (Civil Works and Site Preparation) and Work Package 2 (Radio Communications Subsystem and Data Link Communication Upgrade).

The formal Invitation for Bid (IFB) is planned to be issued in **March 2021**, with a Bid Closing Date in **Q3 2021**, and an anticipated Contract Award in **Q1 2022**.

NCI Agency Point of Contact: Ms Katharina Schwarz, Senior Contracting Officer

E-mail: [IFB-CO-15577-SSSB@ncia.nato.int](mailto:IFB-CO-15577-SSSB@ncia.nato.int)



NATO Communications  
and Information Agency  
Agence OTAN d'information  
et de communication

[www.ncia.nato.int](http://www.ncia.nato.int)

To: Distribution List

Subject: Notification of Intent to Invite Bids for International Competitive Bidding  
Reorganisation of Ship-Shore-Ship Buffer (SSSB) Capability Including  
Associated Communications Systems  
**IFB-CO-15577-SSSB**

References: A. AC/4(PP)D/28149 (United Kingdom)  
B. AC/4(PP)D/28150 (Greece)  
C. AC/4(PP)D/28151 (The Netherlands)  
D. AC/4-DS(2020)0009  
E. AC/4-2261 (1996 Edition)  
F. C-M(2002)49 – NATO Security Policy

1. The NATO Communications and Information Agency (NCI Agency), acting as Host Nation in accordance with Paragraph 6 of Reference E, intends to invite bids to Reorganize and Modernize Ship-Shore-Ship Buffer (SSSB) in The United Kingdom, Greece and The Netherlands. Release of this IFB is subject to prior authorization from the NATO Investment Committee, currently envisaged for Q1 2021.
2. An overview of the requirements for this IFB are summarised in Annex B hereto.
3. The estimated investment cost for the services and deliverables included within scope of the intended Contract is estimated at €30,849,828, as set forth in References A to D.
4. This will be a single Firm Fixed Price contract with expected duration of approximately **30 months**. It is planned to place a single Contract with one Contractor. No partial bidding shall be allowed.
5. Subject to appropriate second stage authorization from the Investment Committee, the NCI Agency intends to use the standard International Competitive Bidding (ICB) Procedure, i.e. lowest priced technically compliant bid.
6. The IFB is planned to be issued by end of **March 2021**, with a Bid Closing Date in **Q3 2021**, and an anticipated Contract Award in **Q1 2022**. A Bidders Conference and Site Surveys are planned for **May-July 2021**. Contract Award is subject to funding priority and availability as determined by the NATO Investment Committee. The Purchaser reserves the right to amend these dates at their discretion.
7. Pursuant to Paragraph 6 of Reference E, National Representatives are kindly requested that the NCI Agency be provided with a Declaration of Eligibility, not later than **26 February 2021**, of qualified and certified firms, which are interested in bidding for this project. In addition to the certifications required under this NOI, the Declarations of Eligibility shall include the following information for each of the nominated firms: **name of the firm, telephone number, fax number, e-mail address, and Point of Contact**. This information is critical to enable smooth communication with prospective Bidders and should be sent to the following address:

NATO Communications and Information Agency  
Boulevard Leopold III, 1110 Brussels, Belgium  
Attention: Ms. Katharina Schwarz – Senior Contracting Officer

Tel: +32 (2) 707 8591

E-mail: [IFB-CO-15577-SSSB@ncia.nato.int](mailto:IFB-CO-15577-SSSB@ncia.nato.int)

8. It is emphasized that requests for participation in this competition received directly from individual firms cannot be considered.
9. Bidders will be required to declare a bid validity of twelve (12) months from closing date for receipt of bids, supported by a Bid Guarantee of Euro €300,000 (three hundred thousand euro). Should the selection and award procedure extend beyond 12 months after Bid Closing Date, firms will be requested to voluntarily extend the validity of their bids and Bid Guarantee accordingly. Bidders may decline to do so; withdraw their bid and excuse themselves from the bidding process without penalty.
10. National Authorities are advised that the IFB Package will be NATO UNCLASSIFIED. However, execution of the proposed Contract will require unescorted access and work of Contractor personnel at NATO Class II security areas and in accordance with Reference F, personnel of the winning bidder will be required to hold individual security clearances of “NATO SECRET”. Only companies maintaining appropriate personnel clearances will be able to perform the resulting Contract. Bidders are to note that Contract award will not be delayed in order to allow Contractor personnel to obtain missing clearances.
11. Prospective Bidders will be invited to participate in a Bidders Conference and Site Surveys that are currently scheduled to be held in **May-July 2021**, and are hereby notified that they will require a valid security clearance of minimum “NATO SECRET” in order to access the sites. Therefore, the Bidders are kindly reminded to take appropriate actions accordingly.
12. The reference for the IFB is IFB-CO-15577-SSSB and all correspondence concerning this IFB should reference this number.
13. Your assistance in this procurement is greatly appreciated.

FOR THE DIRECTOR OF ACQUISITION:

**Schwarz**  
**Katharina**  
Katharina Schwarz  
Senior Contracting Officer

Digitally signed by  
Schwarz Katharina  
Date: 2020.10.21  
10:37:02 +02'00'

Enclosures:

Annex A (Distribution List for Official Notification of Intent to Call for Bids)

Annex B (Work Summary Description of Project Scope)

**Annex A**

**Distribution List for Official Notification of Intent to Call for Bids**

**IFB-CO-15577-SSSB**

**NATO Delegations (Attn: Investment Committee Adviser):**

Albania	1
Belgium	1
Bulgaria	1
Canada	1
Croatia	1
Czech Republic	1
Denmark	1
Estonia	1
France	1
Germany	1
Greece	1
Hungary	1
Iceland	1
Italy	1
Latvia	1
Lithuania	1
Luxembourg	1
The Netherlands	1
Norway	1
Poland	1
Portugal	1
Romania	1
Slovakia	1
Slovenia	1
Spain	1
Turkey	1
United Kingdom	1
United States	1



**Belgian Ministry of Economic Affairs** 1

**Embassies in Brussels (Attn: Commercial Attaché):**

Albania	1
Belgium	1
Bulgaria	1
Canada	1
Croatia	1
Czech Republic	1
Denmark	1
Estonia	1
France	1
Germany	1
Greece	1
Hungary	1
Iceland	1
Italy	1
Latvia	1
Lithuania	1
Luxembourg	1
The Netherlands	1
Norway	1
Poland	1
Portugal	1
Romania	1
Slovakia	1
Slovenia	1
Spain	1
Turkey	1
United Kingdom	1
United States	1

***Distribution for information (Blind to Potential Industrial Suppliers):***

**NATO HQ**

NATO Office of Resources Capability Implementation Branch – Attn: Deputy Branch Chief	1
Director, NATO HQ Communications and Information Staff, Attn: Executive Co-Ordinator	1
SACTREPEUR, Attn: Infrastructure Assistant	1

**Strategic Commands**

HQ SACT    Attn: R&D Contracting Office	1
ACO         Attn: SPT CIS Director	1

**NCI Agency – Internal Distribution**

ACQ         Director of Acquisition (Ms Jennifer Upton)	1
ACQ         Chief of Contracts (Ms Rebecca Benson)	1
ACQ         Principal Contracting Officer (Mr William Maley)	1
ACQ/CAB    Secretary (Ms Carolien Biesemans)	1
Legal Office (Ms Simona Rocchi/Mr Vincent Roobaert)	1
NLO         (Mr Xavier Desfougeres)	1
AMDC2      Responsible Director (Mr Michael Stoltz)	1
AMDC2      Deputy Director AirC2 (Ms Naziha Degroote)	1
AMDC2      EXO (Ms Hilary Whiteway)	1
AMDC2      Project Manager, SSSB-UK-GR-NL (Mr Daniel Harman)	1
Registry     (for distribution)	1
All NATEXs	1

## **Annex B**

### **Project Serial 2015/0CM03072 - 02, 03 & 05**

#### **Work Summary Description of Project Scope**

##### **1. Background**

The SSSB is a real time digital link buffer system supporting the exchange of tactical information between the NATO Air Defence Ground Environment (NADGE) system, Airborne Early Warning (AEW) systems and Naval Forces by the use of NATO data Link 1, 11, 11B and Link 22.

The current SSSB equipment is old and suffers from repeated failures. There is a need to reorganize and recover full functionality of existing SSSB communication systems due to the obsolescence of presently installed radio systems and intra-sites communications and to prepare the floor for the migration to Link 22 and the relevant modernization driving requirements.

##### **2. Operational Objective**

The objectives of the project are to provide:

- Seamless, resilient, flexible bearer services and connectivity between Operational Forces and NATO Commands, supporting operations while static and deployed sites are available;
- Effective non-SATCOM wireless transmission services at Line of Sight (LOS) and Beyond Line Of Sight (BLOS);
- Exploitation of the full electromagnetic-spectrum capability to provide survivable wireless services and systems in support of NATO operations;
- Deployment of wireless capability whenever needed throughout and beyond the NATO Area of Responsibility in accordance with NATO Ministerial Guidance;
- Management and adaptation of wireless-system and service configurations to provide maximum capacity consistent with the physical and threat environment;
- Interfacing of wireless-system and NATO Command Structure;
- Configuration and organization of wireless transmission and networking services;
- Future integration into Allied Command & Control Systems (ACCS);
- Multi-Link-11 network capability;
- Multi-Link-22 network capability;

- Full Communication Control for Data and Voice services;
- Tactical Voice communications;
- Advanced maintenance and analysis capabilities for exchange of:
  - Link 11 Tactical Data (STANAG 5511, STANAG 5601, MIL-STD-188-110, MIL-STD-188-203-1A, SPAWAR-S-850);
  - Link 22 Tactical and Technical Data (STANAG 4372 Ed 3, STANAG 4430, STANAG 4203, STANAG 4205, STANAG 4285, STANAG 4372, STANAG 4415, STANAG 4444, STANAG 4529, STANAG 4539, STANAG 5522).

### **3. Contract Scope of Work Description**

The project will replace and modernize existing SSSB obsolete radio and control equipment in The United Kingdom (three sites), Greece (six sites) and The Netherlands (four sites).

The scope of the project is broken down into Work Package 1 (Civil Works and Site Preparation) and Work Package 2 (Radio Communications Subsystem and Data Link Communication Upgrade).

Work Package 1 Civil Works and Site Preparation is mainly related to antenna site preparation, building refurbishment and provision of new buildings to host radio equipment.

Work Package 2 Radio Communications Subsystem and Data Link Communication Upgrade is mainly related to replacement of HF transmitters and receivers with new solid-state equipment. Replacement of UHF amplifier's with new equipment supporting the SATURN standard. Replacement of HF and UHF antennas, supply and installation of new time of day cabling, wiring, connectors and all necessary adaptation to the buildings in terms of penetration and lightning protection system.