

**Germany – Computer network services – Digital Euro - Network Service Provider (NSP)
Connectivity
OJ S 163/2025 27/08/2025
Contract or concession notice – standard regime
Services - Supplies**

1. Buyer

1.1. Buyer

Official name: European Central Bank

Email: procurement@ecb.europa.eu

Legal type of the buyer: EU institution, body or agency

Activity of the contracting authority: Economic affairs

2. Procedure

2.1. Procedure

Title: Digital Euro - Network Service Provider (NSP) Connectivity

Description: Network Service Provider (NSP) Connectivity for the Digital Euro Service Platform (DESP). The maximum value of the service agreements for both lots is 355,320,000 EUR in total.

Procedure identifier: 299473fc-8cf1-4f34-bce7-6c4e131fe4b6

Internal identifier: PRO-009491

Type of procedure: Negotiated with prior publication of a call for competition / competitive with negotiation

The procedure is accelerated: no

Main features of the procedure: [Applicable only to Lot 1]: In deviation from Article 30 (1) of the Decision ECB/2016/2 laying down the rules on procurement (as amended), (available at <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:02016D0002-20200501>), subject to the following place of establishment and control requirement: Only the following may be eligible as candidates, tenderers, members of a temporary grouping or sub-contractors: - EU Nationals that - are controlled by EU Nationals. Should candidates, tenderers or members of a temporary grouping that do not fulfil these requirements apply/submit an application, the application/tender will be excluded. Should sub-contractors be proposed that do not fulfil these requirements (i.e. being an EU National being controlled by an EU National), the ECB will either decide to exclude the application/tender or request that the sub-contractor be replaced with a sub-contractor that does fulfil the requirements. An 'EU National' means any legal entity with registered offices in an EU member state or any natural person that has the nationality of an EU member state. 'Control' means the ability to exercise a decisive influence on an undertaking, directly, or indirectly through one or more intermediate undertakings. Control can take any of the following forms: (i) the direct or indirect holding of more than 50% of the nominal value of the issued share capital in the legal entity concerned, or of a majority of the voting rights of the shareholders or associates of that entity, (ii) the direct or indirect holding, in fact or in law, of decision-making powers in the legal entity concerned. The contractors must moreover ensure that any cooperation with Nationals of third countries (non-EU countries) or that are controlled by such a country and/or by a national of such a country does not affect the security interests and avoids potential negative effects over security of supply of inputs that are critical to the procurement and the procurement subject. As proof,

Candidates shall submit a declaration(s) in the Annex CfA4 for themselves and potential members of temporary groups or subcontractors. The ECB reserves the right to request further information or proof in this context to assess, if the above requirements are fulfilled. Candidates shall inform the ECB without undue delay if any circumstances arise after the submission of their application that may affect their eligibility in relation to ownership and control. [Applicable only to Lot 2]: 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 ECB/2016/2 laying down the rules on procurement (as amended), available at <https://www.ecb.europa.eu/ecb/legal/1001/procurement/html/index.en.html> And in EUR-Lex: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:02016D0002-20200501>. The detailed features and terms and conditions of the procedure can be found in the procurement documents. [Applicable to Lot 1 and 2]: Location of service delivery: The provision of all works and off-site consultancy services will take place exclusively within the European Economic Area (EEA). The future contractors' staff (including possible temporary group members and subcontractors) assigned to this contract, must deliver and operate all Services from service delivery locations within the EEA.

2.1.1. Purpose

Main nature of the contract: Services

Main classification (cpv): 72700000 Computer network services

Additional classification (cpv): 32400000 Networks, 45314000 Installation of telecommunications equipment, 72611000 Technical computer support services, 30236200 Data-processing equipment, 32412100 Telecommunications network, 72254100 Systems testing services, 45232320 Cable broadcasting lines

2.1.2. Place of performance

Postal address: Sonnemannstrasse 22

Town: Frankfurt am Main

Postcode: 60314

Country subdivision (NUTS): Frankfurt am Main, Kreisfreie Stadt (DE712)

Country: Germany

2.1.3. Value

Estimated value excluding VAT: 177 660 000,00 EUR

2.1.4. General information

Additional information: This tender procedure is conducted via the ECB's electronic tendering system (SAP Ariba) which can be accessed via the following internet address: <http://www.ecb.europa.eu/ecb/jobsproc/sourcing/html/index.en.html> If you have not used the ECB's electronic tendering system before, you need to register via the above link. Under the above link you also find user guides for detailed information on how to use the system and contact details for technical support. Should you require technical help when using the system, please raise a contact support request on the following website: <https://eu.service.cloud.ariba.com/Sourcing.aw>. Any other queries relating to this procurement procedure and the content of the procurement documentation shall be submitted as laid down in the procurement documentation itself.

Legal basis:

Other

2.1.5. Terms of procurement

Terms of submission:

Maximum number of lots for which one tenderer can submit tenders: 2

Terms of contract:

Maximum number of lots for which contracts can be awarded to one tenderer: 1

2.1.6. Grounds for exclusion

Sources of grounds for exclusion: Procurement Document

5. Lot

5.1. Lot: LOT-0001

Title: Lot 1 NSP Connectivity ? restricted to EU nationals that are controlled by EU Nationals only

Description: The scope of the procurement foresees the establishment of Connectivity Services that support the communication between the distributed components of its end-to-end IT solution. The connectivity comprises two components ? external and inter-component connectivity. The first category (?external connectivity?) includes the connectivity services required to establish the technical communication between the IT infrastructure of external actors (mostly Payment Service Providers, PSPs and National Central Banks, NCBs) and the digital euro service platform (DESP), to ensure the smooth provision of digital euro services to end users. As DESP components might be hosted in different sites/data centers belonging to different providers, a second category of connectivity services includes the services needed to enable data exchanges between the different DESP components that are not co-located within the same IT infrastructure and that still do not have a way to communicate directly. This second category is referred to as ?inter-component connectivity?. Lot 1 participation is limited to EU nationals that are controlled by EU Nationals as defined in Chapter IV / Section 3.1 of the Call for Applications (CfA).

Internal identifier: PRO-009491 - Lot 1

5.1.1. Purpose

Main nature of the contract: Services

Additional nature of the contract: Supplies

Main classification (cpv): 72700000 Computer network services

Additional classification (cpv): 32400000 Networks, 45314000

Installation of telecommunications equipment, 72611000 Technical computer support services, 30236200 Data-processing equipment, 32412100 Telecommunications network, 72254100

Systems testing services, 45232320 Cable broadcasting lines

Options:

Description of the options: The contract is not subject to renewal.

5.1.3. Estimated duration

Duration: 120 Months

5.1.5. Value

Estimated value excluding VAT: 81 420 000,00 EUR

5.1.6. General information

Reserved participation: Participation is not reserved.

Procurement Project not financed with EU Funds.

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

Additional information: The maximum service agreement duration is 10 years. This duration is justified by the following high-level summary: Due to the complexity and volume of the project, it will not be possible to deliver all services within the standard contract duration of 4 years. To provide a long-term stable and efficient digital euro service for the entire euro area, it is indispensable to ensure flexibility and continuity in the contractual setup, including the contract duration. Considering the complexity of the solution and the involvement of multiple internal and external providers it is critical to have a continuous contractual relationship with the network service providers to ensure availability and resilience of the Digital Euro Service Platform (DESP) in the long term. Additionally, the connectivity services is a critical component of the Digital Euro should be aligned with the contract duration of the framework agreements of other digital euro components, e.g. Alias Lookup, Secure Exchange of Payment Information, Risk and Fraud, Application and Software Development Kit (SDK), Offline Solution. Furthermore, the contracts for the provisioning of network and connectivity services must be concluded for a duration beyond 4 years due to the upfront investment for the implementation of the connectivity solution and testing period to ensure that the connectivity works reliably. To warrant this investment in the setup of the connectivity services, these contracts will have a duration of 10 years. This approach allows the project team to focus on the digital euro functionality while avoiding any change of providers in this critical phase. The maximum value of Lot 1 is 177,660,000 EUR.

5.1.9. Selection criteria

Sources of selection criteria: Procurement Document

Criterion:

The criteria will be used to select the candidates to be invited for the second stage of the procedure

Information about the second stage of a two-stage procedure:

Minimum number of candidates to be invited for the second stage of the procedure: 3

Maximum number of candidates to be invited for the second stage of the procedure: 7

The procedure will take place in successive stages. At each stage, some participants may be eliminated

The buyer reserves the right to award the contract on the basis of the initial tenders without any further negotiations

5.1.11. Procurement documents

Deadline for requesting additional information: 17/09/2025 10:00:08 (UTC)

Address of the procurement documents: <https://eu.mu.ariba.com/uav/project/?token=fcb184d7-386f-4d6c-8f1c-699168ff7f2d>

Ad hoc communication channel:

Name: ECB e-tendering platform

URL: <https://eu.mu.ariba.com/uav/project/?token=fcb184d7-386f-4d6c-8f1c-699168ff7f2d>

5.1.12. Terms of procurement

Terms of submission:

Electronic submission: Required

Address for submission: <https://eu.mu.ariba.com/uav/project/?token=fcb184d7-386f-4d6c-8f1c-699168ff7f2d>

Languages in which tenders or requests to participate may be submitted: English

Electronic catalogue: Not allowed

Variants: Not allowed

Deadline for receipt of requests to participate: 01/10/2025 10:00:08 (UTC)

Terms of contract:

The execution of the contract must be performed within the framework of sheltered employment programmes: No

Electronic invoicing: Required

Electronic ordering will be used: yes

Electronic payment will be used: yes

5.1.15. Techniques

Framework agreement:

No framework agreement

Information about the dynamic purchasing system:

No dynamic purchase system

Electronic auction: no

5.1.16. Further information, mediation and review

Mediation organisation: The European Ombudsman

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

Information about review deadlines: Within 10 days of receipt of the notification in accordance with Article 34(1) or the first sentence of Article 34(3) of Decision ECB/2016/2 laying down the rules on public procurement. Further requirements are outlined in Article 39 of this Decision. A complaint to the European Ombudsman does not affect the deadline for lodging appeals.

Organisation providing additional information about the procurement procedure: European Central Bank

Organisation providing offline access to the procurement documents: European Central Bank

Organisation providing more information on the review procedures: European Central Bank

5.1. Lot: LOT-0002

Title: Lot 2 NSP Connectivity ? unrestricted ? open to EU nationals and non-EU nationals

Description: The scope of the procurement foresees the establishment of Connectivity

Services that support the communication between the distributed components of its end-to-end IT solution. The connectivity comprises two components ? external and inter-component connectivity. The first category (?external connectivity?) includes the connectivity services required to establish the technical communication between the IT infrastructure of external actors (mostly Payment Service Providers, PSPs and National Central Banks, NCBs) and the digital euro service platform (DESP), to ensure the smooth provision of digital euro services to end users. As DESP components might be hosted in different sites/data centers belonging to different providers, a second category of connectivity services includes the services needed to enable data exchanges between the different DESP components that are not co-located within the same IT infrastructure and that still do not have a way to communicate directly. This second category is referred to as ?inter-component connectivity?. Lot 2 participation is unrestricted and open to both EU nationals and non-EU nationals.

Internal identifier: PRO-009491 - Lot 2

5.1.1. Purpose

Main nature of the contract: Services

Main classification (cpv): 72700000 Computer network services

Additional classification (cpv): 32400000 Networks, 45314000

Installation of telecommunications equipment, 72611000 Technical computer support services,

30236200 Data-processing equipment, 32412100 Telecommunications network, 72254100

Systems testing services, 45232320 Cable broadcasting lines

5.1.3. Estimated duration

Duration: 120 Months

5.1.5. Value

Estimated value excluding VAT: 81 420 000,00 EUR

5.1.6. General information

Reserved participation: Participation is not reserved.

Procurement Project not financed with EU Funds.

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

Additional information: The maximum service agreement duration is 10 years. This duration is justified by the following high-level summary: Due to the complexity and volume of the project, it will not be possible to deliver all services within the standard contract duration of 4 years. To provide a long-term stable and efficient digital euro service for the entire euro area, it is indispensable to ensure flexibility and continuity in the contractual setup, including the contract duration. Considering the complexity of the solution and the involvement of multiple internal and external providers it is critical to have a continuous contractual relationship with the network service providers to ensure availability and resilience of the Digital Euro Service Platform (DESP) in the long term. Additionally, the connectivity services is a critical component of the Digital Euro should be aligned with the contract duration of the framework agreements of other digital euro components, e.g. Alias Lookup, Secure Exchange of Payment Information, Risk and Fraud, Application and Software Development Kit (SDK), Offline Solution.

Furthermore, the contracts for the provisioning of network and connectivity services must be concluded for a duration beyond 4 years due to the upfront investment for the implementation of the connectivity solution and testing period to ensure that the connectivity works reliably. To warrant this investment in the setup of the connectivity services, these contracts will have a duration of 10 years. This approach allows the project team to focus on the digital euro functionality while avoiding any change of providers in this critical phase. The maximum value of Lot 2 is 177,660,000 EUR.

5.1.9. Selection criteria

Sources of selection criteria: Procurement Document

Criterion:

The criteria will be used to select the candidates to be invited for the second stage of the procedure

Information about the second stage of a two-stage procedure:

Minimum number of candidates to be invited for the second stage of the procedure: 3

Maximum number of candidates to be invited for the second stage of the procedure: 7

The procedure will take place in successive stages. At each stage, some participants may be eliminated

The buyer reserves the right to award the contract on the basis of the initial tenders without any further negotiations

5.1.11. Procurement documents

Deadline for requesting additional information: 17/09/2025 10:00:53 (UTC)

Address of the procurement documents: <https://eu.mu.ariba.com/uav/project/?token=fcb184d7-386f-4d6c-8f1c-699168ff7f2d>

Ad hoc communication channel:

Name: ECB e-tendering platform

URL: <https://eu.mu.ariba.com/uav/project/?token=fcb184d7-386f-4d6c-8f1c-699168ff7f2d>

5.1.12. Terms of procurement

Terms of submission:

Electronic submission: Required

Address for submission: <https://eu.mu.ariba.com/uav/project/?token=fcb184d7-386f-4d6c-8f1c-699168ff7f2d>

Languages in which tenders or requests to participate may be submitted: English

Electronic catalogue: Not allowed

Variants: Not allowed

Deadline for receipt of requests to participate: 01/10/2025 10:00:53 (UTC)

Terms of contract:

The execution of the contract must be performed within the framework of sheltered employment programmes: No

Electronic invoicing: Required

Electronic ordering will be used: yes

Electronic payment will be used: yes

5.1.15. Techniques

Framework agreement:

No framework agreement

Information about the dynamic purchasing system:

No dynamic purchase system

Electronic auction: no

5.1.16. Further information, mediation and review

Mediation organisation: The European Ombudsman

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

Information about review deadlines: Within 10 days of receipt of the notification in accordance with Article 34(1) or the first sentence of Article 34(3) of Decision ECB/2016/2 laying down the rules on public procurement. Further requirements are outlined in Article 39 of this Decision. A complaint to the European Ombudsman does not affect the deadline for lodging appeals.

Organisation providing additional information about the procurement procedure: European Central Bank

Organisation providing offline access to the procurement documents: European Central Bank

Organisation providing more information on the review procedures: European Central Bank

8. Organisations

8.1. ORG-0001

Official name: European Central Bank

Registration number: 0001

Postal address: Sonnemannstrasse 22

Town: Frankfurt am Main

Postcode: 60314

Country subdivision (NUTS): Frankfurt am Main, Kreisfreie Stadt (DE712)

Country: Germany

Contact point: Central Procurement Office

Email: procurement@ecb.europa.eu

Telephone: +49 6913440

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

Other contact points:

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

Postal address: Sonnemannstrasse 22

Town: Frankfurt am Main

Postcode: 60314

Country subdivision (NUTS): Frankfurt am Main, Kreisfreie Stadt (DE712)

Country: Germany

Contact point: Legal Advice Team

Email: LegalServices@ecb.europa.eu

Telephone: +49 6913440

Fax: +49 6913446886

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

Roles of this organisation:

Buyer

Organisation providing additional information about the procurement procedure

Organisation providing offline access to the procurement documents

Review organisation

Organisation providing more information on the review procedures

8.1. ORG-0002

Official name: The European Ombudsman

Registration number: 0002

Postal address: 1 avenue du Pr?sident Robert Schuman, CS 30403

Town: Strasbourg

Postcode: 67001

Country subdivision (NUTS): Bas-Rhin (FRF11)

Country: France

Contact point: The European Ombudsman

Email: eo@ombudsman.europa.eu

Telephone: +33 388172313

Internet address: <https://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/en/home>

Roles of this organisation:

Mediation organisation

Notice information

Notice identifier/version: ed0b734e-aeb0-4af7-91c0-7c7aa87c32c7 - 01

Form type: Competition

Notice type: Contract or concession notice – standard regime

Notice subtype: 16

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