



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DG COMMUNICATION - Representations in the Member States

Representation in Ireland - DUBLIN

Dublin, the date of electronic signature

Subject: Invitation to tender No. NP/DUB/2021/2 concerning a negotiated procedure for the provision of the service of publishing advertising in local papers in Ireland in 2021, 2022 and 2023.

Dear Madam/Sir,

The European Commission Representation in Ireland, (referred to below as *the contracting authority*) is planning to award the contract(s) resulting from the above procurement procedure.

The procurement documents consist of publication on the internet, this invitation letter, and tender specifications with their annexes. All documents are available at the following website:

http://ec.europa.eu/ireland/business-funding/tenders_en

1. Submission of request to participate/tenders.

Economic operators interested in this contract are invited to submit a tender in one of the official languages of the European Union.

Economic operators must submit all tender documents exclusively by electronic mail to:

comm-ie-tenders@ec.europa.eu

The tender must be received **no later than 23:59 (GMT) on Friday 18th June.**

Tenders must be perfectly legible so that there can be no doubt as to words and figures.

Tenderers must ensure that their submitted tenders contain all the information and documents required by the contracting authority at the time of submission as set out in the procurement documents.

All costs incurred for the preparation and submission of tenders are to be borne by the tenderers and will not be reimbursed.

2. Legal effects of the invitation to tender and submission of a request to participate/tender.

This invitation to tender is in no way binding on the contracting authority. The contracting authority's contractual obligation commences only upon signature of the contract with the successful tenderer.

Up to the point of signature, the contracting authority may cancel the procurement procedure without the candidates or tenderers being entitled to claim any compensation. This decision must be substantiated and the candidates or tenderers notified.

Submission of a tender implies acceptance of all the terms and conditions set out in the procurement documents and, where appropriate, waiver of the tenderer's own general or specific terms and conditions. The submitted tender is binding on the tenderer to whom the contract is awarded for the duration of the contract.

3. Contacts during the procurement procedure.

Contacts between the contracting authority and candidates or tenderers are prohibited throughout the procedure save in exceptional circumstances and under the following conditions only:

3.1 Submission phase (before the time limit for receipt of tenders)

Upon request, the contracting authority may provide additional information solely for the purpose of clarifying the procurement documents.

Any request for additional information must be made in writing only to

comm-ie-tenders@ec.europa.eu with **NP/DUB/2021/2** in the subject field.

The contracting authority is not bound to reply to requests for additional information received less than six working days before the time limit for receipt of tenders.

The contracting authority may, on its own initiative, inform interested parties of any error, inaccuracy, omission or any other type of clerical error in the text of the procurement documents.

Any additional information including that referred to above will be posted on the website indicated above: http://ec.europa.eu/ireland/business-funding/tenders_en

The website will be updated regularly and it is the tenderer's responsibility to check for updates and modifications during the submission period.

3.2 Opening of tenders

The contracting authority may negotiate with tenderers the tenders they have submitted, in order to adapt them to the procurement documents and in order to find the most economically advantageous tender. The minimum requirements defined in the procurement documents are not subject to negotiation. During negotiations, equal treatment of all tenderers will be ensured. The contracting authority reserves the right not to negotiate and to award the contract on the basis of the tenders initially received.

Once the contracting authority has opened the tender, it becomes its property and it shall be treated confidentially.

3.3 Evaluation phase (after the opening of tenders)

Except in duly justified cases, tenderers who have failed to submit evidence or to make statements as required in the procurement documents, shall be contacted by the contracting authority to provide the missing information or clarify supporting documents.

The contracting authority may correct obvious clerical errors in the tender after confirmation of the correction by the tenderer. Such information, clarification or confirmation shall not substantially change the tender.

3.4 Award phase

Tenderers will be notified of the outcome of this procurement procedure by e-mail. The notification will be sent to the e-mail address provided in the tender for the tenderer (group leader in case of a joint tender). The same e-mail address will be used by the contracting authority for all other communications with the tenderer. It is the tenderer's responsibility to provide a valid e-mail address and to check it regularly.

Data protection

If processing a reply to the invitation to tender involves the recording and processing of personal data (such as name, address and CV), such data will be processed pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2018/1725¹ of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC. Unless indicated otherwise, any personal data will be processed solely for evaluation purposes under the call for tenders by the Head of the European Commission Representation in Ireland.

Details concerning the processing of your personal data are available in the privacy statement at: https://ec.europa.eu/info/data-protection-public-procurement-procedures_en.

The tenderer's personal data may be registered in the Early Detection and Exclusion System (EDES) if the tenderer is in one of the situations mentioned in Article 136 FR.

For more information, see the Privacy Statement on http://ec.europa.eu/budget/explained/management/protecting/protect_en.cfm).

Yours faithfully,
Barbara NOLAN
Head of Representation

Date _____ and _____ signature

¹ OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 39

Annexes to the invitation to tender:

- I Tender Specifications
- II Draft Purchase Order for low value contracts
- III Declaration of Honour on exclusion criteria
- IV Price Offer
- V Legal Entity Form
- VI Financial Identification Form
- VII Privacy Statement for Legal Entity and Bank Account Validation