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**Germany-Frankfurt-on-Main: ECB - Statutory audit of the ECB's annual accounts, compliance checks regarding private financial activities, and actuarial services for the ECB pension arrangements
2017/S 116-232933**

Contract notice

Services

Directive 2014/24/EU

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

European Central Bank
Sonnemannstraße 22
Frankfurt am Main
60314
Germany
Contact person: Ramón van Deelen
Telephone: +49 69/13440
E-mail: procurement@ecb.europa.eu
Fax: +49 69/13447110
NUTS code: DE712

Internet address(es):

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

I.2) Joint procurement

I.3) Communication

The procurement documents are available for unrestricted and full direct access, free of charge, at: <https://www.ecb.europa.eu/secure/procurement/>
Additional information can be obtained from the abovementioned address
Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted to the abovementioned address

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

European institution/agency or international organisation

I.5) Main activity

Economic and financial affairs

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title:

Statutory audit of the ECB's annual accounts, compliance checks regarding private financial activities, and actuarial services for the ECB pension arrangements.
Reference number: PRO-003228.

II.1.2) Main CPV code

79200000

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) **Short description:**

The mandate of the ECB's current statutory auditor in line with Article 27.1 of the ESCB/ECB statute, which presently includes private financial activities (PFA), is due to expire with the conclusion of the ECB's annual accounts 2017, i.e. in the first quarter of 2018. Moreover, the contract with the current actuary for actuarial services for pension arrangements and general actuarial advice (consulting) services is due to expire at the same time. As part of its re-procurement strategy, the ECB is procuring the different services, referred to above, as separate lots, and, for reasons of efficiency, will bundle them in 1 procurement procedure. This means that the scope of services being tendered consists of 3 lots:

- lot 1: statutory audit of the ECB's annual accounts,
- lot 2: compliance checks regarding private financial activities,
- lot 3: actuarial services for pension arrangements.

The services for all of the lots shall be provided in English, which is the working language of the ECB.

II.1.5) **Estimated total value**

II.1.6) **Information about lots**

This contract is divided into lots: yes

Tenders may be submitted for maximum number of lots: 2

Maximum number of lots that may be awarded to one tenderer: 2

The contracting authority reserves the right to award contracts combining the following lots or groups of lots:

Possible combinations:

- only lot 1 (statutory audit of the ECB's annual accounts); or
- only lot 2 (compliance checks regarding private financial activities); or
- only lot 3 (actuarial services for pension arrangements); or
- lot 1 and lot 2; or
- lot 2 and lot 3.

II.2) **Description**

II.2.1) **Title:**

Statutory audit of the ECB's annual accounts

Lot No: 1

II.2.2) **Additional CPV code(s)**

79200000

II.2.3) **Place of performance**

NUTS code: DE712

II.2.4) **Description of the procurement:**

The tasks to be performed by the external auditor (henceforth 'the audit contractor') are based on the international standards on auditing (ISA) and the IESBA code of ethics for professional accountants (formerly IFAC code of ethics) and comprise the audit deliverables (with respective completion dates) for each financial year to be audited, as set out in Chapter I, Section 2 (scope of services to be provided) of the call for applications. The services and works are expected to comprise the financial years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024, based on an extension clause after a 5-year duration which is expected to be triggered in 2022.

II.2.5) **Award criteria**

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

II.2.6) **Estimated value**

II.2.7) **Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system**

Duration in months: 60

This contract is subject to renewal: yes

Description of renewals:

The future statutory auditor's works and services are expected to commence (depending upon their own internal procedures) in Q3 2018. The ECB intends to extend the contract after a 5-year duration (ending in Q1 2023) for an additional period of 2 years, so ending in Q1 2025.

II.2.9) **Information about the limits on the number of candidates to be invited**

Envisaged minimum number: 3

Maximum number: 5

Objective criteria for choosing the limited number of candidates:

The ECB intends to invite for lot 1 at least 3 candidates and not more than 5 to submit a tender, provided that a sufficient number of candidates meeting the selection criteria are available.

II.2.10) **Information about variants**

Variants will be accepted: no

II.2.11) **Information about options**

Options: no

II.2.12) **Information about electronic catalogues**

II.2.13) **Information about European Union funds**

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: no

II.2.14) **Additional information**

II.2) **Description**

II.2.1) **Title:**

Compliance checks regarding private financial activities

Lot No: 2

II.2.2) **Additional CPV code(s)**

79200000

II.2.3) **Place of performance**

NUTS code: DE712

II.2.4) **Description of the procurement:**

Within the scope of lot 2, the PFA contractor shall perform the annual and ad hoc compliance checks of ECB staff members' private financial activities for the financial years 2018 until and including 2024, pursuant to Article 0.4.3.3 of the ethics framework of the ECB (OJ C 204, 20.6.2015, p.3). The services and works are expected to comprise the financial years 2018 until and including 2024. For more details on the scope, see Chapter I, Section 2 (scope of services to be provided) of the call for applications.

II.2.5) **Award criteria**

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

II.2.6) **Estimated value**

II.2.7) **Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system**

Duration in months: 60

This contract is subject to renewal: yes

Description of renewals:

The PFA contractor is expected to commence its services in Q4 2018. The ECB intends to extend the contract after a 5-year duration (ending in Q1 2023) for an additional period of 2 years, so ending in Q2 2025.

II.2.9) **Information about the limits on the number of candidates to be invited**

Envisaged minimum number: 3

Maximum number: 10

Objective criteria for choosing the limited number of candidates:

The ECB intends to invite for lot 2 at least 3 candidates and not more than 10 to submit a tender, provided that a sufficient number of candidates meeting the selection criteria are available.

II.2.10) **Information about variants**

Variants will be accepted: no

II.2.11) **Information about options**

Options: no

II.2.12) **Information about electronic catalogues**

II.2.13) **Information about European Union funds**

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: no

II.2.14) **Additional information**

II.2) **Description**

II.2.1) **Title:**

Actuarial services for pension arrangements

Lot No: 3

II.2.2) **Additional CPV code(s)**

79200000

II.2.3) **Place of performance**

NUTS code: DE712

II.2.4) **Description of the procurement:**

The tasks to be performed by the actuarial contractor under the scope of this lot are as follows:

i) annual actuarial valuation of the assets and liabilities of the ECB pension arrangements, Board benefits, other post-employment and other long-term benefits on the basis of IAS19, for the annual accounts of the ECB included in the ECB's annual report and for the annual report and accounts of the ECB pension arrangements; and the issuing of an actuarial statement for the annual report and accounts of the ECB pension arrangements on the basis of IAS26;

ii) a triennial funding valuation of the ECB pension arrangements, in line with Article 6.8 of the rules of the ECB retirement plan and Article 22 of the ECB pension scheme. The next funding valuation is foreseen to be performed based on mid-2018 data. The ECB may request further funding valuations of the ECB pension arrangements during the period 2018 to 2022, with a potential additional extension of 2 years to 2024;

iii) actuarial advice at the request of the Director General Human Resources and/or the Administrator of the ECB pension arrangements.

For more details on the scope, see Chapter I, Section 2 (scope of services to be provided) of the call for applications.

II.2.5) **Award criteria**

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

II.2.6) **Estimated value**

II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system

Duration in months: 60

This contract is subject to renewal: yes

Description of renewals:

The actuarial contractor is expected to commence in service on 1.3.2018. The ECB intends to extend the contract after 5 years duration (ending in Q1 2023) for an additional period of 2 years, so until Q1 2025.

II.2.9) Information about the limits on the number of candidates to be invited

Envisaged minimum number: 3

Maximum number: 5

Objective criteria for choosing the limited number of candidates:

The ECB intends to invite for lot 3 at least 3 candidates and not more than 5 to submit a tender, provided that a sufficient number of candidates meeting the selection criteria are available.

II.2.10) Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: no

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: no

II.2.12) Information about electronic catalogues

II.2.13) Information about European Union funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: no

II.2.14) Additional information

Section III: Legal, economic, financial and technical information

III.1) Conditions for participation

III.1.1) Suitability to pursue the professional activity, including requirements relating to enrolment on professional or trade registers

List and brief description of conditions:

As stated in the procurement documents.

III.1.2) Economic and financial standing

Selection criteria as stated in the procurement documents

III.1.3) Technical and professional ability

Selection criteria as stated in the procurement documents

III.1.5) Information about reserved contracts

III.2) Conditions related to the contract

III.2.1) Information about a particular profession

Execution of the service is reserved to a particular profession

Reference to the relevant law, regulation or administrative provision:

In line with the terms and conditions of the draft contract. See details in the procurement documents.

III.2.2) Contract performance conditions:

In line with the terms and conditions of the draft contract. See details in the procurement documents.

III.2.3) Information about staff responsible for the performance of the contract

Section IV: Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Competitive procedure with negotiation

IV.1.3) **Information about a framework agreement or a dynamic purchasing system**

IV.1.4) **Information about reduction of the number of solutions or tenders during negotiation or dialogue**

IV.1.5) **Information about negotiation**

The contracting authority reserves the right to award the contract on the basis of the initial tenders without conducting negotiations

IV.1.6) **Information about electronic auction**

IV.1.8) **Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)**

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: no

IV.2) **Administrative information**

IV.2.1) **Previous publication concerning this procedure**

IV.2.2) **Time limit for receipt of tenders or requests to participate**

Date: 10/07/2017

Local time: 18:00

IV.2.3) **Estimated date of dispatch of invitations to tender or to participate to selected candidates**

Date: 28/07/2017

IV.2.4) **Languages in which tenders or requests to participate may be submitted:**

English

IV.2.6) **Minimum time frame during which the tenderer must maintain the tender**

Duration in months: 6 (from the date stated for receipt of tender)

IV.2.7) **Conditions for opening of tenders**

Section VI: Complementary information

VI.1) **Information about recurrence**

This is a recurrent procurement: no

VI.2) **Information about electronic workflows**

VI.3) **Additional information:**

The procurement documentation can be downloaded from an Internet platform. If you are interested in participating in the procurement procedure, register via the Internet platform using the following Internet address, user name and password:

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

User name: 003228/IA/2017

Password: 51884E

After you have registered an e-mail will be sent to you with a new user name and password. The Internet address will remain the same. Use the new user name and password to download the procurement documentation.

However, your mere registration and downloading the procurement documents does not constitute an application. You must submit your application in hard copy version to the ECB, on time, in the format requested and including the content as further instructed in the application documentation.

Should you experience any problems in accessing the Internet platform for registration and/or downloading the documentation do not hesitate to contact the ECB under the following e-mail address: procurement@ecb.europa.eu quoting the procurement number and problem experienced.

The ECB shall endeavour to answer all queries concerning access as quickly as possible but cannot guarantee a minimum response time. The ECB shall not be bound to reply to queries received less than 7 calendar days before the time limit for the submission of tenders.

The procurement 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 procurement procedure is conducted in accordance with Decision (EU) 2016/245 of the European Central Bank of 9.2.2016 laying down the rules on procurement (ECB/2016/2), OJ L 45, 20.2.2016, p. 15 as amended, available on the ECB website at <http://www.ecb.europa.eu/ecb/jobsproc/tenders/html/index.en.html>

During the procurement procedure tenderers shall not contact any ECB staff members or organisations/ persons working for the ECB with regard to this tender procedure other than the person indicated in Section I.1). Tenderers shall also not contact potential competitors unless they intend to form a temporary grouping with them or to involve them as subcontractors. Any violation of this communication rule may lead to the exclusion of the tenderer in question.

VI.4) **Procedures for review**

VI.4.1) **Review body**

Procurement Review Body of the European Central Bank, c/o Legal Advice Team
Sonnemannstraße 20
Frankfurt am Main
60314
Germany
Telephone: +49 6913440
Fax: +49 6913446886
Internet address:<http://www.ecb.europa.eu>

VI.4.2) **Body responsible for mediation procedures**

European Ombudsman
1 avenue du Président Robert Schuman
Strasbourg
67001
France

VI.4.3) **Review procedure**

Precise information on deadline(s) for review procedures:

15 days from the receipt of the information specified in Article 34(3) of Decision (EU) 2016/245 of the European Central Bank of 9.2.2016 laying down the rules on procurement (ECB/2016/2) or, if no information is requested, 15 days from the receipt of the notification to unsuccessful tenderers. Further requirements are outlined in Article 39 of this Decision. A complaint to the European Ombudsman does not affect the deadline for lodging appeals.

VI.4.4) **Service from which information about the review procedure may be obtained**

Central Procurement Office
Sonnemannstraße 20
Frankfurt am Main
60314
Germany

Telephone: +49 6913440
Internet address: <http://www.ecb.europa.eu>

VI.5) **Date of dispatch of this notice:**
08/06/2017