

Notification of Intent to Invite Bids

Method: International Competitive Bidding (ICB)

Information Environment Assessment Capability (IEAC) Data Service NCI Agency Reference #: IFB-424209-IEAC

Estimated Amount: EUR 11,667,000.00

NOI Closing Date: 15 January 2024

Solicitation Release Date: Anticipated on 31 January 2025

Solicitation Closing Date: Anticipated on 31 March 2025

Contract Award Date: Anticipated on 29 November 2024

Competition Type: ICB Best Value

The NCI Agency hereby notifies the NATO Nations of its intent to invite bids for the procurement of an online, secure, data service providing Publicly / Commercially Available Information procurement, scraping and analytics in support to the NATO Information Environment Assessment Community and NATO Open Source researchers.

*****Neo eProcurement Registration*****

Attention Suppliers,

The NCI Agency is stepping into a new era of procurement. We have launched an eProcurement tool, Neo, to make our collaborations smoother, faster, and more transparent. If you are keen to do business with us, you will need to register in [Neo](#). This tool will offer suppliers visibility into past, current and upcoming business opportunities, and streamlines the competition cycles, contract awards, and account management.

NCI Agency Point of Contact
Tiago Brito, Contracting Officer

IFB-424209-IEAC@ncia.nato.int

Annexes:

- A. Summary of Requirements
- B. Distribution List

To : Distribution List

Subject : **Notification of Intent to Invite Bids for Information Environment Assessment Capability (IEAC) Data Service**

References :

- A.** AC/4-D/2261 (1996 Edition), NSIP Procedures for International Competitive Bidding
- B.** BC-D(2018)0004-FINAL, BC Budget Procurement Guidance
- C.** AC/4-D(2008)0002-REV2, Investment Committee for Procedures and Practices for Conducting NSIP International Competitive Bidding Using Best Value Evaluation Methodology

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1. In accordance with References A through C, the NCI Agency, as the Host Nation responsible to implement the project in subject, hereby gives notice of its intent (NOI) to issue an Invitation for Bid (IFB) for Information Environment Assessment Capability (IEAC) Data Service, hereafter referred to as the "Project".
 2. A high-level summary of the Project's technical requirements is set forth in Annex A hereto. These requirements are being refined and will be included in further details as part of the IFB.
 3. The reference for this Project is IFB-424209-IEAC, and all correspondence concerning this NOI and subsequent IFB should reference this number.
 4. The NCI Agency plans to issue an IFB using the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) Procedure for Best Value (BV) evaluations. The successful bid for this Project, pursuant to the IFB following this NOI, will be the bid that offers the best value in accordance with predefined evaluation criteria prescribed in the IFB. The top-level criteria weighting will be 80% Technical and 20% Price. A single, firm-fixed price contract is planned for the entire scope of work.
 5. Eligibility to participate in the subsequent IFB is declared by national authorities. Hence, qualified and certified companies interested in receiving the IFB for this Project are hereby requested to provide a Declaration of Eligibility (DoE), **sent** by their Delegation/Mission to NATO to the NCI Agency contracting authority not later than 15 January 2024, which is 43 calendar days after the date of this letter.

a. The DoE should include the following information for each of the nominated companies:

- Company name
- Company address
- Point of Contact (PoC)
- PoC email address
- PoC telephone number

b. This information is critical to enable prompt and accurate communication with

prospective bidders and should be sent electronically to IFB-424209-IEAC@ncia.nato.int.

6. In order to maximize competition the NCI Agency may, at its discretion, accept nominations after the deadline, so long as the IFB has not been issued. The NCI Agency may even accept, at its discretion, nominations after the IFB has been issued under the condition that such late nomination will not be used as the basis to request an extension to the bid closing date.
7. Requests for participation in this competition received directly from individual companies will not be considered.
8. Bidders will be required to declare a bid validity of 9 months from bid closing date. Should the selection and award procedure exceed the bid closing date by more than 9 months, companies will be requested to voluntarily extend the validity of their bids accordingly. Bidders may decline to do so, withdraw their bid and excuse themselves from the bidding process without penalty.
9. National authorities are advised that the IFB package is anticipated to be NATO UNCLASSIFIED. The IFB and the contractual documents could contain references to other NATO documents classified as NATO UNCLASSIFIED.
10. The successful bidder will be required to handle and store classified information up to the level of NATO UNCLASSIFIED.
11. The NCI Agency reserves the right to cancel, suspend, or withdraw this NOI at its own discretion and at any time. The NCI Agency is not liable for any expenses incurred by companies in conjunction with their responses to this NOI and such responses shall not be regarded as a commitment of any kind concerning future procurement of the items or services described herein.
12. Your assistance in this procurement is greatly appreciated.

For the Chief of Acquisition:

[Original Signed By]

Tiago Brito
Contracting Officer

Annex A – Summary of Requirements

Project No. 2023/9IS03010, CPP9A5401

1. Project Objective

- a. The IEAC data service will provide to the NATO Strategic Communications units and Open Source researchers an end-to-end solution to understand the information environment.
- b. The IEAC vendor will be a key partner for NATO through the Information Environment Assessment (IEA) journey to:
 - Continuously broker access on NCIA's behalf to all Publically / Commercially Available Information (PAI/CAI) as the media landscape evolves;
 - Always remain at the forefront of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and analytics technology to provide NATO's researchers the edge in situational awareness and strategic communications.

2. Scope of Work

- a. The service will be delivered as Software as a Service from the provider cloud, and will cover:
 - Data acquisition based on B2B contracts with data vendors, including but not limited to social media companies, online press, media monitoring services, and web trends services. Data scraping as a fall back for other sources;
 - State of the art analytics enabling accurate understanding of the online environment, including but not limited to advanced filtering, semantic topic clustering, sentiment analysis, information manipulation detection, media monitoring, and social media network analysis;
 - Advanced online human interface enabling interactive dashboards, indicators and warnings, and a cutting-edge data-science platform for NATO analysts. The interface will have an administration area enabling users and tasks management. The interface will be controllable through an API for its essential I/O functions;
 - Secure platform implementing the most robust cyber security mechanisms, protecting NATO from supply chains attacks, with a dedicated line of communications with the NATO Cyber Security Operations Centre.

3. Period of Performance

- a. The Period of Performance is anticipated to start in Q1-2026 and end in Q4-2028. It is important to note that this timeline represents the anticipated duration of the Project, and adjustments may be made as per the requirements of the solicitation process and

subsequent contractual agreement.

- b. The contract is expected to be awarded in Q4-2025 to allow the preparation for the service to be consumed on 1 Jan 2026.

Annex A – Distribution List

NATO Delegations:

Albania	Greece	Poland
Belgium	Hungary	Portugal
Bulgaria	Iceland	Romania
Canada	Italy	Slovakia
Croatia	Latvia	Slovenia
Czechia	Lithuania	Spain
Denmark	Luxembourg	Sweden
Estonia	Montenegro	The Republic of Türkiye
France	Netherlands	The United Kingdom
Finland	North Macedonia	The United States
Germany	Norway	

Embassies in Brussels (Attn: Commercial Attaché):

Albania	Hungary	Portugal
Bulgaria	Iceland	Romania
Canada	Italy	Slovakia
Croatia	Latvia	Slovenia
Czechia	Lithuania	Spain
Denmark	Luxembourg	Sweden
Estonia	Montenegro	The Republic of Türkiye
France	Netherlands	The United Kingdom
Finland	North Macedonia	The United States
Germany	Norway	
Greece	Poland	

NCI Agency – All NATEXs