

**VOLUNTARY CONTRACT NOTICE FOR UPCOMING PROCUREMENT
PROCEDURE – Electronic Full Text Platform for periodicals and serials
PRO-001457**

Title: Electronic full text platform for periodicals and serials

I. Contracting authority

1. Name, addresses and contact point of the contracting authority: European Central Bank, Directorate General Secretariat, Information Management Services Division, attention: Dijana Zivanovic, 60314 Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

2. Business area: Directorate General Secretariat

3. Division: Information Management Services Division

4. Team: Library

5. Description of the functions: *Tasks of the Library Section*

The mission of the Library is to deliver high quality information services to all ECB staff in an efficient and user-friendly way to meet their specific needs in the performance of their duties and to enhance current awareness. The Library ensures that in its activities it is fair, reliable, prompt, accountable and responsive to user needs. The Library is committed to achieving best practice in all its areas of business, to using state-of-the-art solutions and to continually improving efficiency in the use of funds and resources of the ECB.

II. Description of the requested service:

The Information Management Services Division is currently seeking potential tenderers for a procurement procedure who are offering an electronic full text platform for periodicals and serials from various publishers in its field of interest, e.g. economics (banking, finance, mathematics and statistics) and/or law with state-of-the-art search functionalities accessible to all ECB staff.

The platform shall have at least the following characteristics:

- Contain index and full text of scholarly journals, magazines, country reports, industry reports, serials, etc. from at least 25 publishers, in

the field of economics (including banking, finance, mathematics, statistics and other related topics), and/or law or other topics relevant to the ECB;

- Simple and advanced search functionalities in English language, including the possibility to build search queries using Boolean operators and
- Other functionalities such as alert services, printing, downloading off-line access from mobile devices.

It is the ECB's intention to identify and select potential bidders in accordance with the rules specified in this voluntary contract notice and in particular under Section III. ("Procedure") below who will then be invited to participate in an upcoming procurement procedure as further described below.

The ECB retains the right to award one contract and/or to conclude a multi-vendor contract.

The successful tenderer(s) that offer(s) best value for money will be awarded a contract(s) following the closure of the procurement procedure, subject to a successful cost benefit analysis.

III. Procedure

1. General information

This document constitutes a voluntary contract notice in the run-up to an upcoming procurement procedure for an electronic full text platform for periodicals and serials which shall be governed by Decision ECB/2007/5 of 3 July 2007 laying down the Rules on Procurement¹ and the supplementary rules attached as **Annex 1**. The procurement procedure will be carried out without publication of a notice in accordance with Article 29 of Decision ECB/2007/5.

2. Pre-selection procedure:

The ECB will send a Request for Proposal ('RfP') to all applicants fulfilling the minimum criteria laid down in Section IV.1 of this voluntary contract notice. In such Request for Proposal, the selected applicants will be asked to submit an offer to the ECB for the specified services. In the context of the procurement procedure, applicants will need to grant a trial access (free of charge) to the ECB for minimum one month in the context of which the ECB will evaluate the quality of the electronic full text platform offered.

3. Division into lots:

No.

4. Type of contract:

Contract(s) for the duration of 4 years (envisaged number: minimum 1 and up to a maximum of 5)

¹ OJ L 184, 14.7.2007, p. 34 as amended by Decision ECB/2009/2 (OJ L 51, 24.2.2009, p. 10) and Decision ECB/2010/8 (OJ L 238, 9.9.2010, p. 14), all published on <http://www.ecb.europa.eu/ecb/proc/tenders/html/index.en.html>.

5. Closing date: All applications must be received by the ECB by the closing date set out in Section VIII below.

III. Qualifications and experience (selection criteria)

1. Minimum criteria:

- Candidates shall demonstrate their experience by a minimum of three current (i.e. ongoing) references for the provision of similar services in English of a minimum duration of three years each.
- The platform shall be accessible via standard Internet browsers (Google Chrome and Internet Explorer 9 being the current browsers used at the ECB) without any additional software installation on local PCs.

IV. How to apply: Applications must include :

- Three current (i.e. ongoing) references with a minimum duration of at least three years of similar services performed by the candidate (the description of the references and services shall be made in English language).
- The platform shall be accessible via standard Internet browsers (Google Chrome and Internet Explorer 9 being the current browsers used at the ECB) without any additional software installation on local PCs.
- No further information is **required at this stage**. Candidates that fulfil the minimum criteria specified in Section IV, 1 of this voluntary contract notice will be invited to submit an offer according to the required services described in Section II and further specified in the Request for Proposal.

V. Address and time-limit for submission:

Candidates shall submit their application no later than **19 November 2015** to the following address:

European Central Bank
Central Procurement Office
Attn: Mrs Dijana Zivanovic
Sonnemannstrasse 22
60314 Frankfurt am Main
Germany.

All applications must be received by the ECB by the closing date (see Section VIII. below). If candidates submit their application by registered post or private courier services, the post office stamp or the date on the slip issued by the courier service shall constitute proof of compliance with the above time-limit for submission. However, the ECB will only consider proposals that reach the ECB by no later than five calendar days after expiry of the above time-limit.

In case of hand delivery Candidates shall submit the application by **18.00** on the above date to the ECB's Logistics Centre at the ECB Main Building (Sonnemannstrasse 22, 60314 Frankfurt am Main, Germany). As proof of the deposit, the Candidate shall receive a signed receipt indicating the time of deposit. Applications received after the above time-limit shall not be considered.

Interested candidates may not apply to participate in the procurement procedure and/or be added to the list of candidates at a later date by sending the information requested in this voluntary contract notice after the closing date.

The ECB may, at its discretion, exclude applications that do not meet the qualifying criteria, do not contain the information requested or are otherwise incomplete.

VI. Additional information:

1. The contracts are intended for a duration of 4 years.
2. The contracts shall be governed by and interpreted under German civil law.
3. The ECB reserves the right to reuse the candidate's data for the identification of potential bidders for future procurement procedures.

VII. Date of dispatch of this call for the identification of potential bidders:

5 November 2015

VII. Closing date:

19 November 2015