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Route de Vinon-sur-Verdon - CS 90 046 - 13067 St Paul Lez Durance Cedex - France

## **PRIOR INDICATIVE NOTICE (PIN)**

### **OPEN TENDER SUMMARY**

**IO/25/OT/70001323/FMR**

For

### **Rope Works Framework Contract**

#### **Abstract**

The purpose of this summary is to provide prior notification of the ITER Organization's intention to launch a competitive Open Tender process in the coming weeks. This summary provides some basic information about the ITER Organization, the technical scope for this tender, and details of the Tender process for Rope Works Framework Contract.

## 1 Introduction

This Prior Indicative Notice (PIN) is the first step of an Open Tender Procurement Process leading to the award and execution of a Framework Contract.

## 2 Background

The ITER project is an international research and development project jointly funded by its seven Members being, the European Union (represented by EURATOM), Japan, the People's Republic of China, India, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation and the USA. ITER is being constructed in Europe at St. Paul-Lez-Durance in southern France, which is also the location of the headquarters (HQ) of the ITER Organization (IO).

For a complete description of the ITER Project, covering both organizational and technical aspects of the Project, visit [www.iter.org](http://www.iter.org).

## 3 Scope of Services

The scope of Services under this Contract is to provide rope access workers and associated equipment to perform activities on the ITER site when other methodologies of work are not applicable due to technical, practical or safety constraints.

The interventions can be “specific and punctual” following a specific request or need formalized typically by the coordination teams, typically with a very limited duration. Or routine activities like the periodical cleaning of inaccessible structures and areas.

When needed, these shall be performed during night shifts to reduce coactivity and avoiding impacting the other contractor's schedule.

Due to the specificities (and specific trainings required to access certain areas) of the working environment, the Contractor shall (whenever possible) allocate always the same resources.

On-call Services is part of the scope of this Contract (Service to be activated by the IO).

For the full scope of services, please see the attached Technical Specifications, ref. EAYY2P v3.0.

## 4 Procurement Process & Objective

The objective is to award a Framework Service Contract through a competitive bidding process.

The Procurement Procedure selected for this Tender is a so-called **Open Tender** procedure.

The Open Tender procedure is comprised of the following four main steps:

➤ Step 1- Prior Information Notice (PIN)

The PIN is the first stage of the Open Tender process. The IO formally invites interested Suppliers to indicate their interest in the competitive process by returning to the Procurement Officer in charge the attached “Expression of Interest and PIN Acknowledgement” by the date indicated in the procurement timetable below.

**Special attention:**

**Interested tenderers are kindly requested to register in the IO Ariba e-procurement tool called “I-PROC”. You can find all links to proceed along with instruction going to: <https://www.iter.org/fr/proc/overview>.**

**When registering in Ariba (I-PROC), suppliers are kindly requested to nominate at least one contact person. This contact person will be receiving the notification of publication of the Request for Proposal and will then be able to forward the Tender documents to colleagues if deemed necessary.**

➤ Step 2 - Invitation to Tender – Request for Proposal (RFP)

After 10 calendar days of the publication of the PIN, the Request for Proposals (RFP) will be published on our digital tool “I-PROC”. This stage allows interested bidders who have indicated their interest to the Procurement Officer in charge AND who have registered in I-PROC to receive the notification that the RFP is published. They will then prepare and submit their proposals in accordance with the Tender instructions detailed in the RFP.

**Only companies registered in the I-PROC tool will be invited to the Tender.**

➤ Step 3 – Tender Evaluation Process

Tenderers’ proposals will be evaluated by an impartial evaluation committee of the IO. Tenderers must provide details demonstrating their technical compliance to perform the works in line with the technical scope and in accordance with the criteria listed in the RFP.

➤ Step 4 – Contract Award

A Framework Service Contract will be awarded on the basis of the Lowest Priced Technically Compliant according to the evaluation criteria and methodology described in the RFP.

## 5 Procurement Timetable

The tentative timetable is as follows:

| Milestone                                        | Date             |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Publication of the Prior Indicative Notice (PIN) | 22 October 2025  |
| Submission of expression of interest form        | 3 November 2025  |
| Request for Proposal launched on I-PROC          | 5 November 2025  |
| Tender Submission                                | 17 December 2025 |
| Contract Award                                   | February 2026    |
| Contract Signature                               | March 2026       |

Note: a site visit will be held in November.

## 6 Quality Assurance Requirements

The Candidate shall have ISO 9001 or shall submit to the IO for approval its “Quality Assurance Program” in the Tender Submission for the IO’s review and acceptance. Prior to commencement of any Services under this Contract(s), a Quality Plan shall be submitted and approved by the IO.

A draft quality plan shall be submitted with the technical tender offer.

## **7 Required skills and experience**

The Candidates shall be trained and certified from a recognised and licensed institution

As for the nature the works suspended on ropes are dangerous and at high risk, the Candidates shall demonstrate a high level of safety culture and are requested to fully respect the 9 Life Saving rules applicable on the site.

The official language of the ITER Project is English. All communication shall be in the English language (spoken and written). The Candidate shall ensure that he has the personnel who can carry out the roles of the Project Manager(s) and on-Site Manager(s) who will be proficient users of the English language with a minimal B2 level according CEFR.

## **8 Contract Duration and Execution**

The IO shall sign the Framework Contract in March 2026. The contract duration shall be 4 years with two (2) optional extensions of 1 year each.

## **9 Candidature**

Participation is open to all legal entities participating either individually or in a grouping/consortium. A legal entity is an individual, company, or organization that has legal rights and obligations and is established within an ITER Member State, being: the European Union (represented by EURATOM), Japan, the People's Republic of China, India, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation and the USA.

Legal entities cannot participate individually or as a consortium partner in more than one application or Tender of the same contract. A consortium may be a permanent, legally established grouping, or a grouping which has been constituted informally for a specific Tender procedure. All members of a consortium (i.e. the leader and all other members) are jointly and severally liable to the IO.

In order for a consortium to be acceptable, the individual legal entities included therein shall have nominated a leader with authority to bind each member of the consortium, and this leader shall be authorised to incur liabilities and receive instructions for and on behalf of each member of the consortium.

It is expected that the designated consortium leader will explain the composition of the consortium members in its offer. Following this, the Candidate's composition must not be modified without notifying the IO of any changes. Evidence of any such authorisation shall be submitted to the IO in due course in the form of a power of attorney signed by legally authorised signatories of all the consortium members.

All consortium members shall be registered in I-PROC.

## **10 Sub-contracting Rules**

Subcontracting is not allowed.