



UNIONE EUROPEA
Fondo Sociale Europeo
Fondo Europeo di Sviluppo Regionale



PUBLIC CALL

Invitation to participate to the Preliminary Market Consultation

Articles 66 and 67 of the Legislative Decree 50/2016

AIMING AT

**Understanding the state-of-the-art technology for short distance
and very wideband optical transmitters and receivers**



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1. Context and scope of the notice

The Astronomical Observatory of Cagliari (OAC) is a research facility of the National Institute for Astrophysics (INAF), located in Via della Scienza 5, municipality of Selargius (CA). OAC also has managerial and operational responsibility for the radio telescope "Sardinia Radio Telescope" (SRT), in the "Pranusanguni" area, municipality of San Basilio (SU), INAF's Research Infrastructure. The SRT is a radio telescope with an alt-azimuth mount, about 70 meters high and weighing over 3000 tons, with a 64 meter diameter primary dish.

The MIUR ("Ministero dell'Istruzione, dell'Università e della Ricerca") identified the Sardinia Radio Telescope as a research infrastructure that can be subjected to upgrade. In the framework of this upgrade, the radio telescope will be equipped with new microwave receivers working in a range of frequencies spanning from 18 to 116 GHz. The converted bandwidth that will be sent to the back-ends will be very large, up to 18 GHz and this is the reason to look for a reliable, performant and very wideband optical transmitter and receiver. The amount of optical links necessary to the upgrade is around 40.

2. Purpose and characteristics of the market consultation

Pursuant to art. 66 and 67 of Legislative Decree No. 50/2016, before launching the procurement procedure the contracting authority may conduct a market consultation with a view to preparing the procurement and informing economic operators of their procurement plans and requirements. This specific notice is **aimed exclusively at seeking and accepting advices** from the largest number of market participants or experts or authorities.

This market consultation is based on the general principles of economy, effectiveness, impartiality, equal treatment, transparency, proportionality, publicity and environmental protection.

The market consultation, taking also into account the marked innovative and technological connotation of the supply, has therefore **the sole purpose of acquiring** - from the interested operators – **knowledge, technical and/or organizational solutions, reports, data and information**, that can be functional to the contracting authority to plan the next tender procedure, in order to meet the aims and the needs of the INAF, in accordance with the available resources and the real potential of the market offer.

With this notice, therefore, no bankruptcy or insolvency procedure is called for and **no worth ranking or scoring is required**; moreover, the notice does not constitute a contract proposal.

The expression of interest (i.e. reports, advices, white papers, etc.) received by the economic operators and the participation in the market consultation do not constitute in any way expectations or rights for the participants about the participation in the subsequent tender procedure and therefore do not determine the establishment of legal positions or negotiating obligations or restrictions to INAF.

Therefore, the participant to the consultation procedure will not obtain any advantages of any kind, in the performance of the subsequent selection procedure. On the other hand, the invited subjects are always free not to join the consultation, without compromising their possible future participation in the tender procedure.

The contracting authority may interrupt, suspend or revoke the market consultation without incurring liability. The contracting authority therefore reserves the right not to proceed with the indictment of any subsequent procurement procedure. In this case no compensation is due to the participants in the market consultation.

3. Specific aims of the market consultation

In such a context, a preliminary market consultation has been already conducted in **November 2019**. At that time, the consultation was aimed at:

- a) verify the technical ability and willingness of individual operators to **guarantee the supply** in less than one year;
- b) acquire the elements and information necessary to define **the professional technical competence requirements** that may favor the maximum participation of operators in a future call for tender ;
- c) acquire the elements and information necessary to identify the possible requirements and criteria – from the technical, functional and performance point of view – for the evaluation of offers in the tender procedure, in order to promote the maximum competition of the companies.

This renewed market consultation refers to the need for a deeper and better understanding of the present technological scenario, i.e. which technological solutions are available, the estimate of the actual lead-time, the economic constraints, etc. Further details on the technical and functional characteristics required are found in the technical document **Annex 1**, while additional questions are reported in the **Annex 2 document**.

The (very) preliminary estimated budget for this supply spans in the range from **600,000 to 900,000 euro**.

The specific general requirements, technical and professional ability and of financial nature, for the participation in the subsequent call for tenders, will be defined in view of what will emerge from the present market consultation.

4. Administrative planning

During the preliminary market consultation event that was held on November 2019, several stakeholders have sent their technical evaluation about the actual market, under Non Disclosure Agreement.

Notwithstanding, the fast evolution of this technology led the Contracting Authority to extend in time this consultation, also issuing a few more questions.

All the stakeholders are stimulated to suggest their mid-term vision, just answering to the new solicitation, or sending in written any further technical contributions that might be considered of interest for the purposes of this market consultation. The solicitation concerns only technical contributions, no prices or contract proposals are allowed. Please notice that participation in the market consultation and any technical contribution are intended free of charge, without the right to reimbursement of expenses.

The stakeholders shall specify whether the provided contributions contain information, data or documents protected by the rights of patent or disclosing business, commercial and industrial secrets, as well as any other information useful to reconstruct the position of the subject in the market and the competence of the subject in the field of activity referred to in the consultation.

The expressions of interest / technical contributions must be sent to the following e-mail

infoacagliari@pcert.postecert.it

possibly not later than **April 3rd, 2020**, subject "Preliminary market consultation – Optical Links”.

5. Advertising

Internet website of the INAF – Cagliari Astronomical Observatory

http://www.oa-cagliari.inaf.it/page.php?id_page=206&level=4&set_language=1

6. Privacy protection

Pursuant to article 13 of the Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 concerning the protection of physical persons with regard to the processing of personal data, as well as the free circulation of such data. According to the Directive 95/46/EC, also known as the " General Regulation on Data Protection ", the National Institute for Astrophysics, as a data controller, informs that the processing of personal data provided by the Companies that will apply for participation in this tender procedure, is aimed solely at the completion of the tender activities and will be carried out by the persons in charge of the procedure, at the National Institute of Astrophysics. In relation to the aforementioned purposes, the provision of such data is necessary to verify the participation requirements and the failure to indicate it may preclude such verification.

The processing will take place with the use of computerized procedures, in the ways and within the limits necessary to pursue the aforementioned purposes, also in the event of any communication to third parties. The data may also be processed through the use of the "Google Drive" electronic platform of the company Google LLC, which, as a provider of IT services for the benefit of the National Institute for Astrophysics, has been identified as data controller, pursuant to Article 28 of the General Data Protection Regulation.

Data will be kept for the time strictly necessary for the completion of the tender activities, for the duration of the contractual relationship and, subsequently, for the time in which the National Institute of Astrophysics is subject to conservation obligations: tax, contributory or other purposes provided for by law or regulation.

To the interested parties are recognized the rights referred to in articles 15 and following of the "General Regulation on Data Protection" and, in particular, the right to access their personal data, to request their correction, deletion, limitation of the treatment, as well as to oppose the processing, which may be exercised by sending a request to the "National Institute of Astrophysics", based in Rome, in Viale del Parco Mellini number 84, Postal Code 00136, in the manner defined in the next paragraph.

Rights listed above may take place, without any formality, by sending a request to the Head of Data Protection of the National Institute of Astrophysics in one of the following ways:

- by registered letter with acknowledgment of receipt to the address: Viale del Parco Mellini, 84 - 00136 Rome;
- by e-mail sent to the following address: rpd@inaf.it;
- by certified e-mail sent to the following address: rpd-inaf@legalmail.it.

People who consider that the processing of personal data referring to them is in violation of the provisions of the Regulations have the right to lodge a complaint with the Guarantor for the protection of personal data, as envisaged by art. 77 of the same Regulation, or to take the appropriate judicial seats (art. 79 of the Regulation). By participating in this procedure the consent to the processing of personal data referred to in the previous points is intended to be issued.

7. Officer in charge for the procedure

The appointed Officer in charge ("Responsabile del procedimento") will be Dr. Ignazio Enrico Pietro Porceddu, Cagliari Astronomical Observatory. Questions must be sent to the corporate e-mail address ignazio.porceddu@inaf.it or to the certified e-mail (PEC) inafoacagliari@pcert.postecert.it