FAQ CBS

Is it expected that consultants sit with the Red Cross staff at the Red Cross offices?

- Yes, preferably. We see the value in working together and expect that the outcome will be better if everyone is in the same room

What is the tech stack for the other Red Cross IT projects that are in the pipeline?

- There are several Red Cross IT projects in the pipeline and, if the vendor selected for this contract is interested there is a potential to roll the contract into more projects. We are also open to consider vendors who are interested in this RFP (on CBS) only.

What does the CBS solution look like today and what are the preferences regarding building on the current solution?

- The current solution is open source and accessible via [GitHub](). The current solution is built with a react frontend and a dotnet core backend. It is based on an event-driven, microservices architecture. In production, CBS runs in Docker containers on a Kubernetes cluster in Azure Container Service (AKS). We are open both to keeping the current solution and building on it, and to other suggestions. The most important thing is that the system architecture meets the design principles and functional requirements.

What is the process moving forward?

- RFP will be published on Thursday (27.06.2019) with a deadline mid-August. Due to time pressure regarding the completion the CBS software (by January 1st, 2020) we are interested in having consultants start with us in the beginning of September. We realise that the summer may be a difficult period for many, and we are willing to accept simplified proposals (we are not looking for perfection, but rather for bright minds). We are also willing to receive input regarding your availabilities, challenges and thoughts.

You are asking for an estimate, which requires us to do a bit of research. What is the scope? Are you expecting us to start from scratch?

- The background for publishing this RFP is that it is, project-wise, a good time for us to review what has been done and explore what the best options might be. We are therefore not requiring you to continue working the way we have but are allowing for new suggestions also. What we would like is for you to suggest an architecture which you believe is the best way for us to meet our design principles and functional requirements, while also meeting the suggested timeframe. This could be by using what we have now (open source and available on GitHub) or suggesting something new.
- We have some capacity in-house, but the proposal should make an assumption that you cannot be dependent on internal capacity from the Red Cross. We will, however, make domain experts and tech developers available.

Who are the volunteers? Where do they come from?

- Currently, the CBS platform is built by volunteers. The volunteers are interested in continuing to be part of the project, and there are some volunteer events scheduled for 2019, but priority number one is to finish the platform in the timeframe given.
- Most of the volunteers contribute in their private time, but some are also "on loan" from their companies. We have had volunteer and pro-bono resources working with us in stints, but we need a partner who can give it all a push to help us reach our timeframe goals.

Are you open for a mix of Norwegian and foreign developers?

- Our experience is that outputs are better if we can sit together with our consultants, but if you suggest to outsource some of the development we are open to this.

What are your estimates regarding capacity required?

- We think that we will need minimum two consultants between now and 2020, depending on your suggested approach to the system architecture and process. If interesting for you, there are more IT projects in the pipeline which could require more resources starting from 2020, but you are also free to bid for this contract only.

What is the existing frame for Microsoft cooperation? Is it an issue that they are American owned?

- Microsoft has been engaged in the CBS project to varying degrees since the beginning, primarily because many individuals who are/have been employed at Microsoft have been personally engaged in the project. The Red Cross globally has beneficial licensing arrangements with Microsoft, but we are open to suggestions.
- Our requirement is that we want to be cloud-based, but with an option for on-prem data storage in certain countries. As such, it is not a problem that Microsoft is American owned.

Are any of the design principles more important than others?

- User friendliness is key, as well as the sustainability of the software (licencing, cost etc).