

Tender Document 015-2015

Template for open tendering according to Part I and Part
III of Regulations for Procurements above EEA
Threshold Values

for purchasing of

Glass processing system

for delivery to

Forsvarets forskningsinstitutt (FFI)
Norwegian Defence Research Establishment (NDRE)

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1 GENERAL DESCRIPTION

1.1 The customer

Forsvarets forskningsinstitutt (the Norwegian Defence Research Establishment, hereafter named FFI) is a civilian institution of research directly answerable to the Norwegian Ministry of Defence. The establishment has 700 employees, of whom 450 are research scientists and engineers who are engaged in the development of technology and expertise to enable Norway to maintain a modern and effective national defence. FFI is a multidisciplinary enterprise covering such fields as mathematics, physics, information technology, chemistry, biology, medicine, psychology, political science and economics. It is located at Kjeller near Lillestrøm, and also has a smaller division at Horten. For more information, please see our internet web pages www.ffi.no.

1.2 Objective of the procurement

The objective of this procurement is to provide FFI with a glass processing system for fusion splicing of optical fibers and fabrication of fiber components including couplers, tapers, pump combiners, and end caps. The total system shall consist of

- A glass processing unit for fusion splicing and fabrication of optical fiber components.
- A recoater for coating a stripped fiber with a UV-curing polymer.
- A fiber cleaver.
- A fiber stripper/cleaning station.

More information about the procurement, with technical requirements, are specified in point 4 in this document.

1.3 Size of procurement and value of contract

The estimated value of this procurement is expected to lay above the threshold for EEA announcements; hence the decision to follow the regulations in Part III of the "Regulations on Public Procurement".

The purchase is subject to budgetary coverage.

1.4 Composition of the tender document

The tender document consists of this template and its associated attachments:

1. General Purchase Conditions, Form 5052 (March 2008) (Annex A)
2. Ethical statement for suppliers to the royal Norwegian Ministry of Defence (Annex B)

1.5 Announcement of contract notices/invitation for tenders

Contract notices/invitations to submit tenders will be publicly announced in the Norwegian national tender notification service DOFFIN www.doffin.no and the Tenders Electronic Daily – TED <http://ted.europa.eu>

1.6 Other information

In the event a supplier feels that the guidelines in the tender document are unclear, or that there are errors in the document, the supplier may submit a written request for more information to the customer through Mercell Sourcing Service's Procurement Tool, KGV (Norwegian, "Merzell Konkurransgjennomføringsverktøy").

1.7 Corrections, supplementary information, or changes to the tender document

The customer reserves the right to make corrections, provide supplementary information or make changes to the tender document as long as these adjustments are not of a substantial nature.

Revisions, corrections, supplementary information, or changes to the tender document will be sent to all recipients of the original document immediately. Announcements concerning revisions, corrections, supplementary information or changes to the tender document will be made electronically on DOFFIN through the Mercell Procurement Tool (KGV).

1.8 Progress schedule

The customer has established the following timescale for the process:

Task	Target dates
Announcement of invitation to submit tenders in DOFFIN	6 th November 2015
Deadline for submission of tenders	18 th December 2015
Opening of tenders	18 th December 2015
Evaluation of submitted tenders	Week 1 and 2
Awarding of contract and notification to other tenderers	Week 2
Disputes – deadline for submission of tenderer complaints	15 days
Signing of contract / Purchase order	Week 6

Please note that the target dates following the opening of tenders are intended as a guideline only and may be subject to change.

2 RULES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF TENDERS

2.1 Procurement procedure

Procurements are to be made according to the Law of Public Procurement of 16 July 1999 (Norwegian, "*Lov om offentlige anskaffelser av 16. juli 1999*" or LOA), and the Regulations Governing Public Procurements of 7 April 2006, no. 4022 (Norwegian, "*Forskrift om offentlige anskaffelser (FOA) av 7. april 2006 nr. 4022*"). The procurement process will be conducted through the system of open tendering in accordance with Part I and Part III of the Regulations (above the EEA threshold value). The type of procurement is "Purchase of goods". Negotiations are not permitted.

The system of open tendering offers all interested bidders the opportunity to submit tenders in free and open competition. There is no pre-qualification of vendors, and tenderers should submit supporting documentation proving their qualifications with the submission of their bids.

Tenderers are recommended to give their best offer within the specified closing date of the competition. There will not be any opportunities to negotiate.

Norwegian Ministry of Defence regulations on procurement will be adhered to where the Law of Public Procurement (LOA) or the Regulations Governing Public Procurement (FOA) do not apply.

2.2 Language

All written and oral communication with regards to this competition shall be in Norwegian or English.

2.3 Merzell Sourcing Service's Purchasing Tool (KGV)

The competitive tendering process will be administered through use of Merzell Sourcing Service's Purchasing Tool (KGV). All inquiries concerning the invitation to tender should be made through the Merzell communication module so that they may be documented and registered. Verbal responses and descriptions will not be considered unless they are formally documented in writing.

Please contact Merzell support +47 21 01 88 60 with questions.

2.4 Qualification requirements

The supplier must fulfil the qualification requirements for participation in the competition:

Documentation of the qualification requirements is added under "Kvalifikasjonskrav" in Merzell and answered as described under pkt 3 "Qualification Requirements" in the Tender Document.

To be qualified for participation in the competition all the requirements must be answered with "Ja" and valid documentation must be attached.

2.5 Formulation and submission of the tender document

Tenders should address all of the areas specified below. In order to facilitate a proper and thorough evaluation of bids, it is essential that tenderers adhere to the bid outline as shown.

Bids should be submitted through the Mercell Purchasing Tool (KGV).

The following files should be attached to all bids:

- Formal written letter of tender providing a short description of the vendor/supplier and a accept of the terms of the purchaser's tender document
- Price in EUR according to the specification of the requirements. It can also be included in the letter of tender.
- Eventually other attachments or technical documentation. Fulfilment of specification requirements. Description of how the offered goods/service fulfils each point of customer's specifications and requirements.

The letter of tender shall also include

- Reference to the tender document number and title.
- The vendors address, telephone/fax number and VAT number
- Contact person at the vendor with telephone number and e-mail address
- Accept of all terms applied in the tender document. Any reservations shall be listed in the letter of tender with reference to the actual point in the tender document.
- The tender document shall be dated and signed by a person who has power to commit the company.

Bidders should address all questions, requirements and clarification points requested in point 4 "Specifications of requirements" in the tender document.

FFI will not reimburse bidders for expenses incurred in connection with the preparation, submission, or following up of a tender, nor for product demonstrations or showings etc.

Submitted tenders and their accompanying documentation and materials are considered FFI property and will not be returned.

2.6 Electronic signature

In this connection there will be asked for electronic signature for validation of the identity of the supplier. Electronic signature can be provided from www.comfides.com, www.buypass.no or www.bankid.no. We call attention to that it may take some weeks to receive electronic signature.

Suppliers who download tenders after the tender due date will be rejected.

Mercell Kundesenter, tlf +47 21 01 88 60 will assist suppliers who need technical support regarding the Mercell tool or electronic signature.

2.7 Security

The successful Tenderer will be granted access to FFI as necessary to perform the installation.

However, all visits by non-Norwegian citizens to FFI must be pre-approved by the Security Officer. FFI

reserves for security reasons, cf. Sikkerhetsloven (Law on Security), to deny an employee of the successful Tenderer access to the premises of FFI. The successful Tenderer shall in that case send another employee that can be given access. FFI reserves for security reasons also the right to deny Tenders from companies where it is unlikely that its employees can be granted access to the premises of FFI.

2.8 Confidential information

According to § 23 in the Law Relating to Public Access to Documents in the Public Administration (Norwegian Freedom of Information Act or in Norwegian, "*Offentleglova*"), information contained in public procurement tenders may be held in confidentiality until the contract has been awarded. After that, barring other extenuating circumstances such as business confidentiality or issues of national security, the information contained in the tenders may be made public. If the tender or parts of it should remain confidential, also after the contract has been awarded, this should be clearly stated in the tender at the time it is submitted.

2.9 Client Confidentiality

FFI and its employees are obliged to prevent that persons not concerned are admitted access or knowledge to information concerning technical arrangements, procedures, management or business matters that for security reasons should be kept secret. cf. FOA § 3-6, jf. forvaltningsloven § 13.

2.10 Use of FFI name for marketing purposes

Vendors must obtain permission from FFI in order to use the business relationship between FFI and the vendor following the award of a contract for advertising/marketing purposes. This restriction applies to any form of advertising, both internal and external, whether in word, speech or image.

2.11 Deadline for submission

The deadline for submission of tenders is set for **December 18th 2015**. Late tenders will be rejected.

2.12 Exceptions and deviations

If a tenderer wishes to make certain exceptions and stipulations to certain parts of the tender document, this should be clearly stated in the tender. These provisos should be clearly specified in the bid, and their implication for performance, price or other relevant factors should be clearly stated.

The same terms apply to deviations. Exceptions and deviations should be formulated precisely and clearly so that the purchaser can assess them without having to contact the supplier. Exceptions and deviations should refer to the relevant point in the tender document and should be specified and discussed in a separate enclosure (see point 2.5.). Exceptions and deviations of a substantial nature will result in the tender being refused.

2.13 Disclosure requirements

Tenderers will receive written notification from the purchaser with a short explanation in the event that:

- The tender is refused
- All submitted bids are rejected or if the competition is cancelled.

Suppliers may make a written request for:

- Why the tender was refused or rejected.

The customer must reply within 15 days of having received the tenderer's request.

2.14 Subcontractor

FFI desires to work with a single source vendor who can document the desire and capability of assuming responsibility for the entire delivery. If in order to be able to furnish a bid for complete delivery of goods or services, the vendor wishes to include sub vendors, the applying vendor should appear in the tender document as the primary tenderer. FFI reserves the right to disallow the tenderer's choice of sub vendor. The main supplier should be able to enter into a long term cooperative effort with FFI for common administration of the system described in the invitation for tenders. FFI should be advised of any changes of sub vendors well ahead of time.

2.15 Alternative offers

Alternative offers outside of the open tendering process will not be accepted.

2.16 Validity of offer

Offers should be valid for a minimum 90 calendar days after the closing date for submission of tenders.

2.17 Withdrawal of tender and/or changes

Submitted tenders may be withdrawn or changed until the submission deadline. Withdrawal of tenders should go through the Merzell Purchasing Tool (KGV). Changes in the tender will be considered to be a new offer.

3 QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

The separate points in the qualification requirements in the suppliers start menu is answered in the following way:

- Choose "Ja" from the drawdown menu to the question: Er du kvalifisert? (Are you qualified?)
- Attach necessary documentation to the qualification requirements.
- Eventually give your comments to the requirements and answers in the writing area to the left.

3.1 Vendor's organisational and juridical position

Requirements - examples	Documentation requirements - examples
The vendor shall be a legally established business enterprise.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Norwegian firms: Company registration certificate. • Foreign enterprises: Official documentation that the company is formally registered in the relevant business directory or formal registry of business enterprises in the country in which it is established.
The vendor should be current and up to date in the payment of income tax and value added tax.	Value added tax certificate issued by the Department of revenue, not more than six months old. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further information is to be found at: www.skatteetaten.no • The certificate may be requested from Altinn www.altinn.no og and cannot be dated more than six months before the deadline in this documents article 2.11.
Ethical statement for suppliers to the royal Norwegian Ministry of Defence	A template for the statement are provided with the tender document. The statement must be printed, signed and scanned (Annex B).

Foreign vendors should provide certificates of compliance issued by the relevant authorities in their own countries.

3.2 Vendor's economic and financial position

Requirements - examples	Documentation requirements - examples
The vendor shall have the economic capacity to deliver/carry out the contract.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credit check/rating within the past year based on the last publicly available accounting figures. Credit rating to have been assessed by a publicly approved credit rating institution.

If there are legitimate reasons that prevent the vendor from providing the specific documentation the customer requests, the vendor may provide other supporting documentation acceptable to the customer which proves his economic and financial position.

3.3 Vendor's technical and professional qualifications

Requirement	Documentation requirement
The vendor shall be experienced in the relevant line of work (fiber splicing equipment)	A description of the Tenderer's company history, ownership, size and locations; copies of the Tenderer's product catalogue and brochures.
The vendor should have successfully executed similar contracts on earlier occasions	A list of at least three references for glass processing systems the Tenderer has delivered in Europe within the last five years. The list shall include the time the system was delivered and contact name, telephone number and e-mail address for a reference person in the firm commissioning the contract and to whom the delivery was made.

4 SPECIFICATION OF REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENT CRITERIA

Specification of **Technical Requirements**

Description of procurement

The objective of this procurement is to provide FFI with a glass processing system for fusion splicing of optical fibers and fabrication of fiber components including couplers, tapers, pump combiners, and end caps. The total system shall consist of

- A glass processing unit for fusion splicing and fabrication of optical fiber components.
- A recoater for coating a stripped fiber with a UV-curing polymer.
- A fiber cleaver.
- A fiber stripper/cleaning station.

Technical specifications

The “shall” specifications are absolute. Systems that do not fulfill the “shall” requirements will not be considered. The score will thus be based on the “should” requirements.

Glass processing unit/fiber splicer:

- The system shall be able to fusion splice optical fibers (single mode, multi-mode, polarization maintaining, double cladding, rare-earth doped, and photonic crystal fibers) with cladding diameter 80 μm to 1.2 mm.
- The system shall be able to splice fibers made of fused silica as well as soft glass fibers.
- The system shall be able to perform rotation alignment of the fibers.
- The system shall be able to perform fiber end face imaging prior to splicing.
- The system shall perform fiber alignment in fully manual and fully automatic mode.
- The system shall give an accurate estimate of the splice loss.
- The system shall be able to make fiber components including couplers, tapers (with up to at least 100 mm taper length), combiners, and end caps.

Recoater:

- The recoater shall be able to perform recoating with high-index and low-index UV-curable polymers.
- The recoating length shall be up to at least 50 mm.
- The recoat mold diameters should include $250\pm 10\ \mu\text{m}$ and $450\pm 10\ \mu\text{m}$.

Fiber cutter:

- The fiber cutter shall cleave single mode, multi-mode, double cladding, polarization maintaining, rare-earth-doped, and photonic crystal fibers made of fused silica, as well as soft glass fiber fibers, with cladding diameter 80 μm to 1.2 mm.
- The fiber cutter should produce cleave angles from 0 to 15 degrees for fibers with cladding diameter 80 μm to 0.8 mm.

Fiber stripper/cleaner:

- The stripper and cleaner should be able to strip and clean fibers with cladding diameter 80 µm up to at least 0.4 mm.

User-friendliness, documentation, ergonomics and functionality

- The fibers should be easily transferable between the different components.
- The system should have a user-friendly interface.
- The system should be compact.
- The components of the system should be well documented.

After sales delivery, training, instrument service and warranty

- Three day training for 1-5 persons should be given, preferably at FFI.
- System installation at FFI should be included.
- There should be at least 1 year free service and warranty of the parts.
- There should be e-mail support, preferably with less than 2 working days response time.

4.1 Prices

Prices should be given in EUR accordance with requirements in article 4. The prices shall be fixed for 90 days from the tender due date and not subject to changes due to later currency amendments in that period.

4.2 User-friendliness, documentation and ergonomics

The vendor shall include documentation which describes the user-interfaces of the components. The method of transferring the fibers between the different components shall also be described."

4.3 Aftersales, support- and service organization.

The tenderer shall provide a description of its support- and service organization and support policy. A description of any warranties exceeding the General Purchase Conditions, form 5052 should also be included.

4.4 General Purchase Conditions

General Purchase Conditions, Form 5052 (March 2008), of The Armed Forces of Norway will be applied in this competition.

4.5 Assignment criteria

FFI will award the contract to the Tenderer who submits the most advantageous Tender based on the following criteria set up in the Evaluation weighting base:

Evaluation weighting base	Weight
Price	30 %
Fulfilment of technical specifications*	10 %
User-friendliness, documentation and ergonomics	30 %
Aftersales, support- and service organization	30 %

*) The "shall" specifications in article 4 are absolute. Systems that do not fulfill the "shall" requirements will not be considered. The score will thus be based on the "should" requirements.

5 PROCESSING OF SUBMITTED TENDERS

5.1 Registration of tenders

All incoming tenders are registered in the Merzell Purchasing Tool (KGV).

FFI reserves the right to request additional information from tenderers that it considers of interest on the basis of the offers presented. FFI also reserves the right to adjust or modify recommended solutions, as well as to accept any offer, in whole or in part, or to reject all of the submitted bids.

Tenderers of rejected bids will receive written notification thereof.

5.2 Opening of tenders

The opening of tenders will not be public.

5.3 Rejection of tenderers

Tenderers who fail to submit income tax statements and workplace health and safety statements by the closing date of the invitation to tender will be rejected, likewise tenderers who do not fulfil the established and announced qualification requirements.

Furthermore, the customer may refuse tenderers for other reasons, cf. FOA § 11-10 (Regulations Governing Public Procurement), or for grounds and procedures that fall under Part I and Part II of the above-mentioned Regulations, such as:

- bankruptcy, if the company is in receivership or in the process of liquidation, suspension of business operations or in the process thereof according to national laws and regulations;
- petitioning for bankruptcy, initiation of debt settlement procedures or compulsory dissolution of the enterprise according to national laws and regulations;
- the company has, by legally enforceable judgment, been found guilty of unlawful conditions with respect to its professional conduct;
- the company has breached professional and ethical norms in its branch of operations;
- failure to pay social security insurance in the company's country of establishment or in Norway;
- failure to pay taxes and public duties according to the statutes of law in the country in which the company is established or in Norway;
- grossly misleading or falsification of information and/or withholding of information mentioned herein; likewise falsification/withholding of information with respect to the customer's stated requirements for suppliers.

5.4 Rejection of tenders

A tender will be rejected if:

- a). the tender is not submitted by deadline;
- b). the tender submitted is not in accordance with the invitation to tender;
- c). the tender takes the form of an alternative offer not in keeping with the tender document;
- d). the tender contains provisos and exceptions to tender document stipulations on:

- the conditions of contract;
- specification of requirements;
- partial offers;
- time duration of offer's validity;
- withdrawal or alteration of offer.

A bid may be refused if:

- a). the bid does not contain all requested information;
- b). the bid does not give a price as assumed in the tender document;
- c). the bid seems abnormally low in relation to the service being offered;
- d). the bid is not signed.

Before an offer is rejected because it seems abnormally low, the customer shall make written request for relevant information about individual components of the bid and check this against the presentation that has been given. The customer may consider factual explanations such as savings in production costs, technical solutions, or unusually favourable conditions made possible by new development.

6 DECISION ON AWARDING OF CONTRACT

6.1 Cancellation of the invitation for tenders and rejection of all bids

The customer may cancel the invitation for tenders or, if there are legitimate grounds, reject all bids.

6.2 Information and basis for award of contract

All tenderers will be notified in writing of the customer's decision on the recipient of the contract and in good time before the contract is formally entered into and signed. The term "contract is entered into", means the point in time that both parties sign the contract.

The final date for lodging a complaint is ten calendar days after notification of the award of the contract. Upon the elapse of this deadline, the intent of the customer is to enter into and sign the contract.