Technical specifications
Development of applications and delivery of services for management and dissemination of environmental data and information

The European Environment Agency (EEA) and its wider network, the European Environment Information and Observation Network (EIONET), was established by Council Regulation 1210/90/EEC, amended by Council Regulation 933/99/EC, to ensure the supply of objective, reliable and comprehensive information at a European level and to ensure that the public is properly informed about the state of the environment.

For fulfilling the obligations of the regulation, EEA and EIONET partners are developing a transparent and efficient reporting system for environmental data and information. The technical platform for the reporting system is the EIONET Telematics Network, established with support from the DGIII-IDA programme. Data used for environmental reporting are collected from the EEA member countries and international organisations, managed and exploited by the European Topic Centres (ETCs) of EIONET, resulting in the aggregated data used for reporting on a European level. The aggregated data are maintained in and disseminated from the EEA Data Warehouse and the basic geo-referenced datasets, used for spatial analysis, are maintained within the EEA Geographic Information System.

The purpose of the call for tender is to establish service contracts for development of applications and delivery of services supporting data and information management within the reporting system and wide dissemination of environmental information.

LOT 1: Development of EIONET's CIRCLE Application Platform (Annex IIa refers)

This contract will cover the further development of the CIRCLE application platform that provides services within the EIONET Telematics Network. The CIRCLE platform, which makes use of several Netscape SuiteSpot servers, shall evolve into a modular, open system with clear interfaces for future modules. It shall provide easy and integrated corporate portal services to users who access documents and databases within the network and contribute to them. The new developments shall be based on open source concepts, as they will be distributed to the entire EIONET in more than 30 countries. Close co-operation with the CIRCA project of the European Commission's IDA Programme shall continue and features developed for the EIONET CIRCLE can become part of CIRCA, where so desired.

LOT 2: Management of aggregated data for environmental reporting and analysis of reporting obligations (Annex IIb and IIc refer)

The contractor will work intra-muros at EEA with management data in the Data Warehouse and analysis of environmental reporting obligations. The work will focus on streamlining the content of the warehouse, based on assessment of the long-term data requirements for the EEA reporting and of the Member States environmental reporting obligations in general. The main focus will be on topic data, delivered by the ETCs, continuing the current work that has mainly focused on socio-economic, sectoral and horizontal data. The task will also be to coordinate completion of the current EEA Reporting Obligation Database and to analyse its content as to whether there is duplication in the data reported under different obligations, whether some of the data reported are no longer policy relevant and hence redundant and whether the reported data are useful for EEA's environmental indicators and policy-relevant assessments. The work will involve extensive liaison with EEA and ETC staff, EIONET partners and with other international organisations (Eurostat, United Nations organisations, OECD etc.)

LOT 3: Development of NATLAN; a Web and CD-ROM application for Natural Resources and Land Cover data (Annex 2d and 2d1 refer).

The objective of the NATLAN (NATural Resources and LANd Cover) application is to disseminate available geo-referenced natural resources data and associated methodologies and analysis. 'The applications should support browsing, viewing, analysis and access to data used for preparing the two main reports published by EEA in 1998 and 1999: *Europe's Environment; The Second Assessment*, and *The Environment in the European Union at the turn of the Century*. The application should be developed for visualisation and dissemination on both Internet and CD-ROM. A set of posters shall also be prepared by the contractor.

Lot 4: Services within the EEA Information Centre

The EEA Information Centre receives about 300 external requests for environmental information per month and about 100 requests from EEA staff. In order to serve both external and internal request, the Information Centre has a library of about 6000 titles at its disposal. To continue and further develop this service, the EEA will establish a service contract for intra-muros consultants to support the internal and public services of the Information Centre.

The EEA and EIONET Web Sites (http://www.eea.eu.int and http://www.eionet.eu.int) provide also further information related to the applications and services of this Call for Tender.

Selection criteria

Tenderers must provide evidence of their identity, financial and economic standing and professional and technical qualifications by means of the following documents:
- an identification sheet (name or business name, legal status, contact person etc.)
- proven track record in the origination, development and realisation of similar activities and productions.
- a list of comparable services performed over recent years.
- where applicable, references of the inscription on the VAT-register
- where applicable, references of the inscription on the trade register
- evidence of tenderer's financial standing shall be furnished by (extracts from) financial statements for the past 3 years
- detailed curriculum vitae of the candidates or, where applicable, of the personnel involved in the tender when it concerns a legal person
- information on the candidate's working languages.

Tenders will lapse 9 months after the final date for receipt of tenders.

Award criteria

LOT 1
1. Daily rates and travel/subsistence expenses for a project manager, a senior analyst-programmer, and a junior-analyst programmer.
2. Experience and skills in Internet application development in C, Java, Perl, and PHP.
3. Experience and skills in working with open source software.
4. Experience and skills in working with various brands of Unix.
5. Understanding direction of Internet industry and especially concepts around corporate portals and electronic workplaces.
6. Quality assurance and documentation procedures.

LOT 2
1. Daily rates and travel/subsistence expenses.
2. Experience of the candidate(s) in management of environmental data, including quality control of environmental data and statistics.
3. Knowledge of the data requirements for environmental reporting and international reporting obligations.
4. General skills of the candidate in use of desktop-tools, mainly MS-Excel and MS-Access.

LOT 3
1. The fixed price for delivery of the NATLAN application.
2. Quality of the tender and technical approach for NATLAN.
3. Daily rates and travel/subsistence expenses for support persons (helpdesk, maintenance, further development) in the period after delivery of the application.
4. Experience of developing web applications for access and dissemination of geo-referenced data.

5.   Experience of developing applications for environmental data.
6.   Quality assurance and documentation procedures.

LOT 4
1.   Daily rates and travel/subsistence expenses.
2.   Experience and skills in the library and information service sector.
3.   Expertise on environmental information systems.
4.   Knowledge about the European Community institutions.
5.   Internet experience.
6.   Language skills.