

Algemene informatie

Aanbesteding: Economic feasibility study Einstein Telescope Euregio Meuse-Rhine
Aanbestedende Dienst: Stichting Nederlandse Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek Instituten (NWO-I)
Referentie: P2.1_126

Toelichting:

Vraag en antwoord

Ref.nr. **Onderwerp:**
1 Offerteaanvraag

Vraag:

Zonder inzicht in de beoogde bandbreedte van de prijs van de inschrijvingen is het uitdagend om tot een passende inschrijving te komen.
Wij vroegen ons daarom af of u al eerder (aan alle partijen) antwoord kon geven op de vraag:

Wat is de beoogde financiële bandbreedte (minimum en maximum) van inschrijvingen?

Antwoord:

The intended financial range for the bids is approximately between €300,000 and €400,000. This is not a knock-out criterion but provides an indication of what we consider to be an appropriate budget within the context of this tender.

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Offerteaanvraag

Vraag:

As part of the tender process, you indicate an assessment team has been set up to assess the proposals on quality. Can you share more about the composition of the assessment team (specifically around e.g. areas of expertise/ roles/ experience)?

Antwoord:

The assessment team is composed out of members that have a direct responsibility in the Project Office Directorate and the executive bidbook team to deliver the EMR Bidbook and Consortium proposals. The expertise required to deliver the economic feasibility studies is not in the project office and therefore tendered.

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Onderwerp:

Offerteaanvraag

Vraag:

In the work package timeline in the Info Meeting slides and the Assignment Description, the Impact Case feasibility study is scheduled for Q2 and Q3 of 2025, followed by the Business Case in Q4 2025 and Q1 2026. Given the fact that the indicated start date in the Procurement Guide is towards the end of Q2 (June 2nd), does that mean that you expect an accelerated timeline for the Impact Case study (i.e. 4 instead of 6 months), or is your envisioned project planning moving back 2 months in time?

Antwoord:

We mention these quarters as an indicated timeline. If the clear conclusion is that more time is needed to deliver than we will propose the EMR Ministries to reconsider this timeline. But for now we propose to not leave the agreed

planning.

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Onderwerp:

Offerteaanvraag

Vraag:

The timespan between the planned publication of the Information Notice (11 April) and final submission date (22 April) is limited to approximately 6 working days, partially due to public holidays. This provides limited effective time to adjust and tailor the proposal to incorporate this. Is there room to move the submission date to ensure sufficient time (e.g. with one week to 28/04)?

Antwoord:

We acknowledge that the limited time between the publication of the Information Notice (11 April) and the original submission deadline (22 April), combined with public holidays, may impact the ability to sufficiently tailor proposals.

To accommodate this, the contracting authority has decided to extend the submission deadline. The new deadline for submission is set to, 6 may 2025, 15:30h.

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Onderwerp:
Offerteaanvraag

Vraag:

On the Business Case feasibility study (Assignment Description section 3.4) you indicate how quality of the business case study should be to the standards of German, Belgian, Dutch and European standards. Can you elaborate on what you mean with this? (i.e. generically indicating the need for high quality standards, or is this referring to specific requirements such as MinFin guidelines, NGF requirements, etc.)

Antwoord:

We expect the agencies to show their expertise in delivering a business case that meets the standards of the host countries and the European standards for providing a plan and credit to build and operate the Einstein Telescope. A decision on this is a condition for the candidature bidbook and host consortium. The EMR Project Office at the moment does not have this expertise in house. Therefore we turn to this tendering procedure and external capacities and expertise.

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Onderwerp:
Offerteaanvraag

Vraag:

During the information session, the second component of the study — the

business case assessment — appeared to receive comparatively less attention in terms of time and presentation materials. Could the contracting authority clarify whether both components of the feasibility study (impact case and business case) are expected to be treated with equal weight in the proposal and execution? Or is one component considered more critical to the overall study outcome than the other?

Antwoord:

A candidature bidbook and host consortium will need both the impact and business case feasibility studies. Both are expected to be treated with full attention and weight required to deliver a strong candidature bidbook and host consortium. The plans to exploit the science case, sustainably integrate the infrastructure and exploit the impact potential are crucial input for a full scope business case feasibility study.

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Onderwerp:

Offerteaanvraag

Vraag:

Regarding the impact case, the 3x3 framework for assessing economic impact is well understood. Is there any methodological preference from the contracting authority for calculating the ‘first-order’ economic effects — for instance, through an Input-Output analysis or another formal method? Or is it up to the tenderer to justify their methodological choice as long as the outputs (e.g., production of goods, service delivery, direct employment) are clearly substantiated?

Antwoord:

We notice that there are already various studies when it comes to modelling and assessing the overall direct impact. We do not consider a need to add another method and chapter on this topic. What is lacking is combining all the input of the available studies and a feasible plan to deliver the output and

impact with regard to the framework. This has to be cleared out in the full scope of the EMR Bidbook and Host consortium proposals. We have defined the questions that need answering in this study and in the management summary.

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Onderwerp:

Offerteaanvraag

Vraag:

In section 3.4, the business case is described as comprising a “science case, infrastructure case and impact case.” Could the contracting authority clarify how these three cases are to be interpreted and whether they are expected to be addressed separately within the business case?

Antwoord:

A strong candidature bidbook and host consortium will have to show how to (1) exploit the ET science case, (2) sustainably integrate the infrastructure and (3) exploit the impact potential. The business case should be based on a full scope to deliver and integrate these.

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Onderwerp:
Voorwaarden

Vraag:

The link under Annex 2 indicates the applicable General Conditions as being ARVODI-2018. At the same time, a new version (ARVODI-2025) has been published recently. Can you confirm that the applicable conditions remain ARVODI-2018?

Antwoord:

The tender was published on 12 March 2025, prior to the official adoption of ARVODI-2025. The new version of the General Government Terms and Conditions for the Provision of Services (ARVODI-2025) was formally established on 17 March 2025, published in the Dutch Government Gazette (Staatscourant) on 18 March 2025, and came into effect on 29 March 2025. Therefore, the applicable general conditions for this tender remain ARVODI-2018, as indicated in Annex 2 of the tender documentation.

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Onderwerp:
Offerteaanvraag

Vraag:

Is it possible to get an exhaustive list of all the required administrative documents that should be submitted in the final bid when the contractor is a non-Dutch entity?

Antwoord:

- Requirement 1: Procurement Code of Conduct;

- Requirement 2: References
- ESPD (European Single Procurement Document)

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