

EXPLORATORY MARKET INVESTIGATION NOTICE

Notice of an exploratory market investigation aimed at soliciting expressions of interest for the identification of economic operators interested in participating in a negotiated procedure without a public call for tender for the provision of Transport and Launch Services for Suborbital Launchers provided by CNR. This activity includes the acquisition of flight licenses, the implementation of necessary aircraft modifications, the execution of preparatory flight activities, the selection of the operational area, the transport of the aircraft to the operational area, and final demonstrator flight, and the design of the related budget within the framework of AVIOLANCIO Program - CUP B89C20001980005.

1. Subject of the Contract:

The subject of the contract will be the provision of aircraft and support aircrafts for intermediate tests and final “maiden flights” of a suborbital air-launched demonstrator, with the possibility of operating on USA (United States of America) or European soil. The contract includes:

- the acquisition of flight licenses and all the authorizations necessary for carrying out specific tests of an airborne sounding rocket and the related suborbital demonstration mission, with the objective of reaching an altitude of at least 80 km with 25 kg of payload;
- the selection of the carrier aircraft and the implementation of subsequent necessary modifications to the aircraft;
- the execution of preparatory flight activities and the selection of the operational area;
- the transport of the aircraft to the operational area and demonstrator release.

2. Place of Execution:

The place of execution of the contract will be a test range deemed suitable by the carrier aircraft operator and may be located either in the United States or in Europe.

3. Award Procedure:

The contract will be awarded through a negotiated procedure in accordance with Article 139 of Legislative Decree No. 36/2023 (classified contracts). The conditions and participation requirements will be indicated in the tender documents. To the tender will participate only the Economic Operators who have expressed interest within the deadline and according to the methods indicated in this notice, in possession of the required requirements, and to whom the letter of invitation will be sent. The starting price of the negotiated procedure will be indicated in the invitation letter.

4. Award Criterion:

The contract will be awarded based on the economically most advantageous offer, in accordance with Article 108, paragraph 1, of Legislative Decree No. 36/2023, and subsequent amendments, determined on the basis of the best quality/price ratio.

5. Participation Requirements:

Entities eligible to express interest are those defined in Articles 65 and 68 of Legislative Decree No. 36/2023 who:

- Are not included in exclusion set out in Articles 94, 95, and 97 of Legislative Decree No. 36/2023;
- meet the following technical-professional capacity requirements:
 - expertise in high performance tactical aircraft operation, maintenance and integration of external stores;
 - expertise in fluid dynamics of aircraft store separation;
 - expertise in electronics and communication (wired or not) between aircraft cabin and external store;

6. Submission Terms and Methods of Expression of Interest:

The expression of interest addressed to this CNR Institute must be drawn up on the form attached to this notice and published on the CNR institutional website www.urp.cnr.it (tenders and tenders section) and must be received no later than 4 pm CEST of 13 November 2023 to the certified address protocollo.iaa@pec.cnr.it (for Italian OEs) and in copy to aviolancio@cnr.it (for all OEs).

In the expression of interest, the Economic Operator must expressly declare that they possess the general and special requirements. The expression of interest must be signed by the legal representative of the Economic Operator (in the case of RTI, consortium or GEIE not yet established or aggregation in a network, lacking a common body or having a common body without the power of representation: by the legal representative of each company to be established) with digital signature for Italian operators or foreign operators residing in Italy or with a handwritten signature, accompanied by a photocopy of a valid identification document of the signatory, for foreign Economic Operators.

It is understood that the expression of interest does not constitute proof of possession of the general requirements required here, but they must be declared and explained by the interested party during the negotiated procurement procedure and verified by the Contracting Authority.

In the case of participation in this procedure by Consortia, RTI, and GEIE, the technical capacity requirement must be possessed and proven as specified in Article 97 of Legislative Decree No. 36/2023.

7. Exclusion from the Selection Procedure:

Expressions of interest received after the deadline indicated above will be automatically considered inadmissible; timely delivery is the sole responsibility of the economic operator, and CNR is not obliged to investigate the reasons for delays in delivery.

Incomplete or improperly signed requests will not be admitted.

8. Candidate Selection and Tender Procedure:

8. Candidate selection procedure:

This Expression of Interest is open to all interested economic operators in possession of the requirements set out in this Notice.

The expressions of interest received will be examined by the Responsible for the Procedure (RUP) after the deadline established by this Notice for the submission of applications.

The subsequent invitation to the negotiated procedure will be forwarded, pursuant to art. 139 of Legislative Decree no. 36/2023, to at least 5 economic operators who have expressed their candidacy and are qualified in relation to the subject of the contract.

In accordance with Article 71 of Presidential Decree 445/2000, the CNR reserves the right to verify the accuracy of the data indicated in the expression of interest and to request supporting documents at any time, as the expression of interest does not serve as certification of the competencies declared therein.

9. Request for Information:

Administrative and/or technical information may be requested exclusively via email at the following address: aviolancio@cnr.it.

10. Electronic Availability of Documents:

CNR offers free and open electronic access to tender procedure documents on the institutional website www.urp.cnr.it.

11. Personal Data Processing:

The data provided by proposing parties will be processed in accordance with EU Regulation 679/2016 and, where applicable, with Legislative Decree 196/2003, as amended by Legislative Decree 101/2018, solely for the purposes related to the conduct of this procedure.

12. Other Information:

COURTESY TRANSLATION

This notice serves exclusively for exploratory and preliminary investigation purposes regarding the initiation of the tender process, which will occur with the sending of the invitation letter. Therefore, this notice does not imply the establishment of subjective legal positions or negotiation obligations on the part of CNR, which reserves the unquestionable right to suspend, modify, or cancel the market investigation, in whole or in part, without candidates being able to make any claims of any kind.

The exploratory investigation is in no way binding on the Contracting Authority; consequently, it neither constitutes nor can be interpreted in any way as a pre-contractual commitment with the Contracting Authority, nor does it give rise to any form of pre-contractual liability on its part. Since this is a market exploration, no competitive or semi-competitive tendering procedure is initiated, and no rankings or scoring are envisaged.

13. Legal Notice:

This notice, along with the attachments, is published on the CNR institutional website www.urp.cnr.it (tenders and contracts section).

Attachments:

- n. 1 - Information on data processing
- n. 2 - Sample Expression of interest

Rome, November 2nd 2023

The CNR-IIA Director
Ing. Francesco Petracchini