

**SERVICE CONTRACT for technical and operational support to
incubators for exiled and at-risk media**

Project AGILE no. M2AGL1025, M2AGL1026, M2AGL1027

TENDER REGULATIONS (TR)

**CLOSING DATE AND TIME FOR SUBMISSION OF BID DOCUMENTS: 13th January 2026 at 16:00
(GMT+01:00 Paris, Brussels, Copenhagen, Madrid)**

**Closing date for questions from the candidates: 3rd January 2026
(10 calendar days before the deadline for receipt of bids)**

**Closing date for CFI to answer questions: 8th January 2026
(5 calendar days before the deadline for receipt of bids)**

(GMT+01:00 Paris, Brussels, Copenhagen, Madrid)

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Article 1. PURCHASER

The French Media Development Agency - CFI

(Transtélé Canal France International)

62 rue Camille Desmoulins

92132 Issy-les-Moulineaux

Article 2. SUBJECT OF THE TENDER**2.1. Title of the Contract**

This Contract is a service Contract relating to technical and operational support to incubators for exiled and at-risk media.

2.2. Services entrusted to the Service Provider

The expectations of the Services are detailed in the Terms of Regulations.

2.3. Allotment

This Contract is divided into 4 lots¹:

- Lot 1 for €50,400 excluding tax relating to senior technical advisory and incubator design services for exile and at-risk media;
- Lot 2 for € 24 000 excluding tax relating to regional operational and contextual support services for exile and at-risk media in Africa.
- Lot 3 for € 24 000 excluding tax relating to regional operational and contextual support services for exile and at-risk media in Asia;
- Lot 4 for €40,000 excluding tax relating to targeted, on-demand expert support services for journalists and media actors at risk, exiled or displaced.

The candidate can apply for all lots. The candidate may be awarded one lot, two lots, three lots **OR** all lots. In the Pledge of Commitment Form (PCF), the candidate must specify the lot(s) for which it is bidding.

2.4.Term of the Contract

The term of the Service Contract is thirty (30) months from the date of notification. This Contract is not subject to renewal.

2.5. Total estimated value

The maximum amount of this contract for all lots is one hundred thirty-eight thousand four hundred euros (€ 138,400.00) excluding tax.

The available budget for each lot is as follows: Lot 1 – fifty thousand four hundred euros (€50,400) excluding tax; Lot 2 – twenty-four thousand euros (€24,000) excluding tax; Lot 3 – twenty-four thousand euros (€24,000) excluding tax; and Lot 4 – forty thousand euros (€40,000) excluding tax.

The Services of the Contract are paid for using a unit price set out in the Pledge of Commitment Form (PCF).

2.6.Advance payment

An advance will be granted by CFI as described below: The amount of the advance payment cannot

¹ Pursuant to articles L. 2113-10, L. 2113-11 et R. 2113-1 à R. 2113-3 of the French Public Procurement Code.

exceed 10% of the total amount of each lot.

2.7. Type of process

The Contract is entered into according to the **adapted procedure**². Adapted procedure is the process whereby CFI freely determines the terms and conditions according to the nature and characteristics of the need to be met and the number or location of candidate likely to meet it.

2.8. Variations and options

Variations and options are not allowed.

Article 3. TENDER DOSSIER (TD)

3.1. Contents of the Tender Dossier

The Tender Dossier contains the following documents:

- The Pledge of Commitment Form (PCF) and, its financial appendix: Unit Price List (UPL).
- The Terms of Reference (ToR) and its appendix the Anti-Corruption and Influence Peddling Declaration.
- The Tender Regulations (TR) and its appendix:
 - o Appendix No. 1 - Application Form (AF)

3.2. Procedure for obtaining the Tender Dossier for candidates

The Tender Dossier is available free of charge, by electronic means only, on the paperless platform at the following email address:

<https://www.marches-publics.gouv.fr/entreprise>

3.3. Modification of the Tender Dossier

CFI reserves the right to make detailed changes to the Tender Dossier. These changes must be received by the candidates no later than six (6) calendar days before the deadline for receiving applications and bids. Candidates must then bid on the basis of the amended dossier with no right to object about this matter.

If the deadline for receipt is postponed while the candidates are examining the dossier, the previous provision shall apply based on this new date.

Article 4. APPLICATION AND BID DOSSIERS

The candidates' attention is drawn to the fact that their bid must comply with the requirements of the Tender Dossier documents and in particular with the provisions of the Terms of Reference (ToR). The Tender Dossier documents must not be modified or subject to reservations, otherwise the bid shall be rejected.

Candidates' applications and bids are written entirely in English and denominated in euros.

The candidates may, if necessary, ask CFI for a French translation of the Tender Dossier (TD) documents.

² Pursuant to articles L. 2123-1 and R.2123-1 to R2123-8 of the French Public Procurement Code

4.1. Content of the application and bid dossiers

In the application dossier and the bid dossier, each candidate must produce a complete dossier containing all the documents and information listed below:

APPLICATION DOSSIER		
Required documents	Details regarding their content	Where to find them?
Application Form or equivalent	<p>Applicant Form must be <u>dated and signed</u> by the candidate and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A <u>presentation of the applicant company</u> - A <u>sworn statement</u> certifying that the applicant company does not fall under one of the cases prohibiting it from submitting a bid³; - The applicant company's <u>total turnover</u>. 	Use the document "Application Form (AF)" attached to this Tender Regulations (TR) or equivalent
BID DOSSIER		
Required documents	Details regarding their content	Where to find them?
Pledge of Commitment Form (PCF) or equivalent, duly <u>completed, dated and signed</u>	<p>The Pledge of Commitment Form (PCF) must be <u>dated and signed</u> by the candidate and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The amount of the applicant company's financial bid; - The lots the applicant company is bidding for, if applicable. 	Use the "Pledge of Commitment Form (PCF)" attached to the Tender Dossier (TD) (Word)
The applicant company's financial bid	The Financial Bid must be <u>dated and signed</u> and state the daily rates of all persons participating in the assignment.	Use the "Unit Price List (UPL)" attached to the Tender Dossier (TD) (Excel)
The applicant company's technical bid containing information relating to the sub-criteria of Criterion 1 on the scoring grid (Article 5.2. Bid selection criteria)	<p>This technical bid must present, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The understanding of the objectives, context, challenges, and expectations of the requested services, of the Terms of Reference (ToR), with particular attention to the needs of exiled and at-risk media and to the role(s) applied for (Senior Technical Advisor, Regional Technical Advisor(s), and/or Experts Pool), including the implementation of incubators. - The proposed methodology for delivering the services under the relevant lot(s), detailing how the approach builds on the Service Provider(s)' expertise. This should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o For Lot 1: thematic expertise in media development, capacity building and support to exiled and at-risk media; strategic advisory; incubator design; subgrant mechanisms, external representation; and learning and knowledge sharing. 	Maximum of 15 A4 one-sided pages excluding appendices (PDF)

³ Pursuant to articles L. 2141-1 to L. 2141-10 of the French Public Procurement Code.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For Lot 2-3: needs assessments and contextual expertise in Africa and/or Asia; coordination; operational support to at-risk and exiled media; facilitation skills; and reporting and communication. ○ For Lot 4: demand-driven, specialised support to exiled and at-risk media, including capacity building, practical training, project management, legal and psychosocial support, peer-to-peer mentoring, networking, reporting, and learning. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The proposed processes for addressing the assignment's challenges and expectations, as well as the composition of the team that shall be dedicated to this Contract. - The resume of each member of the team or person dedicated to this Contract within the applicant company. - Two reference letters from two other employers or clients of the team or the person dedicated to this Contract within the applicant company regarding similar contracts specifying the requests processed and the term of these contracts. - Any supporting documentation deemed useful to assess the quality and relevance of the bid, such as samples of past deliverables, publications, or evidence of participation in strategic events. 	
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Candidate may present for the award of the Contract as a single company or as a consortium of operators with a single representative⁴.

In the event of subcontracting, the candidate shall produce the documents and information necessary for the acceptance of each subcontractor and for the approval of its payment terms⁵. In the event of subcontracting, each subcontractor must submit the [DC4](#) (or equivalent).

To justify its professional, technical and financial capacities, the candidate, even if it is a consortium, may request that the professional, technical and financial capacities of other companies be taken into account, regardless of the legal nature of the links between it and these companies. In this case, it shall justify the capacities of this company or these companies and provide proof that they shall be available to it for the performance of the Contract.

The information written in the Pledge of Commitment Form (PCF) take precedence over all of the other information in the bid and, if any discrepancies are noted in a bid, the amount shall be adjusted accordingly.

4.2. Terms and conditions for sending application and bid dossiers

Candidates must submit their documentation in electronic format.

⁴ Pursuant to article R2142-19 of the French Public Procurement Code.

⁵ Pursuant to articles R. 2193-1 to R. 2193-2 of the French Public Procurement Code.

Documentation is submitted exclusively by electronic means on the platform:

<https://www.marchespublics.gouv.fr>

Complete application and bid dossiers are to be sent and must reach their destination **before the closing date stated on the cover page of this Tender Regulations (TR).**

Only documentation received before the closing date and time specified on the cover page of this Tender Regulations (TR) will be opened. Bid envelopes that are received or delivered after this date and time won't be opened. Bid envelopes received out of time shall be entered in the submissions register and will be rejected⁶.

In the case of large files, candidates must ensure that their entire documentation is uploaded before the closing date of receiving bids.

Electronic signature of documents is not required.

It is strongly recommended for each electronic submission on the paperless platform to comply with the following security principles:

- at least 48 hours before the response closing date, run a full test of the technical requirements to be met for electronic submission on the candidate's computer (accessible from the candidate's private space under the heading Help/prerequisites) and contact tech support in case of difficulty;
- optimise the files to limit the total size of the submission to a maximum of 500 MB.

A successful submission does not exempt the candidate from these precautionary principles for subsequent submissions.

Candidates are:

- encouraged to take into consideration the risks of electronic transmission. Therefore, they must take precautions to ensure that the electronic transmission of their bid is complete and successful before the closing date and time for the submission of documentation.
- authorized to send a backup copy by post or against receipt either on a physical electronic medium (preferably a USB stick) or on paper. Backup copies must be sent to the following address in a sealed envelope clearly marked "Backup Copy" and reach CFI before the closing date and time for the receipt of bids:

Transtélé Canal France International
For the attention of Pauline Grézaud
62, rue Camille Desmoulins
92130 Issy-les-Moulineaux

With the mention:

"CONTRACT – EXPERT PILAR 1/PROJECT AGILE"

The backup copy is opened in the following cases:

- when a computer virus is detected in the applications or bids transmitted electronically. A trace of any such virus is kept;
- when an electronic application or bid is received incomplete or out of time, or could not be opened, provided that the transmission of the application or electronic bid started before the closing of the submission of bids.

⁶ Pursuant to article R 2151-5 of the French Public Procurement Code.

4.3. Bids validity period

The bid validity period is one hundred and sixty (160) calendar days from the bid submission closing date.

By responding to the tender, the candidate is deemed to have unconditionally accepted the tender terms and conditions. Its application and offer shall undertake the entire period stipulated in this article. The candidate cannot withdraw before this period expires.

Article 5. BID SELECTION ANALYSIS

5.1. Verification of bid conformity

CFI checks that bids are appropriate, acceptable and irregular being specified that:

- (a) Inappropriate, a bid unrelated to the Contract because it is obviously unable, without substantial modification, to meet CFI's need and requirements formulated in the tender documents. Inappropriate bids are rejected.
- (b) Unacceptable, a bid has a price which exceeds the budget resources allocated to the Contract as determined and established prior to the launch of the process. Unacceptable bids are rejected.
- (c) Irregular, an incomplete bid or which does not comply with the requirements set out in the tender documents, or violates the applicable legislation, in particular regarding employment and environmental matters. Irregular bids may become regular after rectification provided that they are not abnormally low. The regularisation of irregular bids may not have the effect of changing the substantial features of the bids.

5.2. Bid selection criteria

Bids shall be selected in accordance with the fundamental public procurement principles, by applying the following criteria:

Criteria for all lots		Weighting
<i>Criterion 1</i>	<i>Technical value of the bid</i>	80%
Sub-criterion 1.1	Understanding of the assignment and quality of the proposed approach: Candidate's understanding of the objectives, challenges and expected results of the assignment, as well as relevance, clarity, and feasibility of the proposed methodology and support modalities for incubator activities.	20
Sub-criterion 1.2	Relevant experience: Candidate's proven experience in media development and/or support to exiled or at-risk media, including similar assignments involving capacity-building or incubator models, and relevant work in the target regions (Africa and/or Asia).	30
Sub-criterion 1.3	Qualifications and suitability of the proposed dedicated team: Technical skills, language and intercultural competencies, and	30

	capacity of the proposed personnel to carry out the assignment effectively, based on CVs and references.	
Criterion 2	Value of the bid price	20%
	Price	20

Article 6. AWARD OF THE CONTRACT

6.1. Supporting documents necessary for awarding the Contract

To be awarded the Contract, the prospective successful candidate must provide the documents listed below:

		Documents justifying capacity for an applicant company based in <u>France</u>	Documents justifying capacity for an applicant company established or domiciled <u>abroad</u>
1	Identification	No document required	A document issued by the authorities maintaining the professional register or an equivalent document certifying this entry or a document mentioning its name, company name, full address and nature of the entry in the professional register ⁷
2	Regarding tax obligations	A tax clearance certificate , less than six months old, certifying the issuance of declarations and the payments corresponding to income tax, corporation tax and value added tax. This certificate is issued by the tax authorities with jurisdiction over the applicant ⁸ .	Equivalent
3	Regarding social obligations	A certificate of provision of declarations and payment of social security contributions , less than six months old, certifying that the applicant company is up-to-date with its social contribution declarations and the payment of social security payments and contributions. In France, this certificate is issued online on the Urssaf website.	Equivalent
4	Regarding the obligations for employing disabled workers	When the applicant company employs at least 20 employees : a certificate certifying the applicant company's compliance with regard to the obligation to employ disabled workers. This certificate is issued by the French social security contribution collection office (URSSAF).	Equivalent
5	Regarding combating the	When the applicant company employs foreign salaried persons : the list of the names of the foreign salaried persons employed by the applicant company	Equivalent

⁷ For companies in the process of being set up, a document less than six months old from the authority authorized to receive the registration in the professional register and certifying the application for registration in said register.

⁸ Companies subject to corporation tax and subject to VAT can obtain a tax clearance certificate electronically from their professional tax account, accessible from <https://www.impots.gouv.fr/>.

employment of foreigners without permits⁹	and subject to a work permit, with the details required by the French Labour Code.	
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If the prospective successful candidate is in a situation which disqualifies it from the contracting process or cannot produce the necessary evidence, additional information or explanations required by CFI within the time limit, its application will be rejected and the tenderer whose bid has been ranked immediately below must be asked to produce the necessary documents.

6.2. Notification of unsuccessful applicant companies

CFI will inform all the other candidates that their bids have been rejected, stating the reasons why they have been rejected.

This notification informs the candidates of name of the successful tenderer and the reasons that led to its bid being chosen.

6.3. Notice of cancellation of the process

CFI may, at any time and up to the notice of award of the Contract, decide not to continue with the process¹⁰.

In this case, the abandonment of the procedure, an unilateral decision taken by CFI, will not give rise to any indemnity or compensation of any kind. The reasons for this decision remain at the discretion of CFI, which is not required to communicate them to the candidate.

6.4. No compensation for unsuccessful candidate

Unsuccessful candidates shall not be entitled to any compensation.

Article 7. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

To obtain any additional information about the tender process or documents, candidates must send a request in good time via the platform at <https://www.marchespublics.gouv.fr>

Candidates may ask their questions before the closing time indicated on the cover page.

CFI will answer these questions and send its answers via PLACE before the closing time indicated on the cover page.

Candidates are reminded that in the event of anonymous withdrawal of the tender file on the PLACE platform, the candidate will not have access to any correspondence and will not receive any notification relating to the publication of questions/answers or modification of the published tender file. Such correspondence is sent only to authenticated candidates.

⁹ Article D. 8254-2 of the French Labour Code (for economic operators based in France) and Art. D. 8254-3 of the French Labour Code (for economic operators established or domiciled abroad with employees in the country for the performance of this contract).

¹⁰ Pursuant to Article R. 2185-1 of the French Public Procurement Code

Article 8. APPEALS PROCESS

8.1. Precisions concerning the time limits for lodging appeals

- Pre-contractual summary proceedings before the conclusion of the Contract (Article 2 et seq. of Order No. 2009-515 of 7 May 2009 on the appeals procedures applicable to public procurement contracts).
- Contractual summary proceedings after the conclusion of the Contract (Article 11 et seq of Order No 2009-515 of 7 May 2009 on the appeals procedures applicable to public procurement contracts).

8.2. Body and department responsible for appeals processes

Body responsible for appeals processes	Department from which information can be obtained concerning the lodging of appeals
Official name: Nanterre Judicial Court Postal address: 179-191 Avenue Joliot Curie Location / City: Nanterre Postcode: 92020 Country: France Telephone: 01 40 97 10 10 Internet address: http://www.justice.gouv.fr/	Official name: Registry of the Nanterre Judicial Court Postal address: 179-191 Avenue Joliot Curie Location / City: Nanterre Postcode: 92020 Country: France Telephone: 01 40 97 10 10 Internet address: http://www.justice.gouv.fr/

Article 9. APPENDICES

- Appendix No. 1 - Application Form (AF)

END OF TENDER REGULATIONS (TR)