

TENDER RULES

OBJECT OF THE PROPOSED CONTRACT:

CONSULTANCY SERVICES TO ESTABLISH AN ENABLING POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN ESA REGION

LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CONTRACTING AUTHORITY:

Jérémie PELLET, Chief Executive Officer of EXPERTISE FRANCE

DATE AND TIME OF OFFER SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

27/04/2026 at 12:00 (PARIS TIME)

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ARTICLE 1: OBJECT AND SCOPE OF THE TENDER

Object of the tender

The tender covers the award of a service contract covering “**CONSULTANCY SERVICES TO ESTABLISH AN ENABLING POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN ESA REGION**”.

The scope of the needs to be satisfied is set out in the Specifications.

The form of the proposed contract is a Competitive Multiple Framework Contract (CMFC) with subsequent contracts

This CMFC will be a framework agreement with a maximum of three service providers. The unit prices defined by each service provider in their financial offer under the subsequent contract shall not exceed the ones indicated under the framework contract financial offer. When a specific need arises, a mini-competition will be held among the contracted service providers, and the best offer will be awarded the subsequent contract.

Scope of the tender

This contract is subject to the French Public Procurement Code (CPP) in its applicable version under Ordinance no. 2018-1074 of 26 November 2018, establishing the legislative elements of Decree no. 2018-1075 of 3 December 2018, establishing the regulatory elements of the Public Procurement.

It is awarded by means of an open tender in application of Articles L. 2124-2, R. 2161-2, R. 2161-3, R. 2161-4 and R. 2161-5 of CCP.

Tender language – currency

All the tender documents must be written in English.

The Contracting Authority will conclude contracts in the following currency: euro (€).

Composition of the tender documents

The tender documents are composed of the following:

- 01_ The current Tender Rules (the “Rules”);
- 02_ The draft contract (general conditions and special conditions);
- 03_ The Contractual Annex 1 - Technical Specifications;
- 04_ The Contractual Annex 2 - Financial offer Template _ Unit Prices
- 05_ The Contractual Annex 3 covering the processing of personal data in the event of GDPR data processing (collection of personal data on behalf of Expertise France);
- 06_ PLACE user guide for companies.
- 07_ Application_form-Expression_of_interest_form
- 08_ The candidate GDPR compliance verification form;
- 09_ ToRs of a Simulation (Case study) to compare the financial aspects of all submitted offers
- 10_ The_Financial_offer_Template_Simulation

Modification of the tender documents

Modifications may be made to the tender documents up to 6 days prior to the bid submission deadline.

Modifications are only forwarded to the economic operators duly identified during the tender document consultation phase.

Candidates/bidders must respond on the basis of the latest modified documents. Should any candidate/bidder have submitted any bid or offer prior to modification, they may resubmit based on the latest modified documents prior to the bid reception deadline.

ARTICLE 2: GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROPOSED CONTRACT

Form of the contract

The contract is a framework contract via subsequent contracts entered into with multiple operators.

The Framework Contract does not constitute a financial commitment in itself. Any financial commitment shall arise exclusively from the issuance of duly approved subsequent contracts), subject to budget availability and internal validation.

Maximum amount of the need

The provisional amount of the contract is fixed at a maximum of € 990,000.00. The contract is entered into without a minimum amount. The amount of the subsequent contract will depend on the prices offered by the selected candidate.

The Contracting Authority shall ensure continuous monitoring of the cumulative amount of subsequent contracts issued under the Framework Contract in order to remain within the maximum financial ceiling.

Term of the contract

The term of the contract is 36 months from its award date. For illustrative purposes only, the anticipated award date is 30/04/2026.

ARTICLE 3: CANDIDATE PARTICIPATION CONDITIONS

Candidate presentation conditions

A single entity may not represent more than one candidate for any given tender (Article R. 2142-4 of the French Public Procurement Code). In the context of this tender, however, the contracting authority does not authorise the candidate to present multiple offers when acting at the same time as:

- an individual candidate and member of one or more consortia of economic operators;
- a member of multiple consortia of economic operators.

In the event of an application being made by a consortium of economic operators, each member of the consortium must provide all the documents and information certifying their legal, professional, technical and financial capacity. The consortium's capacities will be assessed on an overall basis.

Grounds and conditions of exclusion

Notably under:

- The French Law no. 2016-1691 of 9 December 2016 on transparency, anti-corruption and modernisation of the economy, the so-called "Sapin 2" law;
- Chapter II of the French Monetary and Financial Code setting out provisions for the freezing of assets and the prohibition of making funds available (notably Article L. 562-4 and Article L. 562-5);
- Relevant requirements emanating from accreditation for managing delegated EU funds (Pillar 7 relating to exclusion from accessing financing);

Candidates or their representative in any of the situations set out in Articles L.2141-1 to L.2141-10 of the French Public Procurement Code, or which are on any official exclusion list, shall be excluded from the procedure, whether their situation is established by means of their own declarations or through the application of vigilance measures by the contracting authority.

However, where the exclusion decision is at the discretion of the contracting authority, it shall invite the candidate(s) liable to exclusion to present their observations in order to establish, via all means and within a reasonable period not exceeding 10 days, that the measures required to rectify the failings laying behind exclusion have been taken and, as applicable, that their participation in the tender will not undermine equality of treatment among the bidders.

Where an operator finds itself to be in a position of exclusion during the procedure, it shall notify the contracting authority without delay, which shall apply exclusion on these grounds.

Minimum prerequisites in terms of economic, technical and professional capacity

The contracting authority does not impose minimum capacity levels on candidates.

Specific requirements for consortia of economic operators

Grounds for the exclusion of consortia

Where the grounds for exclusion from the tender procedure concern one of the consortium members, the contracting authority shall demand its replacement by an entity not subject to the grounds for exclusion, to take place within 10 days of the lead company receiving said demand. Failing this, the consortium shall be excluded from the procedure;

Form of the consortium

In the event that the consortium would win the contract, the lead company would be jointly and severally liable towards Expertise France for the execution of the contract by each of the consortium members.

Subcontracting

Grounds for exclusion in the case of subcontracting

Entities subject to grounds for exclusion cannot be accepted as subcontractors.

Where the subcontractor subject to grounds for exclusion is presented at the application phase, the contracting authority shall demand its replacement by an entity not subject to the grounds for exclusion, to take place within 10 days of the candidate receiving said demand. Failing this, the candidate shall be excluded from the procedure.

Presentation of a subcontractor

Subcontractors are to be presented using form DC 4 (Subcontracting Declaration)¹ duly completed by the subcontractor and the candidate, incorporating a statement of the subcontractor's professional, technical and financial capacity, in addition to a sworn declaration that the subcontractor is not subject to any prohibition on participating in public procurement.

ARTICLE 4: PRESENTATION OF BIDS AND SUBMISSION PROCESS

Bidders must submit a complete bid incorporating the documents specified below. The requested documents must be signed by the bidder, the lead company of the temporary consortium or each of the members of the consortium.

Application documents

Candidates must submit the following application documents duly completed:

¹ Form DC4 is available at: <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/daj/formulaires-mise-a-jour-formulaire-declaration-sous-traitance-dans-marches-publics>

- 07_The attached application form;
- 08_The attached GDPR compliance verification form, used to verify that the bidder has implemented appropriate technical and organisational measures such that data processing complies with relevant data protection laws and regulations (GDPR and French data protection legislation), thereby guaranteeing the rights of data subjects;
- The proof of registration at the trade and companies' registry ("k-bis" or equivalent);;
- A declaration stating the company's current headcount and the number of supervisory personnel;
- Revenue declarations for the last three available financial years;
- In the event of insolvency proceedings, a copy of the judgements regarding the insolvency
- Currently valid insurance certificates for civil and/or professional liability;
- Any other certificate relating to compliance with compulsory organisations
- List of references relevant to the object of the contract for projects of similar size, stating the names and phone numbers of the competent contact persons.

In the event that the tenderer is a consortium: each member of the consortium must provide all of the above mentioned documents.

Bid documents

Candidates must submit a complete bid file containing the following documents:

- The draft contract, duly completed signed and dated, and in annex:
 - o 03_the annex 2 Financial offer Template _ Unit Prices, duly completed
 - o 10_the_Financial_offer_Template_Simulation
 - o 05_the annex 3 covering the definition and conditions for processing personal data on behalf of the contracting authority, duly completed;
- A technical addendum containing the following information:
 - o Description of the team made available for the proper performance of the services (5 work packages) presented in the Technical Specifications (profiles, skills, experience, etc.) including their CV
 - o Proposed methodology, per work package, for implementing the services defined in the Technical Specifications, including a list of potential areas to investigate for each work package.

Bid validity period

The validity of bids submitted shall be at least 120 days from the submission deadline.

Bid submission process

Bids submitted in paper format

Bids submitted in paper format will be rejected.

Electronic submission

In order to access the tender consultation space or to submit their bid, bidders must connect to the French government procurement platform at:

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

Electronic submission is mandatory. Any submission via other means will be rejected.

The bid submission procedure is detailed on the website <https://www.marches-publics.gouv.fr>

On this site, bidders will notably find a user guide available for download which specifies the platform's conditions of use, notably the technical prerequisites and electronic certificates.

Should they so wish, bidders may make contact by phone on 01 76 64 74 07 on all business days between 9am and 7pm in order to obtain technical assistance with how to complete all the necessary tasks.

In the event of allotment, all lots must be covered by an electronic submission. However, it is possible to make a single electronic submission for multiple lots provided that the lots covered by a bid can be identified without ambiguity.

The costs of accessing the network and of electronic signature shall be borne by the candidate.

Bidders are invited to test the configuration of their work device and to perform a test tender to ensure that their technical environment is functioning as required.

Bidders' attention is drawn to the fact that they must at least have internet browser software. It is not mandatory to have an electronic signature system.

In order to make an offer, bidders must forward files in the following computer formats: PDF, RTF, ZIP, suite Microsoft Office, LibreOffice or Open Office. Any computer file in a different format will be declared null and void.

NOTE:

All bid files must be free of computer viruses and must have been previously treated to this end by the bidder, using the latest version of an antivirus software. The same applies to all other files exchanged during this public procurement procedure.

The contracting authority may place any file containing a virus in a security archive. It will therefore be deemed never to have been received.

NB: Bidders' attention is drawn to the time required to deliver large volume electronic files. The average downloading time may vary according to various parameters, such as the technical capacity of the device, the type of internet connection, traffic on the network, etc.

To the extent that the date and time of completed upload constitutes the legal reference for submission of electronic bids, bidders are invited to allow sufficient time for all electronic submissions.

Even though its bid for this public procurement procedure will have been submitted electronically, the bidder undertakes, notably if its bid has been accepted, to provide contractually valid paper documents. In this regard, it also undertakes that the natural person providing the electronic signature also provides their handwritten signature without making any modifications to the documents, to be forwarded to the contracting authority in this format. Lastly, the bidder undertakes to accept notification in paper format, in accordance with standard practices.

ARTICLE 5: ANALYSIS OF APPLICATIONS

Applications are selected by the Evaluation Committee of Expertise France in accordance with the following procedure.

Application supplementary information requests

Before examining applications, should the contracting authority note that requested documents or information are missing or incomplete, it may ask the bidders concerned to complete their application pack within a deadline applicable to all such bidders. The deadline will be specified in the request for supplementary information.

Applications that are incomplete or which remain incomplete following a request for additional information will be eliminated.

Rejection of late applications - Opening bids

The Bid Opening Committee (meeting in non-public session) lists the bids received, the identity of applicants and the composition of the bids submitted.

Bids received after the deadline will be immediately rejected.

Admissibility of applications

In accordance with Article 3 of this document covering the conditions for participation, the Evaluation Committee of Expertise France analyses the admissibility of applications based on the following criteria:

- Candidate's registration at the trade and companies registry (or equivalent)
- Candidate's compliance with its social security obligations
- Candidate's compliance with its tax obligations
- The applicant must not be in any of the situations set out in Articles L. 2141-1 to L. 2141-6 and L. 2141-7 to L. 2141-11 of the French Public Procurement Code, nor be on any official exclusion list, whether their situation is established by means of their own declarations or through the application of vigilance measures by the contracting authority
- The candidate or its representative must not be in a situation of conflict of interest vis-à-vis the contracting authority and/or any beneficiary of the procurement contract
- The candidate must be able to demonstrate adequate implementation of appropriate technical and organisational measures such that data processing conforms with relevant data protection laws and regulations (GDPR and French data protection legislation), thereby guaranteeing the rights of data subjects

ARTICLE 6: BID EVALUATION, NEGOTIATIONS AND AWARD

The bid selection procedure is conducted by the Evaluation Committee of Expertise France in accordance with the following procedure:

Rejection of late bids - Opening bids

The Bid Opening Committee (meeting in non-public session) lists the bids received, the identity of applicants and the composition of the bids submitted.

Bids received after the deadline will be immediately rejected.

Bid analysis

After having verified that the bids received are conforming, admissible and appropriate, the Evaluation Committee of Expertise France analyses the bids from selected bidders in accordance with the following criteria.

Rejection of non-conforming, inadmissible or inappropriate bids

The Evaluation Committee examines all bids received and, in accordance with Article R.2152-1 of the French Public Procurement Code, rejects bids judged to be non-conforming, inadmissible or inappropriate, as applicable, after having implemented the regularisation procedure set out in Article R.2152-2 of said code.

Comparison of bids for selection of the most economically beneficial bid

Bids will be assessed separately in accordance with the following criteria by awarding a score up to the maximum number of points per criterion as set out below:

Criterion 1: Price of the services

The **financial score (FS out of a maximum of 30 points)** will cover the comparison of the financial offers of all candidates having submitted a conforming bid.

Criterion 2: Technical offer

Sub-criteria for assessing the technical quality	Maximum number of points
Sub-criterion 1: Demonstrate Understanding of the Assignment • Demonstrates a clear understanding of the overall technical specifications. (2/5) • Explain how the five work packages interlink to support an inclusive transition to Circular Economy in the ESA region. (2/5) • Briefly highlight what is required to deliver the assignment effectively and coherently. (1/5)	5
Sub-criterion 2 : WP 1 - Regional Studies • Effectiveness of the proposed approach for addressing data gaps, access constraints and data quality risks, while ensuring efficient use of resources and value for money. (3/8) • Quality of the proposed approach for engaging relevant stakeholders, validating findings, and disseminating results to ensure credibility, ownership and policy uptake. (3/8) • Robustness of the proposed quality assurance and review processes to ensure high-quality, consistent and policy-relevant study outputs. (2/8)	8
Sub-criterion 3: WP 2 - Regional Policy Dialogues • Feasibility and quality of the proposed approach to planning, organising, and managing regional policy events, including logistics, coordination, and risk management. (3/10) • Soundness of the proposed approach for building consensus and managing disagreements, including addressing power imbalances and political sensitivities in policy dialogue settings. (2/10) • Effectiveness of the proposed approach for structuring and moderating policy dialogue processes to achieve actionable policy outcomes. (3/10) • Strength of the proposed approach for capturing, synthesising, and communicating outcomes, recommendations, and follow-up actions from regional dialogues.(2/10)	10
Sub-criterion 4: WP 3 - Policy Support Facility • Clarity and depth of understanding of the PSF objectives, its non-prescriptive nature, and how it will respond to regional and national policy needs.(3/15) • Demonstrates clear understanding of how policy is formulated and coordinated at national and regional level. Highlight roles of key institutions, private sector actors, and other relevant stakeholders and governance structures involved in policy formulation.(7/15) • Demonstrates understanding of political economy factors shaping policy formulation, including incentives, power imbalances, and political sensitivities, and how these will be managed. (5/15)	15
Sub-criterion 5: WP 4 - Capacity Building • Clarity and quality of the approach to producing policy-relevant learning materials (briefs, toolkits, case studies) that support integration of CE into policy frameworks. (2/8) • Quality of the proposed approach to designing and delivering tailored capacity building, including learning methods, interactive training, and practical policy application. (3/8) • Effectiveness of the approach to planning and managing online and in-person training events, including coordination, participant engagement, and logistical arrangements. (2/8) • Strength of the proposed approach to tracking learning outcomes, collecting feedback, and improving training quality. (1/8)	8
Sub-criterion 6: WP 5 - Advocacy Support • Demonstrates clear understanding of how advocacy, influencers, and civil society can support CE policy development and uptake in the ESA region. (1/6) • Clarity and quality of the approach to producing user-friendly, policy-relevant advocacy materials (briefs, infographics, toolkits, fact sheets). (2/6) • Effectiveness of the approach to organising and managing advocacy events (workshops, conferences, webinars), including coordination with regional partners. (2/6)	6

Strength of the proposed approach to tracking advocacy impact, capturing lessons learned, and adjusting strategies based on feedback and outcomes. (1/6)	
Sub-criterion 7: Team Composition and Ability to Mobilise Experts with ESA Policy Networks - Level of experience (number of years within the relevant field of expertise) of each member within the core team to successfully execute tasks under this contract (10/18) - Evidence of active participation in ESA policy development (e.g., drafting, consultations, technical inputs). (5/18) - Demonstrate the capacity and systems to identify, mobilise and rapidly deploy subsequent experts with the required expertise under each subsequent contract to ensure a timely and effective response to new assignments (3/18)	18
TOTAL	70

Each technical offer, deemed to be technically conforming, will be attributed a **technical score (TS out of a maximum of 70 points)** by adding up the weighted scores obtained for each sub-criterion.

Bids having obtained a technical score of less than 35/70 will be deemed to be inappropriate.

Award process of the Competitive Multiple Framework Contract (CMCF) with subsequent contracts

An **overall score (OS out of a maximum of 100 points)** obtained by adding together the technical and financial scores (**OS=FS+TS**) will be attributed to each bid that has been assessed for its technical and financial content.

The bidder who obtains the highest overall score will be deemed to have made the most beneficial economic offer and will be awarded the contract.

The contracting authority may decide not to pursue the tender for reasons of public interest.

Award process of the subsequent contracts

The Competitive Multiple Framework Contract (CMFC) with subsequent contracts is a framework agreement with a maximum of three service providers. When a specific need arises, a mini-competition will be held among the contracted service providers, and the most economically beneficial bid will be awarded the subsequent contract.

Bids will be assessed separately in accordance with the following Sub-criteria by awarding a score up to the maximum number of points per criterion as set out below:

Criterion 1: Price of the services

The **financial score (FS out of a maximum of 40 points)** will cover the comparison of the financial offers of all candidates having submitted a conforming bid. Please note that the **maximum unit price determined by the service provider in the financial offer under the framework contract** will be the highest price that the service provider may charge for a specific service under the framework contract.

Criterion 2: Technical offer

Sub-criteria for assessing the technical quality	Maximum number of points
Sub-criterion 1: Understanding of the Assignment	10-15
Sub-criterion 2: Technical Approach & Methodology & environmental approach	10-25
Sub-criterion 3: Relevant Experience & Past Performance of the technical team members	10-25

Sub-criterion 4: Relevance of Management, Coordination & Quality Assurance	5-10
TOTAL	60

Note: Individual subsequent contract may apply modified evaluation criteria based on their specific requirements and expected results.

ARTICLE 7: PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA IN THE CONTEXT OF THIS TENDER AND FOR THE PURPOSES OF CONTRACT MONITORING

Under Article 13 or Regulation (EU) no. 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data (GDPR), the applicants/bidders are notified that personal data, notably name, first name and e-mail address collected when using under the French government procurement platform (<https://www.marches-publics.gouv.fr>) in the context of this tender procedure and execution of the associated contract, may be processed.

For processing performed with PLACE services, the *Ministère de l'action et des comptes publics* (Ministry of Public Accounts) – the procurement department of the State and of Expertise France, the contracting authority, are co-controllers of personal data.

For processing performed outside the scope of PLACE services, Expertise France, the contracting authority, is the controller of personal data.

Identity and contact details of the data controller and its representative

For the PLACE platform:

Ministère de l'action et des comptes publics (Ministry of Public Accounts)

59, boulevard Vincent Auriol

75703 Paris Cedex 13

Represented by the Director of Public Procurement

Operational data controller:

The Department of Public Procurement, represented by its director.

Contact details of the Data Protection Officer:

le-delegue-a-la-protection-des-donnees-personnelles@finances.gouv.fr

For the contracting authority:

Expertise France

40, Boulevard de Port Royal

75005 Paris

Represented by the Managing Director,

Operational data controller:

The IT Department, represented by its director

Contact details of the Data Protection Officer:

informatique.libertes@expertisefrance.fr

The legal basis under which such processing is performed are set out in c) and e) of Article 6.1 of the GDPR, namely:

- The processing is necessary in order to comply with a legal obligation by which Expertise France is bound;
- The processing is necessary for performance of a public-interest assignment or which falls within the scope of the public authority entrusted to Expertise France.

The purposes of the processing are as follows:

- The management and monitoring of this tender procedure;
- The management and monitoring of the award of a public procurement contract.

The recipients or category of recipients of the personal data are exclusively authorised personnel of the Contracting Authority, ministries and state operators responsible for awarding and executing this contract, including any service providers assisting them with their activities.

Retention period: the data will be held throughout the award process and execution of the contract, including the DUA (duration of administrative usefulness) applicable to the contract.

Under Articles 15 to 21 of the GDPR, persons whose personal data is collected enjoy a right of access, rectification and deletion with regard to such data. They also enjoy the right to restrict and refuse processing on legitimate grounds. The information and other rights of data subjects may be exercised by contacting the Data Protection Officer of Expertise France.

Persons whose personal data is collected under this procedure may submit a complaint to CNIL.

ARTICLE 8: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any request for additional information about technical or administrative matters must be forwarded via the government procurement platform at least 5 business days prior to the bid submission deadline.

Expertise France undertakes to provide a response 2 business days at most before the bid submission deadline.

If a candidate asks any questions, all candidates will receive an e-mail asking them to consider one or more documents provided in response to the questions concerned.

ARTICLE 9: APPEAL CHANNELS AND DEADLINES

The body responsible for the appeals process is:

Paris Judicial Court,
Parvis du Tribunal de Paris 75 859 PARIS Cedex 17
Email: tj-paris@justice.fr.
Tel: 0144325151.

Information about lodging an appeal may be obtained from: tj-paris@justice.fr.