

Your ref. ARES(2022)4076392 - 01/06/2022

Herebelow are the answers to your questions regarding Frontex/OP/694/2020/JL/MS dated 01 Jun 2022.

Question 1:

Following the call for tenders Frontex/OP/694/2020/JL/MS, why did Frontex not award a contract for 'rotary wing surveillance missions' and how many tenders were submitted?

Answer 1:

Frontex structured the prospective Framework Contract under procurement OP/694/2020/JL/MS to function through the scheme of re-opening of competition. This means that any time the Contracting Authority needs a service it sends a call for competition to all the contractors awarded within a specific Lot. The contractors then submit bids and the best offer is awarded for the respective Specific Contract. Therefore, for the scheme of re-opening of competition to function it requires at least two contractors to compete within each call for competition.

For Lot 4 - Rotary wing surveillance missions category under procurement Frontex/OP/694/2020/JL/MS Frontex received 2 offers. Following the verification of the compliance with Data Protection & Data Security criteria - part 2, the Evaluation Committee rejected one of the two bids under this Lot due to incompliance with the abovementioned Selection Criterion.

Since only one offer remained, the Evaluation Committee discontinued further assessment of the offers for Lot 4 of procurement Frontex/OP/694/2020/JL/MS, because procedurally a single offer could not enable the scheme of re-opening of competition to function.

Based on the abovementioned developments the Evaluation Committee proposed the Authorising Officer to sign a Non-Award Decision within Lot 4 from procurement Frontex/OP/694/2020/JL/MS.

Question 2:

To what extent does Frontex plan to issue a new call for tenders for such services and what is the estimated value of the framework contract?

Answer 2:

Frontex plans to re-launch the procurement for Rotary wing surveillance missions category in Q3-Q4 2022. Following the timeline of the procurement procedure Frontex expects that the Framework Contract could be signed in Q2 2023.

As regards the budget for this new Framework Contract Frontex intends to stick to the same or slightly increased amount as initially planned for Lot 4 under Frontex/OP/694/2020/JL/MS i.e. 3,000,000 EUR.

Question 3:

For which types of operations does Frontex need helicopters, and for what reasons can these requirements not be met by manned or unmanned fixed-wing aircraft?

Answer 3:

Frontex needs helicopters for land and maritime operations, even if they are more oriented on the land domain. Frontex aims to provide aerial surveillance by means of rotary wing in scenarios which are conditioned by:

- a) Orographic nature;
- b) Need of having hovering capabilities;
- c) Lack of proper airports in the vicinity (just helipads or heliports are available).

For this reason, some operations cannot be conducted by a fixed wing aircraft, neither manned nor remotely piloted.