Process Description

Public invitation with a call to tender in accordance with UVgO[1]

for the FACIS project

Advancing Federated Cloud-Edge Ecosystems

Procurement of SLA Demonstrator

Lot: Multi-Party Service Level Agreement Demonstrator

25.11.2026

[1] Regulation on sub-threshold procurement

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I. General information on the award process

The contract will be awarded in accordance with the requirements of the funding legislation by means of a public invitation to tender pursuant to Article 8 (2) and Article 9 of the regulation on sub-threshold procurement - UVgO.

1. Project data

The FACIS (Federated Architecture for Composed Infrastructure Services) project is funded under the IPCEI-CIS/8ra initiative. It aims to develop a sovereign, interoperable and secure digital infrastructure that will support the seamless collaboration of cloud and edge services across Europe. To achieve this, FACIS is focusing on enabling trust-based federations by providing modular, standards-compliant components to facilitate service provision, management and governance in a decentralised ecosystem.

Aligned with the 8ra initiative's objectives of fostering a resilient, interoperable, and trusted European digital infrastructure, the FACIS project contributes foundational technologies that support cross-border and cross-domain collaboration. A fundamental prerequisite for such cooperation is the establishment of binding commitments regarding service quality and responsibilities through Service Level Agreements (SLAs). In federated and decentralised ecosystems, the service commitments of several independent providers must be aligned and clearly assigned to the responsible parties. For this purpose, FACIS is developing a Multi-Party Service Level Agreement Demonstrator that illustrates the digital preparation, negotiation and conclusion of such agreements.

The demonstrator implements a model in which a lead provider coordinates the collaboration of several cloud and edge providers, acting as the primary point of coordination for the costumer. To this end, the lead provider concludes an overarching Service Level Agreement with both the customer and the other participating providers. The process covers the publication and discovery of service offerings and SLA templates, the assembly and simplified negotiation of the contract package, and its approval, electronic signing and archiving. Digital identity, entitlement and power of attorney credentials ensure that participants can access, edit or sign the respective contracts in accordance with their roles.

The services to be procured comprise the implementation and testing of this demonstrator based on existing Eclipse XFSC components. This includes their integration and configuration, as well as the required SLA templates, workflows and a unified web-based user interface.

The purpose of this award is to commission software development services for Lot Multi-Party Service Level Agreement Demonstrator by using the Eclipse Project XFSC (Cross Federation Services Components) as the foundation (https://projects.eclipse.org/projects/technology.xfsc).

For further participation and the processing of the documents, it should be noted that the development team must be complete as soon as the order is placed so as to be able to provide the development services on time and with the required quality.

Further details can be found in the service description.

2. Client

eco - Association of the Internet Industry

3. Awarding body and contact person

Contact: eco – Association of the Internet Industry

Tel: +49 (0) 221 - 70 00 48 - 142

Mail: info@facis.eu

4. Communication via the award portal

The body named under I.3 is the sole contact for all questions relating to the award procedure. Information from other offices or other persons is not binding. Communication shall take place exclusively via the bidder communication feature of the German contracting portal DTVP, unless it is not possible due to technical problems.

Information given by telephone is not binding. Only written communication is valid.

Communication is in English.

Instructions on how to use the German Tender Portal DTVP can be found in the annex "Instructions for the German Tender Portal ".

5. Process of the public invitation to tender

The process is carried out in one stage.

The Client publicly invites an unrestricted number of undertakings to submit tenders. Any interested undertaking can submit a tender. The procedure is carried out in one stage.

One bid per company is permitted. If a company submits more main offers than permitted, this will lead to all its main offers being disqualified. Secondary bids are inadmissible.

The evaluation process and respective awarding decision will be conducted within 2 weeks after the application phase is closed.

Please note that the bid amount shall not exceed 205.000 Euro net. This upper limit for the bid amount refers to "Total sum (net)" in the Tender form 11, which includes the All-inclusive price (net) as well as the Daily rate (net) * 50.

II. Tender documents

1. Provision of the tender documents

The tender documents are available free of charge, without restriction and in full at the following internet address:

https://www.dtvp.de/Satellite/notice/CXP4YME4DMM/documents

Registration for access to the documents is not required. It is explicitly pointed out that registration is recommended because only registered companies can automatically participate in bidder communication, i.e. are automatically informed about communications sent to the companies. This is not possible when accessing the tender documents anonymously. The companies are responsible for ensuring that they actually receive all information sent to them (cf. II. No. 3).

2. Examination of the tender documents and deadline for submission of questions

The companies must check the tender documents for completeness, any ambiguities or errors immediately upon receipt. If the company believes that the tender documents contain incomplete, unclear or incorrect provisions or if they raise questions that may influence the tender, the company must notify the client via the German Tender Portal DTVP immediately, but **no later than 7 calendar days before the deadline for tenders expires,** or request information accordingly.

The client may refrain from answering questions asked after the deadline for tenders. They will provide the required information at the latest 4 days before the bid deadline expires.

3. Notices from the awarding body concerning the process and the tender documents

Responses, additions or corrections from the client regarding the process and the process documents shall be provided exclusively via the German Tender Portal DTVP.

The companies interested in the award can register voluntarily on the award portal and submit their tenders for this process. If the client makes responses, additions or corrections, the companies that have registered will receive an automatically generated e-mail that there is a message from the client on the award portal.

The companies are responsible for regularly checking their inboxes and retrieving updates/messages from the awarding body on the award portal.

Companies that have not registered are encouraged to assume the responsibility for checking for updates themselves.

Up **to 4 calendar days before the deadline for tenders,** the companies are responsible for finding out via the above-mentioned website whether there have been any clarifications, ascertainments or changes to the tender documents. We expressly point out that it may be necessary to postpone the submission deadlines even within these 4 calendar days. In this case, we will also inform you immediately via the German Tender Portal.

All published explanations, specifications and amendments are part of the tender documents.

4. Form and deadline for the submission of tenders

Tenders must be submitted by

16.12.2026, 12:00 p.m.

via the German Tender Portal DTVP in text form pursuant to Section 126b German Civil Code - BGB:

https://www.dtvp.de/Satellite/notice/CXP4YME4DMM

Only the area provided for this purpose on the German Tender Portal DTVP is to be used for the transmission of electronic tenders. Sending these documents by e-mail, post or via the bidder communication feature on the German Tender Portal DTVP is not permitted and will lead to the company being excluded from the rest of the process.

You must use the collection of forms posted on the DTVP to submit a bid.

Signing the documents, either by hand or electronically, is not necessary. **However, the name of the authorised person must be indicated in the signature field.** The signee of the tender must be legible.

Each bidder should name a contact person and contact details for this process in the tender.

The tender, including all attachments, must be submitted in accordance with the specified designations in these application conditions.

All parts of the tender must be written in English. This does not apply to confirmations by third parties (e.g. authorities) which are written in German. Confirmations from third parties (e.g. authorities) submitted in a language other than German or English must be accompanied by a certified translation or a translation prepared by a publicly appointed or sworn interpreter/translator (copy is sufficient).

Tenders received after the above deadline will not be considered.

5. Examination of content

The tender documents, including all annexes, must be submitted in full. The tender must be binding.

When submitting their tender, the bidder must prove their suitability and eligibility in accordance with the requirements set out in Chapter III.

III. Eligibility requirements and grounds for exclusion

1. Grounds for exclusion

The client hereby advises that companies will be excluded if they:

- fails to submit the tender in due form or time, unless they were not responsible for it,
- make changes to the tender documents or add to them outside the areas provided for this purpose,
- fail to submit missing, incomplete or incorrect company-related documents, in particular self-declarations, information, certificates or other evidence, or fail to submit them in full, or refuse to provide additional information, in response to a corresponding subsequent request by the client,
- have participated in a restrictive agreement in connection with the award procedure.

Furthermore, the grounds for exclusion set out in Section 42 (1) in conjunction with (3) regulation on sub-threshold procurement - UVgO shall apply.

2. Self-declarations on grounds for exclusion and minimum wage law

The bidders must also complete the eligibility self-declarations pursuant to Sections 123 and 124 of Act against Restraints of Competition - GWB (cf. Section 31 (1) regulation on sub-threshold procurement - UVgO). The bidders must submit these with the tender.

3. Proof of qualification and permission to practise the profession

3.1 Entry in the commercial register or professional register

Extract from the relevant register not older than 6 months (since publication of the notice) for the company and – if envisaged – members of the bidding consortium as well as subcontractors to be used by way of suitability lending, in each case insofar as corresponding statutory register obligations exist.

3.2 Self-declarations

The bidder must submit the following self-declarations according to the collection of forms:

- Self-declaration that the company is not in liquidation.
- Self-declaration that the company fulfils its obligations to pay taxes and duties.

4. Economic and financial performance

4.1 Self-declaration of the company's total turnover in relation to the last three completed financial years.

Self-declaration of the company's total turnover in relation to the last three completed financial years in accordance with the collection of forms.

4.2 Minimum turnover

Average annual minimum turnover in each of the last three calendar years (2023-2025) EUR 100,000 net.

4.3 Liability insurance

Proof of existing business liability insurance/professional liability insurance (copy) with a minimum amount of:

- EUR 1,000,000 for personal injury and property damage
- EUR 500,000 for financial losses

The above-mentioned amounts of cover must be available at least twice per insurance year.

In the case of bidding consortia, proof of insurance must be provided for each member.

In case of lower coverage

In case of lower coverage, the bidder can make a self-declaration to increase the insurance accordingly the above-mentioned amounts in the event of acceptance of bid.

The self-declaration is included in the collection of forms.

Upon request, the bidder will submit a corresponding confirmation from the insurance company.

5. Proof of the bidder's technical and professional capability

The client sets the following requirements for technical/professional performance:

5.1 References

Self-declaration of **one or more references** of essentially comparable services performed in the years 2023 – 2026 (by end of September) in accordance with the service description (the service must have been accepted in the essential parts within this period, or approx. 90% of the remuneration must have been paid). A reference service is deemed comparable with the services being awarded here if it is similar to them in terms of content, type of service, degree of difficulty, technically and organisationally to such an extent that it allows a valid conclusion to be drawn about the bidder's capability to perform the tendered service.

To demonstrate technical and professional capability, the bidder must collectively demonstrate the following four mandatory requirements:

1. Implementation within a public OSS environment

2. Design, implementation, or integration of workflow for template-based document management as JSON-LD representation
3. Use of Decentralized Identifiers (DIDs), Verifiable Credentials (VCs), and federated trust frameworks (OpenID4VC, OAuth2.0, W3C VC-Standards)
4. Development, integration, or operation of verifiable credential services, schema mapping for JSON-LD and HTML rendering
5. Usage of Node-Red based Workflows for building automations, integrations, and event-driven applications

The aforementioned five (5) mandatory requirements may be demonstrated by one or more reference project(s). Overall, however, the submitted references must demonstrate all mandatory suitability requirements. If bidders submit more than one reference, they do not have to come from different contracting authorities in order to be assessed.

Alternative proof for Mandatory Requirement 5

As an alternative to a project reference, the fifth mandatory suitability requirement ("Usage of Node-RED-based workflows") may be demonstrated by successfully completing the practical work sample provided by the contracting authority (see Annex Work Sample Node Red).

The practical work sample may only be used as an alternative means of demonstrating Mandatory Requirement 5 ("Usage of Node-RED-based workflows"). Mandatory Requirements 1 to 4 must be demonstrated exclusively by means of one or more reference projects. The work sample will be assessed on a pass/fail basis against predefined assessment criteria, that are listed in Annex Work Sample Node Red.

The work sample consists of a manageable implementation task intended to demonstrate practical experience with Node-RED related technologies without requiring an existing project reference. Based on our professional assessment, it can be completed within approximately four (4) hours and focuses on the use of the ORCE UI Builder and basic API integration.

Accordingly, bidders may demonstrate suitability either by:

- submitting one or more references that collectively cover all five mandatory suitability requirements; or
- submitting one or more references that collectively cover Mandatory Requirements 1–4 and successfully completing the work sample for Mandatory Requirement 5.

In the case of a bidding consortium, the required reference(s) must have been performed by at least one member of the consortium.

The client reserves the right to check the accuracy of the information provided and to demand suitable proof of this at short notice.

Bidders who do not meet the minimum requirements listed above will be excluded from the award process.

5.2 Personnel and technical equipment

A self-declaration is required to demonstrate that the company has the necessary personnel and technical resources to execute the contract properly.

The client reserves the right to check the accuracy of the information provided and to demand suitable proof of this at short notice.

5.3 Use of subcontractors

Use of a subcontractor without conferring suitability

If the company intends to use subcontractors to fulfil the contract (in the case of bidding consortia, also from individual members), the type and scope of the services to be provided by third parties must be stated with the tender (§ 26 (1) regulation on sub-threshold procurement - UVgO).

Evidence that the required means are available to the bidders (e.g. declaration of commitment) has to be submitted with the tender.

Use of a subcontractor with conferred suitability (§ 34 regulation on sub-threshold procurement - UVgO)

If, however, the bidders (or individual members in the case of bidding consortia) rely on the capacities of subcontractors with regard to its performance (conferred suitability), the tender must state to what extent the bidders or the members of a bidding consortium wish to rely on which capacities of which subcontractor(s). For this purpose, the **"Conferring Suitability" form** in the collection of forms must be used.

In this case, the bidder must prove that the capacities of the subcontractor are available to them when submitting the tender by also providing the signed declaration of commitment according to the form in the collection of forms.

Furthermore, the bidders must submit declarations with the tender, which prove that the subcontractor actually possesses the qualification on which the bidder relies.

5.4 Duties during contract performance pursuant to Section 128 (1) Act against Restraints of Competition - GWB

With the submitting tender, the bidder must confirm that he will comply with the requirements of Section 128 (1) Act against Restraints of Competition - GWB. It is pointed out that for subcontractors of all levels the requirements in Section 128 (1) Act against Restraints of Competition - GWB must be complied with (Section 26 (3) regulation on sub-threshold procurement - UVgO). The obligations apply accordingly to companies based abroad or with workers who work for the project abroad in accordance with the standards applicable there.

6. Bidding consortia

Bidding consortia are permitted. If the tender is submitted by a group of bidders, joint and several liability declarations must be stated. Furthermore, it must be stated which member of the consortium will perform which services in the event of a contract.

A bidding consortium must name all its members in its tender and designate one of its members as the authorised representative for the award process and for the conclusion and execution of the contract. The "Bidding Consortium Declaration" form must be used for this purpose.

Changes to the makeup of consortia after the deadline for tender are not permitted.

Eligibility must be proven by each member of the consortium. The ability of each member of the consortium to perform must also be proven in accordance with the requirements of this process description. In doing so, the bidding consortium must ensure that it provides full proof of its ability to perform the required service.

IV. Award criteria

The contract shall be awarded to the most economical tender in accordance with the appendix "Award Criteria" (Section 43 regulation on sub-threshold procurement - UVgO).

V. Sample contract

The contract templates provided contain the details of the performance obligations and the terms of payment. The provisions on granting usage rights in the EVB-IT contract

are non-negotiable. Bidders must confirm their acceptance of these provisions with their tender.

The German version is decisive for the interpretation of the EVB-IT contract and the EVB-IT-AGB. The translation into English is only provided for information purposes and to simplify the process flow.

VI. Documents and data protection

The tender documents may only be used by the companies for preparing their tenders.

The companies agree that the personal data they have provided may be processed and stored for the award process.

VII. Reservation

The client reserves the right to discontinue/cancel the award process if justified by objective reasons. An objective reason exists in particular if:

- no offers that complies with the tender documents have been received

- the basis for awarding the contract has changed (cf. also the introductory notes in Chapter II of the Tender Specification)

- the outcome of the award process is not or is not expected to be economical.

The contracts to be concluded shall be governed by German law to the exclusion of the UN Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods.

VIII. Preserving the secrecy of competition

Every company involved in this award is obliged to preserve the secrecy of competition. Every company may only know of its own bid.

IX. Documents to be submitted with the tender

Together with the tender, bidders must submit the documents specified in the collection of forms.

X. Business and trade secrets

The companies must clearly mark all information that is subject to the protection of product, trade or business secrets in the offer documents. If this is not marked, the client assumes that there are no restrictions on disclosure in this respect and that the information can be released to third parties for a review procedure.