



Pre-Qualification Document

PQ Ref. No.: CE/17/DRS/LC/21

The Provision of Data Relay Services

02/12/2021

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Bookmark not defined.

Introduction

The European Stability Mechanism (the “ESM”) is a permanent crisis resolution mechanism established by the euro area Member States as an intergovernmental organisation under public international law. Its purpose is to ensure the financial stability of the euro area as a whole, and of its Member States experiencing severe financing problems, by providing financial assistance through a number of instruments.

More background information about the ESM may be found on the website: <https://www.esm.europa.eu/>

Neither Directive 2014/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 nor Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 (as amended) apply to the ESM. The ESM procures supplies, services and works on its own behalf and for its own account pursuant to the ESM Procurement Policy as published on the ESM website. Please refer to the ESM website for more information.

This Pre-Qualification Document (the “PQD”) sets out the eligibility, exclusion and selection criteria, as part of a pre-qualification stage (“Stage 1”) of the two-stage procurement procedures of the ESM (i.e. Restricted Procedures and Negotiated Procedures), in order to assess the suitability of a Candidate to participate further in this procurement procedure. Candidates, which are successful at Stage 1 (pre-qualified Candidates) and, if applicable, chosen by the ESM among the eligible and suitable Candidates, will be invited to participate in the subsequent Request for Proposal stage of the procurement procedure (“Stage 2”).

For the purposes of this PQD, economic operators who wish to apply to this procurement procedure are referred to as “Candidate” or “Candidates” and their response is referred to as an “Application” or “Applications”.

Unless otherwise defined in this PQD, all capitalised terms used in this PQD have the meanings ascribed to them in the ESM Procurement Policy.

1. Contents of this PQD

The PQD consists of the following documents:

No.	Document Title	Comment
1.	Prequalification Document – Core Document	This document
2.	Annex 1 – Terms of Reference	Included as Annex 1 to this PQD
3.	Annex 2 – Eligibility, Exclusion & Selection Criteria including declarations, forms, questions and other response elements to be addressed	Separate documents provided in Annexes 2 & 3 to this PQD document

2. Overview of the Procurement Requirement

The ESM intends to establish a framework agreement (the “**Framework Agreement**” or “**Contract**”) for the provision of Data Relay Services. The ESM intends to conclude a contract with a single Service Provider to support the ESM on accessing a broad set of macroeconomic, financial and other data. The anticipated contract start date is on 2 January 2023.

The Framework Agreement to be awarded as a result of this procurement procedure will have a four (4) year term.

Further information can be found in Annex 1 to this PQD.

2.1. *Type of Procurement Procedure*

This procurement procedure is carried out by the ESM under a Negotiated Procedure in accordance with Article 9.1 (1) and (2) of the ESM Procurement Policy and is referred to in this PQD as a procurement procedure or a procurement process.

2.2. *Procurement Process Steps and Timelines*

The ESM plans to carry out the procurement process in accordance with the steps defined in the table below. The ESM reserves, at its sole discretion, the right to vary the steps and timelines.

No.	Procurement Process Steps	Timeline
1.	PQD publication date	02/12/2021
2.	Deadline for submission of clarifications/questions on the contract notice and the PQD	07/01/2022 11:00 hrs (local Luxembourg time)
3.	Response to the clarifications/questions on the contract notice and the PQD	Regularly
4.	Deadline for submission of Applications (the “Applications Deadline”)	17/01/2022 11:00 hrs (local Luxembourg time)
5.	Target date of notification of the ESM’s decision on pre-qualification to unsuccessful Candidates and dispatch of the RFP to the pre-qualified Candidates	07/02/2022

2.3. *The ESM “Sole Contact” Details*

Commercial Legal and Procurement
 European Stability Mechanism
 6a, Circuit de la Foire Internationale
 L-1347 Luxembourg
 Email: procurement@esm.europa.eu
 Attention: **Liz Cockburn**

Unless notified otherwise, the person indicated above shall be the Candidates’ single point of communication with the ESM for the duration of this procurement process.

The ESM shall not be bound by and the Candidates agree not to rely upon any written or verbal statements or representations of any other persons, whether employed by the ESM or not.

2.4. *Clarification Matters*

During the procurement procedure, Candidates are entitled to submit in writing questions to the ESM within the deadline above indicated. The ESM may provide additional information solely for the purpose of clarifying the procurement documents and taking into account the following aspects:

- a) Queries can be raised to the Sole Contact as identified in this PQD.
- b) Queries can be raised on any matter in the contract notice or this PQD, including the Annexes. However, the ESM reserves the right not to answer any particular query.
- c) The ESM will endeavour to respond to all queries and issue responses in a timely and professional manner. The ESM reserves the right not to answer any queries received after the deadline for submission of the queries.
- d) Subject to point e) below, responses to the queries will be uploaded on the ESM website if they are of relevance to all of Candidates.
- e) If the ESM receives a query from a Candidate which, in the sole discretion of the ESM, constitutes a query relevant to that Candidate only, the ESM will provide response to that Candidate only.
- f) Clarifications are to clarify the procurement documents. The ESM will not provide a qualitative judgment during the clarification period.

2.5. *Application Structure and Response Instructions*

When preparing Applications, Candidates should observe the following:

- All documents must be submitted in English.
- Note limitations on any page/word limits specified. Any response exceeding the specified limits may be disregarded beyond that limit.
- Answers should be as concise as possible, complete and comprehensive.
- The ESM does not wish to receive any marketing or other promotional materials.
- Responses to the eligibility, exclusion and/or selection criteria will be evaluated independently and cross-references between response elements are not permitted.
- The Candidate should clearly identify in the Application any requirements specified in this PQD that the Candidate cannot satisfy.

Application Structure			
#	Section	Template and instructions	Document format
1.	Cover Certification Form	Candidates are requested to provide a cover certification form dated and duly signed by an authorised representative on the Candidate' s company letterhead (no. 3.1 of Annex 3)	Fully scanned copy with signature in PDF
2.	Declarations	Candidates are requested to submit completed, dated and duly signed declarations (nos. 1.1 and 1.2 of Annex 2)	Fully scanned copy with signature in PDF
3.	General Response	Candidates are requested to respond to the questions posed in this PQD as instructed (see Annex 2 Section 2. Selection Criteria)	PDF
4.	Attachments	Candidates are requested to include any attachments, as requested in Annex 3	PDF

Forms to fill in	Candidate (including Consortium Lead)	Consortium members	Key Subcontractors
Declaration on Eligibility Annex 2 1.1	To be completed	To be completed	N/A
Declaration of Non-Collusion Annex 2 1.2	To be completed	To be completed	N/A
Cover Certification form Annex 3 3.1	To be completed	N/A	N/A
Consortium declaration Annex 3 3.2	To be completed	To be completed	N/A
Subcontractor commitment letter Annex 3 3.3	N/A	N/A	To be completed

2.6. *Coordinates and Guidelines for Submission of Applications*

Applications shall be submitted no later than the Applications Deadline specified at point #4 of the Procurement Process Steps and Timeline table and must be submitted only **via e- mail** to the Sole Contact listed in section 3.3:

Only Applications received through these means will be accepted.

All digital copies of Applications shall be submitted in compliance with the following guidelines:

- a) One file per section as described above in the "Application Structure" table.
- b) Any supporting or additional files must be clearly named.
- c) All files should be named clearly with a sequential number and a relevant file name, e.g.
 - o "Annex 2: 1.1 – Declaration on the eligibility, exclusion criteria, economic, financial and operational capacity and the absence of conflict of interest"
 - o "Annex 2: 1.2 – Non-Collusion Declaration"
 - o "Annex 3: 3.1 – Cover Certification Form"
- d) All files must be provided in a standard non-editable format, such as PDF.

2.7. Eligibility, Exclusion and Selection Criteria

In order to be eligible to participate in this procurement process, Candidates must be either natural persons or legal persons and state that they are not in one of the exclusion situations listed in the declarations nos. 1.1 and 1.2 included in Annex 2.

If such circumstances arise in the course of the procurement process, the Candidate concerned must inform the ESM thereof without undue delay. Candidates may submit evidence to demonstrate their eligibility despite the existence of grounds for exclusion. The ESM may, in its sole discretion, decide whether such evidence is satisfactory.

Candidates must comply with all eligibility and exclusion criteria to be assessed further.

ELIGIBILITY AND EXCLUSION CRITERIA – elements of the evaluation	
Duly executed declarations as requested in Annex 2 nos. 1.1 and 1.2. * If responding as part of a Consortium, each member of the Consortium must sign these Annexes.	Pass / Fail

In order to assess a Candidate’s capacity to perform the FA the ESM will apply the following selection criteria (full information can be found in **Annex 2 Section 2. Selection Criteria**).

In the event that the Candidate submits an Application together with a third party/-ies and/or with sub-contractor(s), the combined capacities of the Candidate and all such third party/-ies and/or subcontractor(s) will be assessed for the purpose of meeting the selection criteria.

SELECTION CRITERIA – elements of the evaluation	
Economic and financial standing	Pass / Fail
Technical or professional ability	Pass / Fail

Candidates must achieve a rating of “Pass” for all the “Pass / Fail” criteria to be considered successful at Stage 1 (pre-qualified Candidates).

3. Terms and Conditions of this PQD

3.1. *Rights of the ESM*

By submitting an Application, the Candidates confirm that they have taken note and accepted all terms and conditions of this PQD.

The ESM reserves the right, at its sole discretion and in exceptional circumstances, to accept the Applications received after the closing deadline.

After the ESM opens the Applications, it may request Candidates to submit, supplement, clarify or complete information or documentation which is or appears missing, incomplete, inconsistent or erroneous within an appropriate time limit. The ESM reserves the right to reject from further consideration any such Applications.

The ESM reserves the right to request that Candidates provide documentary evidence in support of the statements made in their Applications.

Any effort by the Candidate to influence the ESM in the process of examination, evaluation and comparison of Applications, or in the decision regarding the pre-qualification process may result in the rejection of the Application.

The ESM may decide, at its sole discretion while complying with the general principles set forth in the ESM Procurement Policy, to cancel this procurement process in whole or in part at any time before the Framework Agreement is awarded as a result of this procurement process. The cancellation does not give rise to any form of compensation for Candidates.

The ESM will ensure that the information provided by Candidates is treated and stored in accordance with the principles of confidentiality and integrity.

The ESM reserves the right to disclose the contents of Applications to its third party advisors (if applicable) who are bound by the same confidentiality and integrity obligations as the ESM.

If the ESM discovers, before the expiry of the deadline for submissions of Applications, a lack of precision, an omission or any other type of error in this PQD, it will rectify the error and inform all Candidates in writing.

3.2. *Cost of Participating in the Procurement Process*

All costs relating to the participation in this procurement process, including in particular any costs in relation to the preparation of Applications and of any other documents requested by the ESM and any subsequent follow-up shall be borne exclusively by the Candidate.

3.3. *Trade Name, Logo and Marks*

The ESM logo, covers, page headers, custom graphics, icons, and other design elements and words or symbols used to identify the description of the procurement requirement are either trademarks, trade names or service marks of the ESM and its licensors, or are the property of their respective owners. These marks may not be copied, imitated or used, in whole or in part, without the explicit prior written consent of the ESM.

3.4. Confidentiality

If the Candidate considers that any part of its Application or other documents/information submitted to the ESM include Confidential Information within the meaning of this section the Candidate must clearly mark such parts of the Application or other documents/information as 'confidential'.

Candidates are advised that their participation in this procurement process constitutes Confidential Information except for the announcement by the ESM of the successful Candidate on the ESM website in accordance with Article 9.17 (3) of the Procurement Policy.

Except if required in a judicial or administrative proceeding, or if it is otherwise required to be disclosed by any law or regulation, or where information is already in the public domain, the ESM will: (a) not disclose the Confidential Information; (b) take all reasonable measures to preserve the confidentiality and avoid disclosure, dissemination or unauthorised use of Confidential Information; and (c) not use such Confidential Information for any purpose other than as is necessary in connection with this procurement process. Confidential Information does not include information which (a) was known to the ESM prior to receiving the information from the Candidate; (b) becomes rightfully known to the ESM from a third-party source not known to the ESM (after diligent inquiry) to be under an obligation to the Candidate to maintain confidentiality; (c) is or becomes publicly available through no fault of or failure to act by ESM; or (d) has been developed independently by the ESM or authorised to be disclosed by the Candidate. Confidential Information may only be shared with third parties (e.g. contractors) that have a need to know the Confidential Information in relation to this procurement process and provided that such third parties comply with the confidentiality obligations provided in this section.

In addition, if the Candidate has signed an ESM confidentiality undertaking the Candidate agrees to comply with all obligations set forth in such confidentiality undertaking. If there is a conflict between such confidentiality undertaking and this procurement procedure, the confidentiality undertaking will prevail.

3.5. Involvement of/Reliance on Third Parties

If the Candidate intends to involve a third party in the supply of the services offered to the ESM the Candidate has to ensure that any such third party is bound by the requirements set forth in this PQD.

Consortia

In case of a group of economic operators responding together to this procurement procedure ("**Consortium**"), Candidate means the Consortium and the Application must provide the following:

- a. a clear description of the proposed Consortium, its organisational hierarchy and structure, the names of all Consortium members and the roles, activities and responsibilities of the Consortium leader and each Consortium member;
- b. information on whether the Consortium will form a legal entity and if yes, details of the actual or proposed percentage shareholding within such legal entity and other official documents confirming existence of such legal entity. If not, full details of the proposed Consortium arrangement including submission of an executed Consortium agreement.
- c. Signed declarations available in Annex 2 1.1 (Declaration on eligibility) and 1.2 (Non-collusion declaration) and Annex 3 3.2 (Consortium declaration) from all Consortium members.

If the Contract is awarded to a Consortium, all Consortium members will be jointly and severally liable towards the ESM for all obligations arising of or resulting from the Contract.

If a Candidate considers any changes in the Consortium structure it must immediately notify the ESM in writing. The composition of a Consortium (including the roles, activities and responsibilities of the Consortium leader and each Consortium member) cannot be modified or members of the Consortium cannot be exchanged, whether during the course of this procurement process or during the term of the Contract, without the prior written consent of the ESM.

Subcontractors

If subcontractors will play a significant role in delivering the services offered to the ESM (“**Key Subcontractor**”), the Candidate must provide as part of its Application:

- a. a clear description of the proposed subcontracting arrangement, in particular which tasks the Candidate intends to subcontract and their volume or proportion, the name(s) of the proposed Key Subcontractor(s) and its/their roles, activities and responsibilities; and
- b. a document signed by any Key Subcontractor stating its intention to collaborate with the Candidate should the Candidate be awarded a Contract. The template available in Annex 3 3.3 (Subcontractor Commitment Letter) shall be used for this purpose.

If a Candidate subcontracts some of the services under the Contract to subcontractors, it will nevertheless remain fully liable towards the ESM for the performance of such services and responsible for the Contract as a whole. The ESM will have no direct legal commitments with the subcontractor(s).

Any changes to the proposed Key Subcontractors must be notified immediately to the ESM. Candidates cannot exchange or replace the Key Subcontractors or modify the nature of the subcontracting arrangement (including the subcontracted tasks, their volume or proportion), whether during the course of this procurement procedure or during the term of the Contract, without the prior written consent of the ESM.

Moreover, any additional Key Subcontractor(s), which was/were not assessed by the ESM during this procurement procedure, may only be appointed if the ESM’s has given its prior written consent.

3.6. *Transfer of Undertakings*

The Candidates acknowledge and accept the possibility that if they are awarded the Contract, the Contract may in some cases trigger the application of the relevant provisions of Luxembourg law or of a collective labour agreement regarding transfers of undertakings, in particular, but not limited to, Articles L.127- 1 to L.127-6 of the Luxembourg Labour Code as amended from time to time (collectively the “**Regulations**”). Consequently, the Candidates acknowledge and accept the possibility that if they are awarded a Contract the staff employed by the existing service provider performing the services to the ESM (the “**Employees**”) may, if necessary, be taken over and/or transferred automatically, by the virtue of the Regulations.

The Candidates are therefore invited, if deemed appropriate and if not already included in the procurement documents, to request the ESM to provide any necessary information regarding the Employees. The ESM reserves the right to answer questions at a later stage of the procurement procedure if deemed appropriate in the ESM’s sole discretion.

Should the Regulations be applicable, the existing service provider and the successful Candidate will fully comply with all of their obligations under the Regulations and will take all necessary steps to facilitate the takeover and/or transfer of the Employees. Any discussions regarding potential takeover and/or transfer of the Employees will be directly between the existing service provider and the successful Candidate. All the costs incurred by the successful Candidate in relation to the application of the Regulations will be borne solely by such Candidate and will not give rise to any financial

compensation from the ESM and will not affect in any way the financial proposal submitted by the successful Candidate.

3.7. Notification of the ESM's decision

The ESM will notify in writing its decision to advance or not advance the Candidate's Applications. The Candidates whose Applications did not advance can request, in accordance with the ESM Procurement Policy and timelines set within and in the ESM notification, a de-brief addressing the reasons for not advancing their Application. The de-brief will be limited to the reasons related to the unsuccessful Candidate's Application and will not cover any information about other Candidates' Applications.

Annex 1: Terms of Reference

The Provision of Data Relay Services

1. Background and Overview of Requirements

The European Stability Mechanism (the “**ESM**”) is a permanent crisis resolution mechanism established by the euro area Member States as an intergovernmental organisation under public international law, with its seat and principal office at 6a, Circuit de la Foire Internationale, L-1347 Luxembourg (the “**ESM Building**”). Its purpose is to ensure the financial stability of the euro area as a whole and of its Member States experiencing severe financing problems by providing financial assistance through a number of instruments.

In this context, the ESM has setup an extensive toolkit of analysis, monitoring and risk assessment capabilities. For their regular operations, the ESM needs a constant feed of up-to-date macroeconomic financial and other numerical data. The ESM already maintains a set of contracts with the specialized data providers for niche areas; however, in addition to above, the ESM is looking to procure the services (“**Services**”) of a data provider to cover a broad set of macroeconomic, financial and other data needs. These data sources will include the relaying of diverse publicly available sources as well as selected commercial sources in a structured and homogenous form.

The ESM intends to conclude a contract (also called “**contract**”) with a single provider (“**Service Provider**”) to support the ESM on various areas for data access in a timely manner.

The ESM is relying on an in-house developed technical data-warehousing infrastructure which allows ESM users to interact with numeric data sourced across different providers through homogenous interfaces. The data relay service will integrate seamlessly with this data-warehousing infrastructure.

Given the broad scope of data sources and types covered, the service provider will support the ESM users in the data exploration, through a user-friendly query interface, readily available support function and the provision of training. The service provider will have a technical capability to accommodate ESM requests to develop connections to new data sources, where reasonable.

To date the ESM has built an extensive set of tools and processes that depend on the data relaying capabilities of incumbent Service Provider. If required, the Service Provider is expected to support the transition at the beginning of the Contract to ensure the continuity of the services.

2. Use of the Services and Deliverables

Approximately 40 users, 20 of which are regular users, will be working with the Service Provider’s relayed data. The user base will include both, the ESM staff, and subcontractors. However, the user base may be flexibly changing due to regular staff turnover. The data relay services will be used onsite, i.e. at the ESM office, and off-site, i.e. for remote work. Relayed data will be accessed directly by the users, or through server processes for use in automatic models and reports. The derived work will be shared regularly ESM-wide in presentations and notes and irregularly beyond the ESM (for instance, in the presentations for investors, research publications, etc.).

3. Description of the Services and Deliverables

- Data exploration: the user should be able to quickly find the data they are looking for and perform some ad-hoc transformations
 - Search
 - [Mandatory] Fast and intelligent search, for example, the search for „Portugal Investment“ should deliver among the top results, national sources or Eurostat source time series of Portugal Gross Fixed Capital Formation
 - [Mandatory] Search by filter. It should be possible to perform a search filtering by Frequency, Geography, Source, Data Type
 - [Desirable] Traverse menu structure by either Source, Concept, or Country.
 - [Desirable] Given a certain indicator from a homogeneous source (e.g. Eurostat), it should be quick to retrieve the same indicator for a different country.
 - [Desirable] Given a certain key indicator (such as GDP) from a national source, it should be quick to retrieve the same indicator for a different country from that respective national source.
 - [Desirable] Given a certain indicator for a specific country, it should be quick to retrieve an indicator for the same country from the same concept (e.g. Total HICP, Core CPI).
 - [Desirable] Given a certain forecast for an indicator of a country, it should be quick to retrieve this forecast from a preceding publication by the same source.
 - [Desirable] Bookmark. It should be possible to bookmark series.
 - [Desirable] Publication calendar. It should be possible to view recently modified series or view soon to be released publications.
 - Transformations
 - [Mandatory] A graphing interface should allow to plot indicators.
 - [Desirable] A graphing interface should allow to plot multiple indicators on a line chart with up to two vertical axis.
 - [Desirable] This graphing interface should allow series transformations (Moving sum moving average, growth rates, first differences, inverse year to date, indexing, z-score, log, seasonal adjustment, exchange rate conversion, magnitude changes, frequency conversion).
 - [Desirable] This graphing interface should allow to conduct series calculations (additions, subtractions, ratio, multiplication, percentage between series)
 - Export
 - [Mandatory] It should be easy to export series identifiers.
 - [Mandatory] It should be easy to copy and paste raw data to spreadsheets using the clipboard.
 - [Desirable] It should be easy to copy and paste individual line charts to a PowerPoint.
 - Access
 - [Desirable] Access to the interface for data exploration should be seamless to the user: single sign-on or desktop application
 - [Desirable] A mobile and tablet view would be a 'nice to have' feature.

- Data interface
 - [Mandatory] The service should interface with the ESM internal data warehouse. In order of preference there are two options:
 - 1) Data as a service
 - The Service Provider will integrate with ESM interface providing the remaining endpoints for a) series search (by free text and filtered – e.g. regions available by this provider for that concept), b) revisions per series, c) series values per revision of a series.
 - 2) bulk data
 - The Service Provider will maintain on ESM SQL server a copy of the provider's data, or at least provide easy bulk access to the provider's data.
- Data scope
 - [Mandatory] Public data sources
 - Eurostat (National Accounts, Financial Accounts, Government Financial Accounts, BoP)
 - ECB-SDW (Interest Rate Statistics, Balance Sheet Items, Consolidated Banking Data, CISS, CLIFS, Exchange Rates, Security Statistics, Target Balances)
 - European Commission (AMECO, Sentiment Indicators, Economic Forecasts – incl. Interim, Historic Revisions to Economic Forecasts, Debt Sustainability Monitor, Historic Revisions to Debt Sustainability Monitor, Aging Report, Revisions to Aging Report, Output Gap working group projections, Revisions to Output Gap working group projections)
 - OECD-database (National Accounts, Economic Outlook, Product Market Regulation Index, Employment Protection Legislation Index)
 - IMF (IFS, WEO, CPIS, CDIS, Fiscal Monitor incl. interim and revisions)
 - Worldbank (Worldwide Governance Indicators, Easy of doing business)
 - BIS (Property prices, Credit-to-GDP, Effective exchange rates, Locational Banking Statistics)
 - PolicyUncertainty.com (New based Economic Policy Uncertainty Index)
 - Oxford (Covid19 governance response tracker, Infections, Vaccinations and Testing)
 - National Sources (National Central Banks and National Statistical Offices of Greece, Portugal, Ireland, Spain, Cyprus, Germany and Italy)
 - Exchange rates on daily frequency.
 - [Mandatory] Commercial data sources
 - Consensus forecasts (Consensus Economics or Focus Economics)
 - PMI
 - [Mandatory] Meta data
 - Source
 - Frequency
 - Aggregation type
 - Data Type (Unit, Currency)
 - Magnitude
 - Geography
 - [Desirable] Revisions
 - Access to historic data releases (for instance, Austrian GDP under ESA95 definition released by Eurostat in October 2014)
 - [Desirable] Derived series

- Sum of GDP of G20 countries, derived from national sources
- Training / Support
 - [Mandatory] Helpdesk support available via phone and email during working hours (e.g. on working days, from 8 am to 8pm)
 - [Mandatory] Subject to ESM needs, the service provider should be available at least one time per month for a 1-to-1 training or group training, delivered on the ESM premises or virtually.
- Transition – on boarding of new provider (if required)
 - [Mandatory] Upon provision of 10,000 series descriptions, including the unique identifiers assigned by the incumbent service provider, the Service Provider will supply the unique identifiers to retrieve the respective data through the Service Provider’s data relay service.
- The ESM expect to see the following functionality elements, which will be also tested at the presentations stage. The functionality of the solution is described through the examples below:
 - [Desirable] The Service Provider will demonstrate how an interface (eventually accessible to the regular user) allows for accessing and plotting in a single chart. For example:
 - Austrian Financial Corporations quarterly transactions in short term debt securities (source Eurostat Quarterly Financial Accounts)
 - Austrian Financial Corporations quarterly transactions in debt securities (source Eurostat Quarterly Financial Accounts)
 - Austrian General Government quarterly transactions in debt securities (source Eurostat Quarterly Financial Accounts)
 - Belgium General Government quarterly transactions in debt securities (source Eurostat Quarterly Financial Accounts)
 - [Desirable] The Service Provider will demonstrate how an interface (eventually accessible to the regular user) allows for accessing: Euro area GDP growth as projected by the European Commission in Summer 2021, Spring 2021 and Winter 2021.

4. Timeline

If required, the transition of the data relay services from one Service Provider to another is planned for 6 (six) months. During the transition phase, the Service Provider will

- offer the extensive training to users so they could understand the structure of data;
- support the transition of existing ESM data related processes to connect to the new data provider’s data model;
- support investigations of data discrepancies or gaps;
- support technical ESM staff in interfacing with ESM’s internal data warehouse.

Annex 2

ELIGIBILITY AND EXCLUSION CRITERIA, SELECTION CRITERIA AND OTHER REQUIRED INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS

1. Eligibility and Exclusion Criteria

1.1. Declaration on eligibility

1.2. Non-Collusion Declaration

Note: See the separate document with the above declarations

2. Selection Criteria

As part of their Application, Candidates are requested to address each item/question below and supply the requested evidence in the correspondingly named and numbered way.

The selection criteria apply to the Candidate as a whole, i.e. a consolidated assessment of the combined capacities of all involved entities will be carried out.

Please note that for the purpose of the evaluation of the Applications, the ESM will assess the responses provided to the items set out below in this Section 2.

2.1. *Economic and financial standing*

Candidates must comply with the following selection criteria in order to prove that they have the necessary economic and financial capacity to perform the Contract.

Item Number	Selection Criteria	Requirements	Evidence
1)	The Candidate must provide the evidence of economic and financial capacity to perform the required services.	The Candidate must have an annual, global turnover of at least 1,400,000 EUR in each of the last three (completed) financial years generated from the provision of services similar to the services set out in Annex 1 to this PQD.	Copy of audited financial statements for the last two (completed) financial years.

2.2. *Technical or professional ability*

Candidates must comply with the following selection criteria in order to prove that they have the necessary technical or professional ability to perform the Contract.

Item Number	Selection Criteria	Requirements	Evidence
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1)	The Candidate must prove their have a sound professional experience in providing similar services as described in Terms of Reference.	Provide evidence of at least 3 (three) and no more than 5 (five) similar (in scope and complexity as set out in Annex 1 to this PQD) projects completed in the last three years preceding the submission deadline.	A signed list of projects meeting the requirements set under this item. The list shall include details of their start and end date, project scope, total project value, and amount invoiced. For ongoing projects, only the portion completed during the reference period will be taken into consideration. No specific template requested by ESM.
2)	The Candidate must prove their have a sound professional experience in providing similar services as described in Terms of Reference.	To provide 3 (three) reference(s) of projects for the provision of services similar to those set out in Annex 1 to this PQD. The references should demonstrate a proven record of successful delivery. The references should include: i) a summary description of the services provided for each example, including size, scope and complexity, use of subcontractors, if relevant and ii) client names or client industry (if for confidentiality reasons client names may not be provided)	Copies of reference letters/emails of recommendations from previous clients. The references should be related to the list of the projects provided for point 1). No specific template requested by ESM.
3)	The Candidate must confirm their ability to deliver mandatory service elements as described in Terms of Reference.	Confirm the ability to deliver mandatory elements of data relay services requested by the ESM in the Terms of Reference, as set out in Annex 1 to this PQD.	Candidate's confirmation. If the Service Provider cannot meet any of the requirements identified as '[Mandatory]' in the Terms of Reference, they must clearly state which mandatory requirement(s) they cannot meet and provide thorough explanation and/or alternative solution. The ESM reserves the right to apply discretionary exclusion criteria to this question.
4)	The Candidate must confirm their availability and contract start date	The Candidate must have sufficient resources in place and readily available to perform the services from the contract start date, which planned for 2 January 2023.	Brief description of the company and resources the Candidate will be allocating to the delivery of the services and Candidate's confirmation.

FOR INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS		
Item No	Question	RESPONSE
1.1.	Will the server(s) containing ESM data be located outside the 19 countries belonging to the euro area? Whether yes or no, in which country(ies)?	
1.2	Is the entity contracting with the ESM (the “ Contracting Entity ”) registered outside the 19 countries belonging to the euro area (i.e. the Eurozone countries that use the Euro)? Whether yes or no, in which country(ies)?	
1.3	Is any entity directly or indirectly controlling the Contracting Entity (e.g. a parent company) registered outside the 19 countries belonging to the euro area? Whether yes or no, in which country(ies)?	
1.4	Is any other entity with access to ESM data (e.g. a subcontractor providing the IT infrastructure/servers) registered outside the 19 countries belonging to the euro area? Whether yes or no, in which country(ies)?	
1.5	Is the ESM data going to be encrypted and who will have access to the encryption key? a) No encryption b) Encryption yes; the Candidate will have access to the encryption key c) Encryption yes; the Candidate will not have access to the encryption key, but only the ESM and/or a third party	

Annex 3: Other Required Information and Documents

3.1. Cover certification form

3.2. Consortium declaration

3.3. Subcontractor commitment letter

Note: See the separate document with the above declarations