

Support to the SONS in upgrading and modernisation of Croatian Early Warning System  
(SUPPLY)

Questions and Answers

EuropeAid/126553/D/SUP/HR

PHARE 2006

Questions and answers

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State Office for Nuclear Safety, Republic of Croatia

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QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
<b>Date: October, 6<sup>th</sup> 2008</b>	<b>Date: October , 16<sup>th</sup> 2008</b>
<p>Q1: The selection criteria requires the following: 2a) At least 5 persons of all permanent staff currently working for the candidate are working in the fields related to this contract (design, installation or maintenance of radiation early warning or monitoring systems) 3a) the tenderer has successfully completed at least one contract in the fields of radiation early warning or monitoring systems ....</p> <p>SOGIN has more than 5 people currently managing (thus operating and maintaining) a set of radiation and meteorological warning and monitoring systems installed in the past decades (before 2005) in its nuclear sites where nuclear waste is currently present and decommissioning activities are under way</p> <p>SOGIN is currently performing, as main contractor, a project for the installation of the Italian National earthquake monitoring system, that includes more than 100 stations installed all over the country and remotely connected to a centralized monitoring and warning system. 60% of the project is completed and the relevant stations are actively transferring data through a GSM system</p> <p>We would like to get the confirmation that our application is acceptable to the Commission.</p>	<p>A1: The criterion 3° refers to the successfully <b>completed</b> contract, not to the ongoing ones. Please note that it is the responsibility of the evaluation committee to assess if the tenderers meet the selection criteria mentioned in the PN so it is not possible at this stage for the contracting authority to judge whether something complies or not with criterion 3a.</p>

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Q2:

The planning of the activities includes variables that are under the control of the Croatian authorities and/or the Contracting authority such:

- Issuance of all work permits and construction permits for the station requiring civil works
- Issuance of permits/authorizations required to access sites owned by third parties
- For type A stations, timely access to the premises where the stations will be installed
- Timely availability of (or access to) power and communication lines where requested
- Timely availability/activation of SIM cards by contracting authority
- Appropriate GRPS coverage on each location
- Other matters that are not under the reasonable control of the contractor and affecting a timely and cost effective execution

In our experience on such distributed monitoring systems each one of these points can heavily affect the schedule and create cost overruns to the contractor due to loss of logistic synergies. Who will bear the consequences of these cost/time overruns for issues that are not under contractor's control?

A2:

The Beneficiary is responsible for the first 6 bullet items (variables) from the question, but not for other matters (the 7th bullet).

Concerning bullet nr. 7., it is not clear what is meant under "Other matters". But in the case it should indicate to Force majeure, please note that it is regulated by the Article 38 of the General Conditions

Q3:

ANNEX II: Technical Specification – Explanatory Instruction

Par. 3.2.2:

Is mandatory that the software application for the central unit shall run on Linux Platform?

A3:

Yes, it is.

Q4:

We are going to participate in the tender EuropeAid/126553/D/SUP/HR, Support to the SONS in Upgrading and Modernization of Croatian Early Warning System.

We kindly would like to ask you if any technical questions have been sent by other tenderes up to now.

A4:

Yes, there were few questions related to the quoted tender, and answers will be published on europeaid website in due time.

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Q5:

You refer to "high availability". Do you refer to the standard common technical term (class AEC 0 to 4 [Harvard research group][class 5 obviously out of question]) or do you have your own definition? This question came up because our understanding of "high availability" is different than yours in "Figure 3", page 7 of the document "ANNEX II: TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS - EXPLANATORY INSTRUCTIONS". We are missing a separate data storage unit shared by both servers connected via a high availability backbone. Please clarify your definition of "high availability" regarding the central unit!

A5:

It is not necessary to implement full high availability solution as defined by standards (class AEC 0 to 4). However, it is necessary to achieve the following:

1. data retrieval functionality must be available at least 99% of time,
2. data serving functionality must be available at least 99,9% of the time

on pair of identical servers which are configured to work in active/passive mode. In such configuration if the primary node fails for any reason the secondary node should take functionality of the primary node and a separate data storage unit is not needed.

Q6:

Regarding "Figure 2 - Data flow diagram for the upgraded CEWS". "Input" and "Central Unit" are clear, but the output section is a little bit confusing. In the figure there is a direct arrow from visualization to "public". But in contrast to this, section 3.2.2.6 says, quote: "The exported files will be used for the international data exchange, as an input for the public web site and as an input to RODOS system." So either the export to the public via EURDEP is missing in "Figure 2" or "public" is just on the wrong place. Please clarify the meaning of "public" in "Figure 2", especially if "public" is part of the tender or not!?

A6:

Public web site will be controlled by separate software application which is not within the scope of the Tender. This application will require the data in EURDEP format as an input. So, the same data, exported by the central unit software application, will be used (1) for the international data exchange, (2) as an input to the public web application and (3) as an input to RODOS system.

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Q7:

If possible please provide additional information regarding the locations of gamma doserate stations. What's the ground? Soil? Rock? Next to a village? Within a village? GPRS coverage verified? Sunshine hours (daily or monthly average), solar irradiation kWh/m<sup>2</sup> (monthly average or better daily total values), and so on ....

Q7:

Measuring stations will be located either in private backyards or within the state institutions' premises (mostly meteorological stations and lighthouses). The ground is soil (various mixtures of clay, silt, sand and peat) in continental regions and stone (may be covered with thin layer of soil) in coastal regions. In the mountains it can be either soil or rocks.

GPRS coverage at the measuring stations has been verified by checking the coverage maps obtained from potential GPRS providers.

The data related to sunshine hours at the selected locations in Croatia can be found at the following web site: [http://klima.hr/klima\\_e.php?id=klima\\_elementi&param=ks](http://klima.hr/klima_e.php?id=klima_elementi&param=ks)  
The site is maintained by the Meteorological and Hydrological Service. The required solar irradiation data are contained within the attached archive file."

Q8:

With reference to stations type A, B and C, please specify if the so called "data logger" should be equipped also with local display and keyboard or if it would be enough to connect a notebook PC, to be included in the scope of supply, for local maintenance and/or setup/calibration of the station.

A8:

Both solutions are acceptable.

Q9:

Could I receive the more detailed technical information's regarding this project? it will help us to prepare the quotation more accurately.

A9:

We regret to inform you that we are not allowed to provide potential bidders with any extra documentation. You are free to ask any questions regarding tender dossier published on EuropeAid website. All the answers to your questions that you may have will be published on the relevant EuropeAid and CFCA ([www.safu.hr](http://www.safu.hr)) website.

Q10:

Our company is very interesting to join this tender, and we already supplied and fixed such a system to Czech, Slovakia and Romania. But time is short to prepare a proper detail quotation that's why in this letter I would like to request you if it is possible to extend the tender submission date to 24<sup>th</sup> o November? This will really help us to prepare a proper detail quotation.

A10:

We are sorry but extensioin is not possible. Date is extremely strict and not possible to change.

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<p><b>Q11:</b> Is an integrated GIS application included in the central software application? Or shall it be optional? This is a convenient extension module, providing a quick overview on the radiological &amp; technical status of the network, in one glance?</p>	<p><b>A11:</b> Although central unit software application has to be able to visualize the data on maps, integrated GIS application is not required.</p>
<p><b>Q12:</b> In order to make the radiological data available for external users via the WEB, a dedicated WEB application software will be installed on a WEB server, which can provide access to the INTERNET. Is a WEB server hardware with Internet access available at SONS LAN network, which could be used for this purpose?</p>	<p><b>Q12:</b> No. State Office for Nuclear Safety (SONS) LAN is not available for CEWS (Croatian Early Warning System).</p>
<p><b>Q13:</b> What is the reason to ask for different measurement ranges for gamma sensors, used within the same network (wide range for Krsko NPP area and reduced range for Pecs NPP area)?</p>	<p><b>Q13:</b> Measurement ranges have been defined by assessing maximum expectable dose rate for each measurement station group. NPP Krsko is much closer to Croatian borders than NPP Paks.</p>
<p><b>Q14:</b> Due to natural wash-out of radioactive nuclides in the air in the presence of RAIN, the radiation level could increase for an amount of additional 20 - 30%, compared to the natural background level.  Due to that reason, an integrated and maintenance free RAIN detector can be offered for the gamma dose rate measuring stations as well.  Shall this sensor extension be offered in BASIC scope or in OPTIONAL supplies?</p>	<p><b>Q14:</b> Rain detectors at Type A, Type B and Type C stations are not required.</p>

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<p><b>Q15:</b> Our solution for station type C uses GSM as basic communication standard.</p> <p>Is it possible to offer GSM based (bi-directional) communication in the BASIC scope?</p> <p>And to offer GPRS as an OPTIONAL extension?</p>	<p><b>A15:</b> Type C stations have to support bidirectional communication with the central unit. It has to be possible to initiate the connection from both central unit's side and measurement station's side.</p> <p>The preferred way of communication is GPRS. GSM connection is not an option.</p>
<p><b>Q16:</b> 1. The required gamma measurement: - is this mandatory? - What kind of measurement: Gamma dose rate or other type?</p> <p>2. What means "differentiation between artificial and natural activity"?</p> <p>3. Is Radon measurement mandatory, or is the indication "20 Bq/m3" only for information?</p>	<p><b>A16:</b></p> <p>1) Aerosol measuring unit has to be able to measure (count) gamma activity of aerosols collected on filter. 2) It means that artificial and non-artificial radionuclides are differentiated 3) The mentioned value is in relation with defining the detection limits.</p>
<p><b>Q17:</b> Which LINUX version is preferred? Is SUSE 11 possible?</p>	<p><b>A17:</b> No preference. If you mean OpenSUSE 11, it is acceptable.</p>
<p><b>Q18:</b> 1. Questions: a) Which high availability solution type is preferred? (Cluster software type?) b) Shall the operation of the redundant servers be full automatic? c) Is there a LINUX administrator available at SONS who can care for the Cluster and the redundant servers?</p> <p>2. Optional Solution: Shall optionally be offered a high reliable + stable solution, which is based on redundant servers too, but with manual switching of servers? Another advantage is to save software licence cost: Only one ORACLE and application software licence required in this case, instead of two for the Cluster solution.</p>	<p><b>A18:</b></p> <p>1a) Linux high availability solution in active/passive mode (additional information at <a href="http://www.linux-ha.org">www.linux-ha.org</a>) 1b) It is preferred solution. 1c) No, external support is provided.</p> <p>2) No, because there is no full-time Linux administrator at SONS.</p>
<p><b>Q19:</b> Please confirm the DSL router for both the measuring stations and the central unit is</p>	<p><b>A19:</b> DSL modems/routers will be delivered by the communication links provider, so they are</p>

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<p>provided by the Beneficiary.</p>	<p>not within the scope of this supply tender.</p>
<p>Q20: Communication via the Internet (DSL, GPRS) requires IP addresses for both the central unit as well as measuring stations.</p> <p>1. Who will provide the IP addresses? Will this be fixed addresses or provided by a service provider? 2. Will the central unit have a fixed address (which never changes)? 3. Will the measuring stations have a fixed IP address (which does not change)?</p>	<p>A20: In general, Croatian providers can provide fixed IP addresses. Instead of public Internet, it is also possible to use private network connections with private address space.</p>
<p>Q21: Is it allowed to optionally offer and use a DSL router which is provided by the Supplier?</p>	<p>A21: Has to be checked for particular router type. Supplier of comunicatno line must approve other type of router.</p>
<p>Q22: The DSL and GPRS based communication will allow a very low frequent polling of the stations, e.g. every 10min (due to low data communication cost and high bandwidth). In this case the radiological and technical status of each station will be updated every 10min. By that, a data communication initiated by such station types, is thus NOT necessary. Please confirm.</p>	<p>A22: For all the station types bi-directional communication which can be initiated from both sides is required.</p>
<p>Q23: 1. Shall Aerosol data release an alarm? If YES: please indicate the parameters which shall release an alarm.</p> <p>2. Is alarming for meteorological data required too?</p>	<p>A23: 1) Yes. It has to be possible for the user to select measurement parameters and threshold values for alarming. 2) Alarming for meteorological values is not required.</p>
<p>Q24: In order to fulfill this requirement, can it be confirmed that this requirement is the provision of radiological data and technical status information to external users via the WEB?</p>	<p>A24: The answer to both questions is yes.</p>

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The WEB software module, which is an extension to the central application software, provides data visualisation through the WEB in graphs, tables and the GIS (map) view.

Shall the same data validation functions of question item 19 be available through the WEB as well?

Q25:

1. Shall the central software application be configured to display the stations of the neighbouring countries as well, in order to assign to this stations the imported EURDEP values?

2. Shall imported EURDEP values also release a radiological alarm?

If YES: is the threshold configuration unique (one value) for ALL stations of neighbouring countries?

Or shall it be individually configurable for each single "imported" station?

A25:

1) Yes

2) Yes. Unique threshold configuration for all stations in neighbouring countries is acceptable.

Q26:

Will the imported EURDEP values from neighboring countries, be exported as well?

A26:

No, only the values from the Croatian measuring stations will be exported in EURDEP format.

Q27:

In case of exceeded radiological thresholds which shall block the EURDEP export:

1. Is the blocking done on the basis of the general thresholds of each single station,

A27:

The threshold for blocking EURDEP export can be unique value configurable by the user.

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which are used for the alarming of the duty officer?

If NOT:

2. Is this an additional unique value for all stations?
3. Is this an additional individual value, assigned to each individual station?
4. Shall this value be user configurable, or is it sufficient to agree on a firm value in the code, during project implementation?

Q28:

Normally the EURDEP data export is running automatically in the background (not visible for the user).

1. Shall the user be informed (alarming via email) in case of blocking the export, due to threshold violations?
2. What kind of / features are required for data validation?
3. How shall the data EXPORT (which had been stopped before) be approved? Please describe the process and required actions.

A28:

The software application should have a menu option to either start or stop EURDEP data export. If threshold violation occurs, EURDEP export should be stopped automatically and the user informed (e.g. by e-mail). The user shall investigate the problem by using "standard" features (stated in Technical specifications) for data visualization and decide whether to start data export again.

Q29:

What kind of validation functions must be possible; please indicate from the following:

- Set manual validation status (true, false, not valid, conditional...)?
- Delete values?
- Change measured values (manipulate)?
- others..?

A29:

It should be possible to manually set validation status and to delete values.

Q30:

Can the delivery time be longer (more than 120 days), under consideration that the project implementation time of 330 days (duration of the project completion) will be fulfilled (i.e. not extended)?

A30:

No.

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<p>Q31: The requirement to fulfill the technical specification of the tender dossier is fulfilled by almost 100%. However concerning some requirements of the aerosol measuring unit, the offered specification is not fully but almost 100% compliant (e.g. concerning measurement characteristics).</p> <p>Is it accepted to offer items which are compliant for 90% (instead of 100%)?</p>	<p>A31: No.</p>
<p>Q32: 1. Does this mean the offer shall include only one single solution, which shall be compliant with the tender?  2. Is it allowed to offer optional equipment, like systems or software extensions, which will provide additional benefit to the Beneficiary?</p>	<p>A32: 1. Only one solution is required. 2. It is not allowed to offer optional equipment</p>
<p>Q33: Is it possible to offer products of another company, who is also participating in the tender?</p>	<p>A33: Yes.</p>
<p>Q34: Shall the VAT be included in the price? If yes, at what rate?</p>	<p>A34: VAT will not be included in the price.</p>
<p>Q35: With regard to the specifications the communication between the central station and the measuring station in routine mode shall be initiated by the central station (polling of data). Can communication process for data transmission also be exclusively triggered by the measuring station in routine operation?</p>	<p>A35: All stations have to support bidirectional communication with the central unit. In routine situation as well as in accident it has to be possible to initiate the connection from both central unit's side and measurement station's side.</p>
<p>Q36: For measuring station type the sensor shall be physically separated from the data logger. Is this a must, or can detector and data logger also be integrated in one and</p>	<p>A36: For measuring stations Type A/B the detector and the data logger can be integrated in one casing. However, in that case it is the task of the contractor to extend power and</p>

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the same case?	communication cables (underground cable connections with adequate cable protection) from the building in which data logger was supposed to be installed to the measuring station location.
Q37: For measuring station type C solar panels for power supply are specified. Is the use of solar panels obligatory although in case power supply can be secured for a few years by internal batteries?	A37: No. Solar panels with battery are obligatory.
Q38: The tender specs demand bi-directional GPRS communication. Do Croatian GSM providers support fixed IP address and routing capability which allow point to point connections via GPRS. Could alternatively CSD data link be accepted for communication from SONS to measuring stations.	A38: The preferred way of communication with Type C stations is GPRS. It is not acceptable to use GSM dialup connection instead of GPRS .
Q39: It is required that the aerosol monitor system also measures gamma radioactivity. Does this requirement also refer to the aerosol measurement part of the system?  If gamma aerosol measurement is required, what is the required limit of detection ?	A39: Yes, aerosol monitor must be able to count gamma activity collected on filters. The required detection limit is 1 Bq/m <sup>3</sup> for 1 h sampling period, measurement time < 5 min and natural radon background of 20 Bq/m <sup>3</sup> EEC
Q40: Regarding the delivery period the tender doc specifies: "The implementation period will last 330 days, starting from the day of issuance of the Commencement Order and ending on the day of issuance of the Provisional acceptance certificate. The implementation period includes a delivery period of 120 days."	A40: YES

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<p>Does this mean that the deadline for delivery will be around March 17, 2009 stated that signature of contract is Nov. 17?</p>	
<p>Q41: We assume that Article 6.2, 6.3 and 6.7 General Conditions do not apply for such subcontractors having already been nominated in our proposal. Please confirm.</p>	<p>A41: Article 6 of General Conditions is fully applicable. Tenderer are expected to submit subcontracting statement describing elements of the contract to be subcontracted. Subcontractors must satisfy the eligibility criteria applicable for the award of the contract and they can not be in any of the situations excluding them from participating in contracts which are listed in Section 2.3.3 of the Practical Guide to contract procedure for EC external actions.</p>
<p>Q42: We assume that the rules in Article 11.3 General Conditions about the provision of the performance guarantee apply accordingly for the provision of the financial guarantee for the full amount of the pre-financing payment according to Article 26.5. General Conditions. Please confirm.</p>	<p>A42: Yes.</p>
<p>Q43: Annex II (Technical Specifications – Explanatory Instructions) No. 2. Figure 1 indicates only the locations (city) of the measuring stations of the new CEWS, but without naming the position of any station (full address, exact place). We assume that the positions being designated will not be relocated. Besides, we assume that the Contracting Authority will be responsible for ensuring unhindered access to any stations' building sites and for being in charge of any stations' fencing . Finally, we assume that any additional costs incurred by circumstances being under the Contracting Authority's responsibility will be paid by the Contracting Authority. Please confirm.</p>	<p>A43: The Beneficiary does not intend to change any of the measuring stations locations. Free access to all sites is guaranteed. Part of the question related to the additional costs is not clear enough to provide an answer.</p>
<p>Q44: With reference to stations type A and B we assume that the scope of supply includes the underground layout of the connecting cable, between the probe itself and the rest of the unit, installed indoor. Please be so kind to confirm the average length of the cable way is twenty meters, to specify the nature of the soil and/or ground and if the</p>	<p>A44: The average distance between the data logger and the sensor at Type A/B stations is approx. 20 m. The soil type at each location has not been analyzed in detail. However, on most of the Type A/B station locations the soil should be various mixtures of clay, silt, sand and peat. For civil works planned at Type A/B stations all permissions are</p>

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permissions to execute civil works have been already granted for all sites. If not, please specify if the procedures and costs to obtain such permissions are included in the scope of supply.

already granted.

Q45:

With reference to stations type D and E please clarify the following points:

1. We assume that the sentence "alpha, beta and gamma radioactivity measuring enabled" means measurement of alpha, beta AND gamma concentration of aerosols collected on the filter, please confirm or specify otherwise.
2. The sentence "iodine measuring by use of charcoal filter" means a simple paper filter impregnated with charcoal or a proper TEDA type Iodine cartridge, filled with charcoal or silver Zeolite.
3. The sentence "single filter system" means single filter/cartridge, for both aerosols and iodine measurement, with manual replacement, or discrete filters and cartridges (instead of filter tape) with automatic replacement.

Please clarify if the sentence "built-in radioactive check source for calibration" refers to all type of measurements, like for instance, alpha(Am-241), beta(Sr-90), gamma(Cs-137) and Iodine (Ba-133).

A45:

- 1) It has to be possible to separately measure (count) alpha, beta and gamma radiation collected on the filters.
- 2) It means cartridge filter capable of capturing also organic iodine species.
- 3) It means discrete filters/cartridges with automatic replacement, and not filter tape.
- 4) Calibration sources covering all types of measurements (i.e. all types of the detectors used) have to be built-in.

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Q46:

Regarding station type „C“ you refer to „bi-directional“ communication! So far so clear, but which sides shall be able to initiate the connection? The possibilities as we see it:  
1<sup>st</sup>:: The station establishes the connection (eg. VPN tunnel) on startup and keep it open all the time. This allows the central to contact the station at any time via VPN. In this case data can be transmitted to the central all the time and therefore question #5 is not applicable.

2<sup>nd</sup>:: The station only establishes the connection when data is pending to transfer and closes it when it is no longer used. In this case the central can only contact the station in a short time window. But as long as you transfer data to the station, the station will keep the connection open.

3<sup>rd</sup>:: Then there is the possibility to use ?GSM?-dialup connections in both directions. Expenses for the mobile phone contract?

Please clarify which version you prefer. But be aware that an always open GPRS/EDGE/UMTS connection needs a huge amount of energy and therefore has a massive impact on the size of solar panel and battery which influences the price directly.

Q47:

Regarding station type „C“, of course alarms and other events shall be transmitted to the central asap., but what to do in the hopefully normal case, when nothing happens? What's the required data transmission interval? Also asap.? Or once a day? Or twice a day? Please clarify.

A46:

Type C stations have to support bidirectional communication with the central unit. It has to be possible to initiate the connection from both central unit's side and measurement station's side.

Only GPRS communication is acceptable, as stated in Technical Specifications.

A47

Please see A46.