F4E-OPE-2073

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Follow up Q&A after Market survey results concerning the supply of an injector for the IFMIF-DONES Accelerator

Important: This document consolidates and harmonizes the Q&A managed following the Market survey.

The final contract notice, procurement documents and Invitation to Tender will prevail.

QUESTION	**1. What does Stage 1 require, and is it purely administrative?**
ANSWER	Stage 1 concerns the Request to Participate. It includes administrative documentation, exclusion criteria, technical selection criteria and financial capacity. Technical information may therefore be required at this stage, as specified in the procurement documents.
STATUS / NOTE	The final procurement documents will identify the documents required at each stage.

QUESTION	**2. How long is the Stage 1 evaluation expected to take?**
ANSWER	The duration depends on the number of requests received. An indicative period of approximately two to three weeks after opening was discussed for evaluation and internal review.
STATUS / NOTE	No binding evaluation duration was committed.

QUESTION	**3. How will candidates be selected for Stage 2?**
ANSWER	Requests to Participate will be assessed against the exclusion and selection criteria, including technical and financial capacity. A ranking mechanism may be used. If ranking applies, the highest-scoring candidates may be invited; otherwise, candidates satisfying the applicable criteria may proceed.
STATUS / NOTE	The final selection method and any ranking rules will be stated in the procurement documents.

QUESTION	**4. Will the list of entities submitting a Request to Participate be made public?**
ANSWER	Candidates will be notified of the outcome of Stage 1. The full list of entities submitting Requests to Participate is not intended to be published at that stage. Public information will be provided through the applicable procurement notices.
STATUS / NOTE	Subject to the final publication and notification arrangements.

QUESTION	**5. Which platform must be used, and how is a valid submission confirmed?**
ANSWER	Requests to Participate and tenders must be submitted through EU Supply. Uploading documents alone is insufficient: the participant must complete the “Submit Response” action and verify that the platform shows the response as submitted.
STATUS / NOTE	Account, registration or password issues must be addressed to the platform support service. Participants should avoid waiting until the deadline.

QUESTION	**6. Can a submitted response be corrected before the deadline?**
ANSWER	Yes. A participant may update, replace or resubmit its response before the submission deadline. After each change, the response should be validly submitted through the platform.
STATUS / NOTE	After the deadline, changes are not generally possible, without prejudice to clarifications or corrections requested by F4E under the applicable rules.

QUESTION	**7. How will questions concerning the procurement documentation be handled?**
ANSWER	Questions during the tendering period will be managed through EU Supply. Answers will be made available while protecting confidential or sensitive information and avoiding identification of the party that raised the question.
STATUS / NOTE	The applicable deadlines and communication rules will be stated in the procurement documents.

QUESTION	**8. When will the procurement documentation be published?**
ANSWER	The procedure was being finalised and publication was expected in the following weeks. Once published through the Official Journal, the call should also be visible through the F4E Industry Portal.
STATUS / NOTE	Interested parties were advised to monitor the official publication channels.

QUESTION	**9. When does negotiation occur, and what may be negotiated?**
ANSWER	Negotiation, if required, takes place during Stage 2 after receipt and assessment of the initial tenders. It may cover technical and contractual aspects and deviations identified in the tenders. Certain requirements may be designated as non-negotiable.
STATUS / NOTE	The negotiable and non-negotiable elements will be described in the Invitation to Tender.

QUESTION	**10. Could F4E award on the basis of the initial tenders without conducting negotiation rounds?**
ANSWER	Yes, if this possibility is reserved in the Invitation to Tender. Where initial tenders are compliant and sufficiently clear, F4E may proceed without an extensive negotiation phase.

STATUS / NOTE	The applicable procedure and timetable will be defined in the procurement documents.

QUESTION	**11. How will equal treatment be ensured if a change to a common technical requirement is considered?**
ANSWER	Negotiations will be conducted in a manner that preserves equal treatment. If F4E amends a common requirement, the revised basis will be made available to all tenderers concerned.
STATUS / NOTE	A request by one tenderer does not automatically require a general amendment.

QUESTION	**12. Could a negotiated deviation affect the tender score?**
ANSWER	The treatment of technical and contractual deviations, including any scoring consequences and minimum thresholds, must be defined in advance and disclosed in the Invitation to Tender.
STATUS / NOTE	The detailed evaluation methodology remained to be finalised internally.

QUESTION	**13. What is the procurement timeline?**
ANSWER	The intention discussed was to launch the procedure before the end of the year. Minimum submission periods and the duration of any subsequent negotiation rounds will determine the overall timetable.
STATUS / NOTE	No exact award or contract signature date was committed during the meetings.

QUESTION	**14. What does the stated contract duration mean for delivery?**
ANSWER	The overall duration includes options and activities extending beyond delivery of the first injector. It should not be interpreted as meaning that the principal equipment is only expected at the end of the full contract duration. Delivery by the end of 2029 was discussed as an objective, subject to the definitive schedule.
STATUS / NOTE	The detailed implementation schedule will be set out in the procurement documents.

QUESTION	**15. What is the intended scope regarding the number of injectors?**
ANSWER	The envisaged core scope is one injector, with an option for an additional injector. The detailed scope, interfaces, responsibilities and any additional systems or options will be described in the formal procurement documentation.
STATUS / NOTE	No further scope detail should be inferred from the information-meeting record.

QUESTION	**16. Is LIPAc included in the contract scope?**

ANSWER	LIPAc was described as outside the contract scope as a contractual deliverable or contractor responsibility. Relevant knowledge and operating experience may nevertheless inform the work.
STATUS / NOTE	The definitive scope will be established in the technical specification.

QUESTION	**17. Does the estimated contract value include options and contingencies?**
ANSWER	The estimated value was described as covering the baseline scope and options. It was also stated that the published information would include an additional amount for contingencies.
STATUS / NOTE	The detailed value breakdown and calculation method were deferred to the contract notice and Invitation to Tender.

QUESTION	**18. Will support, spare parts, training and long-term maintenance be included?**
ANSWER	Support, spare parts and on-site or off-site assistance were acknowledged as possible contract elements. The exact requirements and options will be specified in the technical documentation.
STATUS / NOTE	Long-term operation and maintenance beyond the contract duration were identified as outside the immediate scope, subject to the final specification.

QUESTION	**19. How will technical documentation and evolving requirements be managed?**
ANSWER	The technical specification is intended to be agreed internally with the relevant project stakeholders before publication. Changes may still arise during contract execution where justified by new inputs.
STATUS / NOTE	Feedback on disproportionate documentation effort and late-emerging requirements was recorded for contract preparation.

QUESTION	**20. Could the turnover requirement affect participation?**
ANSWER	The future turnover criterion and supporting evidence will be defined in the procurement documents. Capacity will be assessed on the basis of the composition of the applicant or tenderer and the evidence submitted.
STATUS / NOTE	No company-specific turnover figure is retained in this anonymised consolidated record.

QUESTION	**21. Can the capacities of consortium members or participating entities be considered together?**
ANSWER	The composition of the applicant or tenderer and the capacities relied upon will be assessed when the submission is received.
STATUS / NOTE	The detailed rules and required evidence will be those stated in the procurement documents.

QUESTION	**22. Can the payment plan include several interim payments?**
ANSWER	A payment plan with multiple payments linked to progress, deliverables and milestones was suggested. F4E acknowledged the point for consideration when preparing the contractual payment schedule.
STATUS / NOTE	The final payment mechanism will be set out in the procurement documents and contract.

QUESTION	**23. Can interested economic operators provide further feedback on the preliminary information?**
ANSWER	Yes. Economic operators may consider the preliminary information internally and provide relevant feedback or questions through the appropriate communication channel.
STATUS / NOTE	Once the procedure is launched, communications must follow the channels and deadlines specified in the procurement documents.

QUESTION	**24. Could the link to the prior information document be shared?**
ANSWER	Yes. The link to the prior information notice is available and the notice can be downloaded from 673948-2026 - Planning - TED
STATUS / NOTE	The published Contract Notice remains the authoritative reference.

QUESTION	**25. Will sufficient technical information be provided for preparation of the tender and possible negotiations?**
ANSWER	Detailed technical information will be provided through the technical specification. Following successful completion of Stage 1, Stage 2 may include clarification or negotiation of technical, schedule, contractual and cost aspects within the applicable rules.
STATUS / NOTE	The final procurement documents will prevail.