



TO: All Bidders

DATE: 10 June 2026

FROM: Sally Alvarez de Schreiner
Chief, Procurement Services Section

REF.: RFP No. 2026-0042/RICKARD

TEL. NO.: +43 1 26030 6350

EMAIL: procurement@ctbto.org

SUBJECT: **Clarifications No. 2 to RFP 2026-0042/RICKARD: Provision of Software Engineering Services for Database and Web Applications - Database of the Technical Secretariat Modernization (DOTS Modernization) On a Call-Off Basis**

Dear Bidders,

In reference to request for proposal (RFP) No. 2026-0042/RICKARD: Provision of Software Engineering Services for Database and Web Applications - Database of the Technical Secretariat Modernization (DOTS Modernization) On a Call-Off Basis:

1. Please find attached **Clarifications No. 2** to questions raised by interested bidders. The attached Clarifications No. 2 are an integral part of the RFP documents and shall be considered in the preparation and submission of proposals.
2. The deadline for the submission of proposals is hereby extended from 18 June 2026 to **Tuesday, 30 June 2026, 17:00 hours, Vienna (Austria) local time.**

We are looking forward to receiving your proposal prior to the extended deadline for the submission of proposal on 30 June 2026, 17:00 hours, Vienna (Austria) local time.

Sincerely,

Sally ^{SAS} Alvarez de Schreiner
Chief, Procurement Services Section

Attachments:

1. ***Questions and Answers – Clarifications No. 2***

Clarifications No. 2 - questions and answers

#	Bidders' Question	Answer
1	<p>In reviewing the Terms of Reference, we note that the DOTS modernization scope involves the transition of the existing web-based application and database environment into a modernized, API-driven, secure, and maintainable architecture. We also note that the RFP allows the use of AI-based coding assistants and development tools, subject to appropriate human verification, security, data privacy, and intellectual property safeguards.</p> <p>Accordingly, we would be grateful if the Commission could clarify the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Whether software engineering services based on a AI-assisted application modernization platform may be proposed as part of the bidder's technical methodology for DOTS Modernization, provided that all RFP requirements, security requirements, data privacy obligations, source code ownership provisions, and human validation requirements are fully complied with. 2. Whether the Commission expects such AI-assisted modernization capabilities to be presented within the Technical Proposal as part of the bidder's software engineering methodology, or whether it should be submitted as a separate technical annex / supporting literature. 3. Whether the Commission would be open to a short remote technical demonstration of our platform, strictly for the purpose of explaining the modernization methodology, controls, auditability, and applicability to the DOTS modernization requirements, subject to the Commission's procurement rules. 4. If a pre-submission demonstration is not permissible, whether the Commission would accept demonstration material, workflow diagrams, case examples, and platform documentation as part of the Technical Proposal. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The use of AI-assisted development tools is permitted and encouraged under Section VII.2 of the ToR, subject to the conditions specified therein (human verification of AI-generated code by senior engineering staff, data privacy compliance, and disclosure of AI tools to the Commission). 2. The AI-assisted modernization approach should be presented in the Technical Proposal (see Attachment 3, Part I, items 3 and 3.1). 3. Demonstrations are not part of this tender exercise. Communication pertaining to this RFP shall be done strictly in accordance with the "INSTRUCTIONS FOR PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS" (hereinafter referred to as "Instructions"), art. 6. 4. The RFP explicitly allows for the inclusion of "any relevant technical literature" and "any other relevant issue which the Bidder would like to bring to the attention of the Commission" (Instructions, Section 9(d)(i) and (vii)). 5. For the preparation of the Financial Proposal please be guided by the Instructions, art. 9, part II "Financial Proposal".

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	<p>5. Whether the Commission’s preferred bidding approach is strictly based on the staff profiles and person-day rates in the Price Schedule Form, or whether bidders may also describe platform-assisted delivery methods within the same unit-rate based call-off model.</p>	
2	<p>Could the Commission please clarify how affiliated/group entities should be treated for the purposes of this RFP, specifically if the bidder belongs to an international corporate group consisting of several entities. May the Bidder rely on project references and experience of affiliated/group entities when demonstrating compliance with the qualification and evaluation requirements?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. May personnel employed by affiliated/group entities be included in the proposed Team Roster and Software Team? 2. If references, resources, or specialist expertise from affiliated/group entities are used, should those entities be declared as subcontractors, consortium members, or in another capacity? 3. If such affiliated/group entities are not intended to contract directly with the Commission and will only provide internal group support or personnel to the Bidder, what information and declarations are required in the proposal? 	<p>For this procurement process subcontracting is allowed, please refer to the Instructions, art. 9.g for guidance. In addition, kindly note the qualification and eligibility requirements in the RFP, in particular, as referred to in art. 7 and 9(e) and Terms of Reference.</p>
3	<p>The RFP documentation includes several forms and templates that are required to be completed and submitted as part of the proposal, including but not limited to the Vendor Profile Form, Statement of Confirmation, Technical Compliance Matrix, Price Schedule Form.</p> <p>As these documents are currently embedded within the PDF solicitation package, could the Commission kindly provide editable versions of all forms and templates that are required to be completed by bidders?</p>	<p>The editable versions are attached to these Clarifications No. 2.</p>

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	<p>Providing editable versions would help ensure accurate completion of the required documentation and facilitate preparation of the proposal.</p>	
4	<p>The Terms of Reference require documentary evidence demonstrating that the proposed Team Roster possesses the qualifications, skills and experience required under Sections V.2.4 and V.2.5.</p> <p>Could the Commission please clarify the expected form of evidence for professional certifications and qualifications of proposed team members?</p> <p>Specifically, would it be sufficient to provide detailed CVs listing the relevant certifications, qualifications and experience of each proposed Team Roster member, or does the Commission expect bidders to submit copies of all relevant certificates and accreditation documents for each proposed resource as part of the proposal?</p> <p>If copies of certificates are required, please confirm whether this applies only to certifications explicitly referenced in the ToR (e.g. CISSP, CSSLP, ISAQB, ISTQB, IREB, ISO-related qualifications, etc.) or to all certifications listed in the submitted CVs.</p>	<p>Detailed CVs clearly listing certifications, issuing bodies, and dates obtained shall be included. The Commission reserves the right to request supporting documentation for any claimed qualification at any stage of the evaluation or contract execution.</p>
5	<p>The RFP documentation references Annex A, "2026-01 General Conditions of Contract", as forming part of the procurement documents and the resulting contract.</p> <p>However, we have been unable to locate this document within the solicitation package.</p> <p>Could the Commission please confirm whether the document "2026-01 General Conditions of Contract" was intended to be included as</p>	<p>Kindly refer to art. 2 of the Instructions: The General Conditions of Contract can be accessed by using this link:</p> <p>https://www.ctbto.org/sites/default/files/2026-01/GeneralConditionsofContract_2026.pdf</p> <p>As also indicated in art. 2 of the Instructions, in case of an award, the contract will consist of the following documents:</p>

	<p>part of the procurement package and, if so, kindly provide a copy or the relevant link from which it may be obtained?</p> <p>In addition, please confirm whether Annex A constitutes the complete set of general contractual terms applicable to this procurement, including provisions relating to liability, indemnities, insurance, warranties, termination, dispute resolution, confidentiality and data protection.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commission’s Model Contract (included in the RFP package – see also art. 8 of the Instructions); • Annex A - The Commission’s General Conditions of Contract (available at the link above); • Annex B - The Commission’s Terms of Reference (included in the RFP package); • Annex C – Contractor’s Proposal.
6	<p>[...] Could the Commission please advise whether an extension of the submission deadline is being considered and, if so, provide details of the revised timetable?</p>	<p>The deadline is extended from 18 June to 30 June 2026, 17:00 CEST (Vienna local time).</p>
7	<p>[...] Would a consortium or joint venture be considered eligible where lead consortium member is established in a CTBT Signatory State and is responsible for providing the goods/services under the contract, while another consortium member is established in a non-signatory state?</p>	<p>No, in case of a consortium, all members shall be established in a CTBT State Signatory. Moreover, as per Instructions, art. 7, all sub-contractors shall be legally established in one of the CTBT States Signatories.</p>
8	<p>[...] How much of the total work is expected to be done from the commission’s office? Can bidders work/deploy, conduct training sessions and presentations remotely?</p>	<p>Please refer to the Terms of Reference, section VII.3 “Work Environment”.</p>
9	<p>In Section V.2.5.16 of the Terms of Reference, the requirement specifies:</p> <p>"A minimum of one (1) year of demonstrated experience over the past five (5) years in developing geospatial/digital mapping applications."</p> <p>Could the Commission please clarify whether prior experience specifically within the CTBTO DOTS ecosystem is required for this role, or whether experience gained on comparable geospatial</p>	<p>Prior experience within the CTBTO DOTS ecosystem is not required.</p> <p>OpenLayers is listed as an asset in the evaluation criteria (Terms of Reference, section V.2.5.16).</p>

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	<p>visualization, digital mapping, and web mapping projects in other organizations and platforms will be considered acceptable and equivalent for demonstrating compliance with this requirement?</p> <p>Additionally, would experience with industry-standard web mapping technologies and frameworks (e.g., OpenLayers, Leaflet, ArcGIS, MapLibre, Cesium, or similar) be considered relevant evidence of the required experience?</p>	
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