

**B-Brussels: feasibility study on the interconnection of south and eastern African research networks to GÉANT**  
**2008/S 48-065628**

**Contract notice**

**Services**

**Section I: Contracting authority**

**I.1) Name, addresses and contact point(s):**

European Commission, Directorate-General Information Society and Media, Directorate F — Emerging Technologies and Infrastructures, Unit F3, attn: Marina Royer-Toupitsyna, Carlos Morais-Pires, avenue du Bourget 1–3, B-1140 Bruxelles/Brussel. Contact: Mr Mario Campolargo. Tel. (32-2) 293 64 79. Fax (32-2) 299 31 27. E-mail: [INFSO-RI-STUDY-AFRICA@ec.europa.eu](mailto:INFSO-RI-STUDY-AFRICA@ec.europa.eu).

**Internet address(es):**

General address of the contracting authority: [http://ec.europa.eu/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/index_en.htm).

Address of the buyer profile: [http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/e-infrastructure/calls\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/e-infrastructure/calls_en.html).

**Further information can be obtained from:**

European Commission, Directorate-General Information Society and Media, Directorate F — Emerging Technologies and Infrastructures, Unit F3, attn: Ms Marina Royer-Toupitsyna, Mr Carlos Morais-Pires, avenue du Bourget 1–3, B-1140 Bruxelles/Brussel. Contact: Unit F3. Fax (32-2) 299 31 27. E-mail: [INFSO-RI-STUDY-AFRICA@ec.europa.eu](mailto:INFSO-RI-STUDY-AFRICA@ec.europa.eu). URL: [http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/e-infrastructure/home\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/e-infrastructure/home_en.html).

**Specifications and additional documents (including documents for competitive dialogue and a dynamic purchasing system) can be obtained from:**

European Commission, Directorate-General Information Society and Media, Directorate F — Emerging Technologies and Infrastructures, Unit F3 — BU25 04/087, attn: Ms Marina Royer-Toupitsyna, Mr Carlos Morais-Pires, avenue du Bourget 1–3, B-1140 Bruxelles/Brussel. Contact: Unit F3. Fax (32-2) 299 31 27. E-mail: [INFSO-RI-STUDY-AFRICA@ec.europa.eu](mailto:INFSO-RI-STUDY-AFRICA@ec.europa.eu). URL: [http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/e-infrastructure/home\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/e-infrastructure/home_en.html).

**Tenders or requests to participate must be sent to:**

the above-mentioned contact point(s).

**I.2) Type of the contracting authority and main activity or activities:**

European institution/agency or international organisation.

Information society.

The contracting authority is purchasing on behalf of other contracting authorities: no.

**Section II: Object of the contract**

**II.1) Description**

**II.1.1) Title attributed to the contract by the contracting authority:**

Feasibility study on the interconnection of south and eastern African research networks to GÉANT.

**II.1.2) Type of contract and location of works, place of delivery or of performance:**

Services.

Service category No 10.

Main place of performance:

B-Bruxelles/Brussel.  
NUTS code: BE10.

II.1.3) **The notice involves:**

A public contract.

II.1.5) **Short description of the contract or purchase(s):**

The feasibility study should examine the viability of establishing a regional research network infrastructure among southern and eastern African National Research and Education Networks (NRENs) and provide recommendations to the European Commission on the deployment of such regional network and its interconnection to GÉANT. In order to reach this goal, the study will investigate key elements for its feasibility like the associated costs, the time frame required for establishing a regional network, and will identify the best scenarios for the deployment. An important aspect of the study will be to deliver a roadmap for deployment and to increase awareness and capability for wider African participation.

II.1.6) **Common procurement vocabulary (CPV):**

74131500.

II.1.7) **Contract covered by the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA):**

Yes.

II.1.8) **Division into lots:**

No.

II.1.9) **Variants will be accepted:**

No.

II.2) **Quantity or scope of the contract**

II.2.1) **Total quantity or scope:**

One study covering all Member States and other countries concerned. Maximum amount EUR 450 000.

II.2.2) **Options:**

No.

II.3) **Duration of the contract or time-limit for completion:**

Duration: 10 months from the award of the contract.

**Section III: Legal, economic, financial and technical information**

III.1) **Conditions relating to the contract**

III.1.1) **Deposits and guarantees required:**

Depending on the financial solidity of the candidate, payment of the pre-financing may be made conditional upon the furnishing by the contractor of a financial guarantee.

In any case, a financial guarantee shall be required for the payment of pre-financing exceeding EUR 150 000. The guarantee shall be supplied by a bank or an authorised financial institution. The guarantee shall be denominated in euro. The guarantee shall be released as and when the pre-financing is deducted from interim payment or payment of balances to the contractor in accordance with the terms of contract.

III.1.2) **Main financing conditions and payment arrangements and/or reference to the relevant provisions regulating them:**

Payments under the contract shall be made in accordance with Articles I.4 and II.4 of the model service contract. Payments shall be executed only if the contractor has fulfilled all his contractual obligations by the date on which the invoice is submitted.

Payment requests may not be made if payments for previous periods have not been executed as a result of default or negligence on the part of the contractor.

**III.1.3) Legal form to be taken by the group of economic operators to whom the contract is to be awarded:**

A candidate may consider submitting a tender as a single entity or decide to collaborate with other service providers to present a bid: either by submitting a joint offer or through subcontracting. Offers may also combine both approaches.

Different ways to submit an offer:

Please pay particular attention to options 1 to 4 below, which describe the different ways of submitting an offer and make sure that all documents and proof required with regard to your offer are available.

Option 1: submission by 1 tenderer: private/public entities/individual.

Option 2: submission by partners as defined below. One must be designated as lead partner/contractor.

Option 3: submission by 1 tenderer with subcontractors as defined below.

Option 4: submission by partners (1 must be designated as lead contractor) with subcontractors as defined below.

Joint offers and subcontracting:

Joint offers:

In case of a joint offer submitted by a group of candidates, these latter will be regarded as partners. If awarded the contract, they will have an equal standing towards the contracting authority in the execution of the contract.

The partnership may take the form of:

a) a new legal entity which will sign the contract with the Commission in case of award; or

b) a group of partners not constituting a new legal entity, who via a power of attorney (Annex 5), signed by an authorised representative of each partner, designate 1 of the partners as lead partner, and mandate him as lead contractor to sign the contract with the Commission in case of award.

In both cases, all partners shall be considered as tenderers and shall assume joint and several liability towards the European Commission for the performance of the contract.

Subcontracting:

Subcontracting is a situation where a contract is to be established between the Commission and a service provider and where this service provider, in order to carry out the contract, enters into legal commitments with other legal entities for performing part of the tasks foreseen in the contract.

The candidate submitting the offer, if awarded the contract, shall become the sole contractor and shall assume full liability toward the European Commission for the performance of the contract as a whole. The other service providers will be regarded as subcontractors.

Subcontracting is subject to the provisions of Article II.13 of the model contract.

Identification of the candidate — list of forms and evidences required:

Options 1/2/3/4: documents to be provided by the single candidate or lead partner:

Annex 1: administrative identification form (filled in and signed by an authorised representative).

Annex 2: legal entities form (filled in, signed by an authorised representative, and supported by relevant evidences according to the entity concerned, i.e. private/public/individual). A standard template in each EU language is available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/budget/execution/legal\\_entities\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/budget/execution/legal_entities_en.htm).

Annex 3: financial identification form (filled in and signed by an authorised representative of the tenderer and his banker). A standard template in each EU language is available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/budget/execution/ftiers\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/budget/execution/ftiers_en.htm).

Annex 4: exclusion criteria form (filled in and signed by an authorised representative).

Legible copy of the statutes of the company (for public/private entities).

Legible copy of an official document indicating the name of the authorised representatives empowered to sign contracts on behalf of the candidate.

Options 2 and 4: documents to be provided by each partner:

Annex 1: administrative identification form (filled in and signed by an authorised representative).  
Annex 2: legal entities form (filled in, signed by an authorised representative, and supported by relevant evidences according to the entity concerned, i.e. private/public/individual). A standard template in each EU language is available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/budget/execution/legal\\_entities\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/budget/execution/legal_entities_en.htm).

Annex 4: exclusion criteria form (filled in and signed by an authorised representative).

Annex 5: power of attorney (filled in and signed by an authorised representative of each partner).

Legible copy of the statutes of the company (for public/private entities).

Legible copy of an official document indicating the name of the authorised representatives empowered to sign contracts on behalf of the candidate.

Options 3 and 4: documents to be provided by each subcontractor (if the subcontractor is an individual external expert not part of the candidate's staff, he will have to provide only the letter of intent in Annex 6):

Annex 1: administrative identification form (filled in and signed by an authorised representative).

Annex 4: exclusion criteria form (filled in and signed by an authorised representative).

Annex 6: letter of intent from each subcontractor (signed by an authorised representative) or external expert to confirm their willingness and availability to perform the tasks.

Candidates wishing to participate must provide information by requesting in writing, and completing, the DG INFSO's standard forms (Annexes 1–6) from the address in point I.1 (the address from which specifications and additional documents can be obtained).

**III.1.4) Other particular conditions to which the performance of the contract is subject:**

No.

**III.2) Conditions for participation**

**III.2.1) Personal situation of economic operators, including requirements relating to enrolment on professional or trade registers:**

Information and formalities necessary for evaluating if requirements are met:

The candidate must provide evidence of enrolment (declaration or certificates) in 1 of the professional or trade registers, in the country of establishment.

Exclusion criteria/grounds for exclusion of tenderers:

1. Pursuant to Article 45(2) of Council Directive 2004/18/EC and to Article 93(1) of the Financial Regulation, the Commission will exclude tenderers from participation in the procurement procedure if:

(a) they are bankrupt or being wound up, are having their affairs administered by the courts, have entered into an arrangement with creditors, have suspended business activities, are the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or are in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;

(b) they have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgement which has the force of 'res judicata';

(c) they have been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the contracting authority can justify;

(d) they have not fulfilled obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which they are established or with those of the country of the contracting authority or those of the country where the contract is to be performed;

(e) they have been the subject of a judgement which has the force of 'res judicata' for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation or any other illegal activity detrimental to the Communities' financial interests;

(f) they are currently subject to an administrative penalty referred to in Article 96(1) of the Financial Regulation.

Points (a) to (d) of the first subparagraph shall not apply in the case of purchase of supplies on particularly advantageous terms from either a supplier which is definitively winding up its business activities, or from the receivers or liquidators of a bankruptcy, through an arrangement with creditors, or through a similar procedure under national law.

For the purpose of the correct application of the above paragraph, the candidate or tenderer, whenever requested by the contracting authority, must:

- a) where the candidate or tenderer is a legal entity, provide information on the ownership or on the management, control and power of representation of the legal entity;
- b) where subcontracting is envisaged, certify that the subcontractor is not in any of the situations referred to in paragraph 1 of Article 93 of the Financial Regulation.

2. Pursuant to Article 45(2) of Council Directive 2004/18/EC and Article 94 of the Financial Regulation, a contract shall not be awarded to candidates or tenderers who, during the procurement procedure for this contract:

- (a) are subject to a conflict of interest;
- (b) are guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the contracting authority as a condition of participation in the procurement procedure or fail to supply this information;
- (c) find themselves in any of the situations of exclusion, referred to in Article 93(1) of the Financial Regulation, for this procurement procedure.

3. Tenderers — including subcontractors if any — shall provide a declaration on their honour (see Annex 4), duly signed and dated, stating that they are not in any of the situations referred to in Article 93(1) or 94 of the Financial Regulation. The tenderers must undertake to inform the Commission, without delay, of any changes with regard to these situations after the date of submission of the tender.

4. In addition, for contracts of a value higher than EUR 133 000, only the tenderer to whom the contract is to be awarded shall confirm the declaration by providing, within a time-limit defined by the contracting authority and preceding the signature of the contract, the following evidences (if the tender is proposed by partners, these evidences must be submitted by each partner):

1) The contracting authority shall accept as satisfactory evidence that the candidate or tenderer to whom the contract is to be awarded is not in any of the situations described in point (a), (b) or (e) of Article 93(1) of the Financial Regulation, a recent extract from the judicial record or, failing that, an equivalent document, issued less than 12 months before the date of the letter informing of the contract award by a judicial or administrative authority in the country of origin or provenance showing that those requirements are satisfied. The contracting authority shall accept, as satisfactory evidence that the candidate or tenderer is not in the situation described in point (d) of Article 93(1) of the Financial Regulation, a certificate by the competent authority of the State concerned, issued less than 12 months before the date of the letter informing of the contract award.

2) Where the document or certificate referred to in the first subparagraph is not issued in the country concerned and for the other cases of exclusion referred to in Article 93(1) of the Financial Regulation, it may be replaced by a sworn or, failing that, a solemn statement made by the interested party before a judicial or administrative authority, a notary or a qualified professional body in his country of origin or provenance.

Depending on the national legislation of the country in which the tenderer is established, the documents referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 shall relate to legal persons and/or natural persons including, where considered necessary by the contracting authority, company directors or any person with powers of representation, decision-making or control in relation to the candidate or tenderer.

In case of doubt on the declaration on the honour provided by the subcontractor(s) in accordance with the indications of point 5.1.3 above, the contracting authority shall request the evidence referred to in points 1 and 2 above from the subcontractor(s).

5. Administrative and financial penalties:

5.1. By returning the form in Annex 4, duly signed, tenderers confirm that they have been notified of the following points:

Each institution has a central database containing information on tenderers who have been in any of the situations described under III.2.1.1 and III.2.1.2 above. The sole purpose of this database is to ensure, in compliance with Community rules on the processing of personal data, that the above-mentioned cases of exclusion are applied correctly. Each institution has access to the databases of the other institutions.

5.2. In accordance with Article 96 of the Financial Regulation the contracting authority may impose administrative or financial penalties on the following:

- (a) candidates or tenderers in the cases referred to in point (b) of Article 94 of the Financial Regulation;
- (b) contractors who have been declared to be in serious breach of their obligations under contracts covered by the budget.

In all cases, however, the contracting authority must first give the person concerned an opportunity to present his observations.

5.3. The penalties referred to in paragraph 5.2 shall be proportionate to the importance of the contract and the seriousness of the misconduct, and may consist of:

- (a) exclusion of the candidate or tenderer or contractor from the contracts and grants financed by the Community budget for a maximum period of 10 years; and/or
- (b) the payment of financial penalties by the candidate or tenderer or contractor up to the value of the contract in question.

5.4. In accordance with Article 133 of the Regulation laying down the rules for the implementation of the Financial Regulation, the cases referred to in point (e) of III.2.1.1 above shall be the following:

- (a) cases of fraud as referred to in Article 1 of the Convention on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests drawn up by Council Act of 26.7.1995 (OJ C 316, 27.11.1995, p. 48);
- (b) cases of corruption as referred to in Article 3 of the Convention on the fight against corruption involving officials of the European Communities or officials of Member States of the European Union, drawn up by the Council Act of 26.5.1997 (OJ C 195, 25.6.1997, p. 1);
- (c) cases of involvement in a criminal organisation, as defined in Article 2(1) of Joint Action 98/733/JHA of the Council (OJ L 351, 29.12.1998, p. 1);
- (d) cases of money laundering as defined in Article 1 of Council Directive 91/308/EEC (OJ L 166 of 28.6.1991, p. 77).

5.5. Pursuant to Article 133a of the Regulation laying down the rules for the implementation of the Financial Regulation, in order to determine duration of exclusion and to ensure compliance with the principle of proportionality, the institution responsible shall take into account in particular the seriousness of the facts, including their impact on the Communities' financial interests and image and the time which has elapsed, the duration and recurrence of the offence, the intention or degree of negligence of the entity concerned and the measures taken by the entity concerned to remedy the situation.

When determining the period of exclusion, the institution responsible shall give the candidate or tenderer concerned the opportunity to express their views.

Where the duration of the period of exclusion is determined, in accordance with the applicable law, by the authorities or bodies referred to in Article 95(2) of the Financial Regulation, the Commission shall apply this duration up to the maximum duration laid down in Article 93(3) of the Financial Regulation.

5.6. The period referred to in Article 93(3) of the Financial Regulation is set at a maximum of 5 years, calculated from the following dates:

(a) from the date of the judgment having the force of 'res judicata' in the cases referred to in points (b) and (e) of Article 93(1) of the Financial Regulation;

(b) from the date on which the infringement is committed or, in the case of continuing or repeated infringements, the date on which the infringement ceases, in the cases referred to in Article 93(1)(c) of the Financial Regulation.

That period of exclusion may be extended to 10 years in the event of a repeated offence within 5 years of the date referred to in points (a) and (b), subject to paragraph 5.5.

5.7. Candidates and tenderers shall be excluded from a procurement and grant procedure as long as they are in any of the situations referred to in points (a) and (d) of Article 93(1) of the Financial Regulation.

5.8. Pursuant to Article 134b of the Regulation laying down the rules for the implementation of the Financial Regulation, without prejudice to the application of penalties laid down in the contract, candidates or tenderers and contractors who have made false declarations, have made substantial errors or committed irregularities or fraud, or have been found in serious breach of their contractual obligations may be excluded from all contracts and grants financed by the Community budget for a maximum of 5 years from the date on which the infringement is established as confirmed following an adversarial procedure with the contractor.

That period may be extended to 10 years in the event of a repeated offence within 5 years of the date referred to in the first subparagraph.

5.9. Tenderers or candidates who have made false declarations, have committed substantial errors, irregularities or fraud, may also be subject to financial penalties representing 2 % to 10 % of the total estimated value of the contract being awarded.

Contractors who have been found in serious breach of their contractual obligations may be subject to financial penalties representing 2 % to 10 % of the total value of the contract in question.

That rate may be increased to 4 % to 20 % in the event of a repeat infringement within 5 years of the date referred to in the first subparagraph of paragraph 8.

The institution shall determine the administrative or financial penalties taking into account in particular the elements referred to in Article 133a(1) of the Regulation laying down the rules for the implementation of the Financial Regulation.

### III.2.2) **Economic and financial capacity:**

Information and formalities necessary for evaluating if requirements are met:

Financial and economic capacity:

Proof of financial and economic standing shall be furnished by 1 or more of the following references:

— annual accounts, balance sheet or extracts therefrom where publication of the balance sheet is required under company law in the country of establishment,

— statement of the undertaking's overall turnover and its turnover in respect of the services to which the contract relates for the previous 3 financial years.

If, for some exceptional reason which the Commission considers justified, a candidate is unable to provide 1 or other of the above documents, he or she may prove his or her economic and financial capacity by any other document which the Commission considers appropriate. In any case, the Commission must at least be notified of the exceptional reason and its justification in the request to participate. The Commission reserves the right to request any other document enabling it to verify the candidate's economic and financial capacity. If the request is submitted by partners, the selection criteria for economic and financial capacity of all members of the consortium will be assessed as a whole.

Documentary evidence of the candidate's claims in respect of the criteria mentioned below is required. The request should also contain any other document that the candidate(s) wish(es) to include by way of clarification.

Minimum level(s) of standards possibly required:

III.2.3) **Technical capacity:**

Information and formalities necessary for evaluating if requirements are met:

All service providers must provide evidence of the relevant technical background of the candidate to cover the following aspects:

1. Relevant expertise of the candidate and other applicants, including subcontractors, in the specific area of research networks, with regard to aspects like:
  - 1) designing;
  - 2) tendering for;
  - 3) operating and managing national and/or multinational research and education networks; or
  - 4) running studies related to the launch of regional research and education networks in developing countries.
2. Experience and credibility of proposed team: concise but informative curricula vitae of key professional team members, showing relevant experience in the specific domain of this study as described above, must be included with the request to participate.
3. Technical knowledge and experience in the specific fields identified in the study objectives, comprising organisational and technological aspects of establishing and running regional research network infrastructures, survey management, data collection and analysis, and international events organisation.
4. Management capability: documentary evidence of the candidates' claims in respect of the above-mentioned criteria is required by way of lists of R&D relevant projects and services provided during the last 8 years with amounts, dates and names of beneficiaries.

Documentary evidence of the candidate's claims in respect of all aspects mentioned below (as described in subpoints 1–4 above) is required.

If the request is submitted by partners, the technical capacity (as described in subpoints 1–4 above) of all members of the consortium will be assessed as a whole. The request should also contain any other document that the candidate(s) wish(es) to include by way of clarification.

Minimum level(s) of standards possibly required:

1. For criterion 1, the candidates who do not demonstrate the requested expertise with respect to at least 2 aspects of the 4 mentioned above, will not be selected.

III.2.4) **Reserved contracts:**

No.

III.3) **Conditions specific to services contracts**

III.3.1) **Execution of the service is reserved to a particular profession:**

No.

III.3.2) **Legal entities should indicate the names and professional qualifications of the staff responsible for the execution of the service:**

Yes.

**Section IV: Procedure**

IV.1) **Type of procedure**

IV.1.1) **Type of procedure:**

Restricted.

IV.1.2) **Limitations on the number of operators who will be invited to tender or to participate:**

Envisaged minimum number: 5.

IV.2) **Award criteria**

IV.2.1) **Award criteria:**



The most economically advantageous tender in terms of the criteria stated in the specifications, in the invitation to tender or to negotiate or in the descriptive document.

IV.2.2) **An electronic auction will be used:**

No.

IV.3) **Administrative information**

IV.3.1) **File reference number attributed by the contracting authority:**

SMART No 2006/0076, CPP 40A.

IV.3.2) **Previous publication(s) concerning the same contract:**

Prior information notice number in OJ: [2007/S 58-70772](#) of 23.3.2007.

Other previous publications:

Notice number in OJ: [2006/S 45-46795](#) of 7.3.2006.

IV.3.3) **Conditions for obtaining specifications and additional documents or descriptive document:**

Time-limit for receipt of requests for documents or for accessing documents: 8.4.2008 (12:00).

Payable documents: no.

IV.3.4) **Time-limit for receipt of tenders or requests to participate:**

14.4.2008 (16:00).

IV.3.6) **Language(s) in which tenders or requests to participate may be drawn up:**

Bulgarian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Irish, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Maltese, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovak, Slovenian, Spanish and Swedish.

**Section VI: Complementary information**

VI.1) **This is a recurrent procurement:**

No.

VI.2) **Contract related to a project and/or programme financed by EU funds:**

No.

VI.3) **Additional information:**

1) If you are interested you are requested to submit your request to participate, either by:

(a) registered post or by private courier services. In this case the post office stamp or the date on the slip issued by the courier service will constitute proof of compliance with the deadline given above. The offer must be sent to the postal address indicated in I.1;

(b) or hand-delivery, by 16:00 hours of the date mentioned in IV.3.4 at the latest, to the address indicated in I.1. In this case, in order to establish proof of the date of deposit, the depositor will receive, from an official in the above-mentioned service, a receipt which will be signed, dated and time stamped. Please note that in this case it is the date and time of reception at the Commission services that will count, not the actual date in which it was dispatched.

Late delivery will lead to the exclusion from the selection procedure for this contract.

2) Presentation of the request to participate:

The request to participate (consisting of 1 original and 2 copies) should be enclosed in 2 envelopes, both of which should be sealed. If self-adhesive envelopes are used, they should be further sealed with adhesive tape, upon which the depositor's signature must appear.

The outer envelope should bear, in addition to the address of the above-mentioned Archive Department, the following mention:

'REQUEST TO PARTICIPATE CPP N° 40A-2007'

'NOT TO BE OPENED BY THE MESSENGER/COURIER SERVICE'

'NOT TO BE OPENED BY THE OPENING COMMITTEE BEFORE (insert date)'

The inner envelope should also bear the following mention:

'REQUEST TO PARTICIPATE CPP N° 40A-2007'

'NOT TO BE OPENED BY THE MESSENGER/COURIER SERVICE'

'NOT TO BE OPENED BY THE OPENING COMMITTEE BEFORE (insert date)'

'Full name of the candidate/company'

Non-respect of the above presentation requirements may lead to the exclusion from the award procedure for this contract.

3) Signature of the request to participate:

The request to participate must be signed by the candidate's authorised representative or representatives (preferably in blue ink).

4) The attention of interested parties is drawn to the aim of this notice, i.e. to select candidates who will receive the specifications and be invited to tender. They are therefore requested to submit the information listed in point III.1 and III.2.

There is no charge for taking part in this contract procedure. The specifications will, therefore, be sent free of charge to those candidates invited to tender. Likewise, the act of tendering does not give candidates the right either to be awarded the contract or to receive any compensation for costs incurred.

The contracting authority is under no obligation to award a contract subsequent to this notice. The award of the contract will be in any case subject to the adoption of the relevant financing decision by the Commission.

This is a restricted invitation to tender. No further documents, except those indicated in III.1.3 (standard forms in Annexes 1–6) can be obtained at this stage. The tender specifications will be sent to shortlisted candidates only.

#### VI.4) **Procedures for appeal**

##### VI.4.1) **Body responsible for appeal procedures:**

Court of First Instance of the European Communities, boulevard Konrad Adenauer, L-2925 Luxembourg. Tel. (352) 43 03-1. Fax (352) 43 37 66. E-mail: [CFI.Registry@curia.europa.eu](mailto:CFI.Registry@curia.europa.eu). URL: <http://curia.europa.eu>.

##### **Body responsible for mediation procedures:**

The European Ombudsman, 1, avenue du Président Robert Schuman, F-67001 Strasbourg Cedex. E-mail: [euro-ombudsman@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:euro-ombudsman@europarl.europa.eu). URL: <http://www.ombudsman.europa.eu>.

##### VI.4.2) **Lodging of appeals:**

Precise information on deadline(s) for lodging appeals: Within 2 months of the notification to the plaintiff, or, in absence thereof, of the day on which it came to the knowledge. A complaint to the European Ombudsman does not have as an effect either to suspend this period or to open a new period for lodging appeals.

##### VI.4.3) **Service from which information about the lodging of appeals may be obtained:**

European Commission, Directorate-General Information Society and Media, Directorate F — Emerging technologies and Infrastructures, Unit F3, avenue du Bourget 1–3, B-1140 Bruxelles/Brussel. Fax (32-2) 299 31 27. E-mail: [INFSO-RI-STUDY-AFRICA@ec.europa.eu](mailto:INFSO-RI-STUDY-AFRICA@ec.europa.eu). URL: [http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/e-infrastructure/home\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/e-infrastructure/home_en.html).

##### VI.5) **Date of dispatch of this notice:**

26.2.2008.