

INVITATION TO TENDER

International Open Procedure

Rental of tactical UAS, convertible fixed-wing/VTOL aircraft, intended for the training of crews of the Armed Forces of Benin

N° EPF-2024-54_AO8

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. Description of the contract

DCI, an implementing actor of the European Union, has been designated by the EU Council (Council Decision 2024/1980) to implement an assistance measure for the benefit of the Jordan Armed Forces under the European Peace Facility.

Within this framework, the purpose of this contract is **the rental of tactical UAS, convertible fixed-wing/VTOL aircraft, intended for the training of crews of the Armed Forces of Benin.**

2. Number and titles of the lots

The contract consists of **one (1) single lot : Rental of tactical UAS, convertible fixed-wing/VTOL aircraft, intended for the training of crews of the Armed Forces of Benin**

CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

3. Eligibility and origin rules

The following entities cannot participate in the tendering process or be awarded the contract:

- a. Entities in bankruptcy, liquidation, judicial settlement, cessation of activities, or any analogous situation resulting from similar procedures in national laws and regulations;
- b. Entities subject to bankruptcy, liquidation, judicial settlement, or any other similar procedure existing in national laws and regulations;
- c. Entities convicted by a final judgment (i.e., with no further possibility of appeal) for any crime affecting their professional integrity;
- d. Entities that have committed serious professional misconduct;
- e. Entities that have not fulfilled their obligations regarding social security contributions according to the legal provisions of their country of establishment;

- f. Entities that have not fulfilled their obligations regarding the payment of taxes and duties according to the legal provisions of their country of establishment;
- g. Entities found guilty of providing false declarations when submitting the required information for participation in a DCI contract;
- h. Shell companies created to conceal financial transactions and/or launder money from one or more other companies;
- i. Entities that have been found in serious breach of execution under another contract concluded with DCI due to failure to meet contractual obligations;
- j. Entities found guilty by final judgment of any of the following offenses:
 - i. Fraud, as defined in Article 3 of Directive (EU) 2017/1371;
 - ii. Corruption, as defined in Article 4, Paragraph 2 of Directive (EU) 2017/1371;
 - iii. Criminal organization activities as per Article 2 of Council Framework Decision 2008/841/JHA;
 - iv. Money laundering or terrorism financing under Article 1, Paragraphs 3, 4, and 5 of Directive (EU) 2015/849;
 - v. Terrorist offenses or related activities as defined in Articles 1 and 3 of Council Framework Decision 2002/475/JHA;
 - vi. Child labor or human trafficking as per Article 2 of Directive 2011/36/EU.
- k. Entities that have been definitively convicted of one of the offenses listed in Articles 222-34 to 222-40, 225-4-1, 225-4-7, 313-1, 313-3, 314-1, 324-1, 324-5, 324-6, 421-1 to 421-2-4, 421-5, 432-10, 432-11, 432-12 to 432-16, 433-1, 433-2, 434-9, 434-9-1, 435-3, 435-4, 435-9, 435-10, 441-1 to 441-7, 441-9, 445-1 to 445-2-1, or 450-1 of the Penal Code, or Articles 1741 to 1743, 1746, or 1747 of the General Tax Code, or for the concealment of such offenses, as well as equivalent offenses under the laws of another EU Member State. A final conviction for one of these offenses or for concealing one of these offenses by a member of the management, administrative, executive, or supervisory body, or a person holding the power of representation, decision, or control of a legal entity, results in the exclusion of that legal entity from the procurement procedure as long as the individual holds these functions.
- l. Entities that have not submitted the required tax or social declarations or have not paid due taxes, duties, contributions, or social security contributions in the concerned country.
- m. Entities sanctioned for violating obligations under Articles L. 8221-1, L. 8221-3, L. 8221-5, L. 8231-1, L. 8241-1, L. 8251-1, and L. 8251-2 of the Labor Code, or convicted under Article L. 1146-1 of the same code or Article 225-1 of the Penal Code.

Point (a) does not apply in cases of purchasing supplies at particularly advantageous conditions, either from a supplier ceasing its commercial activities or through liquidators in an insolvency procedure, under judicial settlement, or similar legal procedures in national law.

DCI excludes companies where key persons (administrators, directors, controllers, or representatives) are in any of the above-listed situations:

- When a person who is a member of the administrative, managerial, or supervisory body of the entity, or who has powers of representation, decision, or control over that entity, is in one of the situations listed in points (c) to (i).
- When a person who is indefinitely liable for the debts of the entity is in one of the situations listed in points (a) or (b).
- When a person essential for awarding or executing the legal commitment is in one of the situations listed in points (c) to (i).

Tenderers must sign a declaration of honor affirming they are not in any of the aforementioned

categories.

Entities based in countries under European Union sanctions are also excluded from participation.

The products and services presented in this call for tenders fully comply with Common Position 2008/944/EC if the supplies offered in the bid include equipment listed on the EU's Common Military List, available at the following link:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/C/2025/1499/oj/eng>.

Equipment listed on this list must **come exclusively from one of the following eligible countries**, and can **only be supplied by a supplier or subcontractor holding the nationality of one of the following eligible countries**:

1. Always Eligible Countries: The 27 EU Member States, International Organizations, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Kosovo, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, and Ukraine.
2. May Also Be Eligible Countries: Chile, Mexico, Aruba, Canada, Hong Kong, Israel, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Switzerland, Taiwan, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
3. For all other countries not listed above: Any deviation from this list is prohibited, except for special exemptions granted by the DCI and the European authority.

4. Admissibility conditions

To be considered valid, bids must be completed as requested in the consultation regulations.

5. Possibility of subcontracting

Subcontracting is permitted, provided each subcontractor is approved by DCI as detailed in the consultation regulations.

6. Validity of bids

Bids must remain valid for a period of **ninety (90) days** from the submission deadline.

7. Estimated contract start date

Estimated start of execution: **April 2026**.

8. Implementation period

The contract will be implemented upon notification and the obtaining of any necessary export licenses, and **must absolutely guarantee**:

- **Delivery of equipment no later than September 30, 2026.**

SELECTION AND AWARD CRITERIA

9. Selection criteria

Candidates will be selected based on their professional, technical, and financial capacities for **rental of tactical UAS, convertible fixed-wing/VTOL aircraft, intended for the training of crews of the Armed Forces of Benin.**

10. Award criteria

The award criteria are detailed in the consultation regulations.
Once DCI has selected the best bid, it will notify the bidders of the result:

- The runner-up bidder will be designated as a backup in case the selected bidder withdraws or fails to finalize the contract;
- Non-selected bidders will be notified of their rejection.

SUBMITTING A BID

11. How to obtain the tender documentation?

The contractor must send a signed confidentiality agreement to the following email address: ma-ue.achats@groupepci.com.

Access to the consultation documentation is subject to the receipt of this signed confidentiality agreement.

The tender documentation will be accessible **from February 13, 2026**, via an online tool once the confidentiality agreement is received by DCI. Any questions regarding the tender must be submitted via the online platform **no later than March 6, 2026 at 12:00 PM**. DCI will respond **by March 10, 2026**.

DCI may modify the schedule if necessary and will notify candidates via the online platform.

12 Bid submission deadline

The deadline for bid submission is **March 16, 2026, at 12:00 PM (Paris time)**.

Any bid received after this deadline will not be considered.