



Broadcast Control System (BCS)

NRK 2023-1264

TENDER PROVISIONS – NEGOTIATED PROCEDURE

Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation Ltd. (NRK)

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1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 About NRK

Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation Ltd., subsequently named NRK, invites interested contenders to request for participation in a restricted negotiated procedure for the delivery of a Broadcast Control System (BCS) system (hereinafter referred to as “Solution”).

NRK - Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation - is the public service broadcaster in Norway. The objective of public service broadcasting is to provide the entire population with access to a broad range of content. The Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation (NRK) offers the Norwegian public a wide range of content with three national TV-channels, 14 national radio-channels and the website nrk.no. Around 3 400 employees situated in around 50 departments throughout Norway work for NRK. The main office is located at Marienlyst, Oslo.

NRK deliver reliable and unbiased news, information, and documentaries; NRK offer entertainment, sport and other mainstream content; a wide range of programs based on quality, relevance and credibility. NRK has an important objective around analysing and decoding the news, not least through discussion and debate. Decentralising NRK is crucial in order to represent Norwegian society in content production. NRK has 10 regional offices across the country including three large production centres in Tromsø, Trondheim and Bergen, who hold responsibility for key genre areas such as science, belief, and nature. The regional offices deliver daily regional content on radio, television and online, ensuring a central core of NRK's network output is made in different parts of the country. As well as news and coverage of current affairs, this crucially also applies to content for children, belief, entertainment, and stories about everyday life. This gives a wider range of colour to programmes, strengthening the representation of children and adults throughout the country. NRK reflects the geographical diversity of Norway, provides a range of local programs, and maintains a local presence.

For more information, please visit www.nrk.no/about.

NRKs distriktsdivisjon og NRK Sápmi

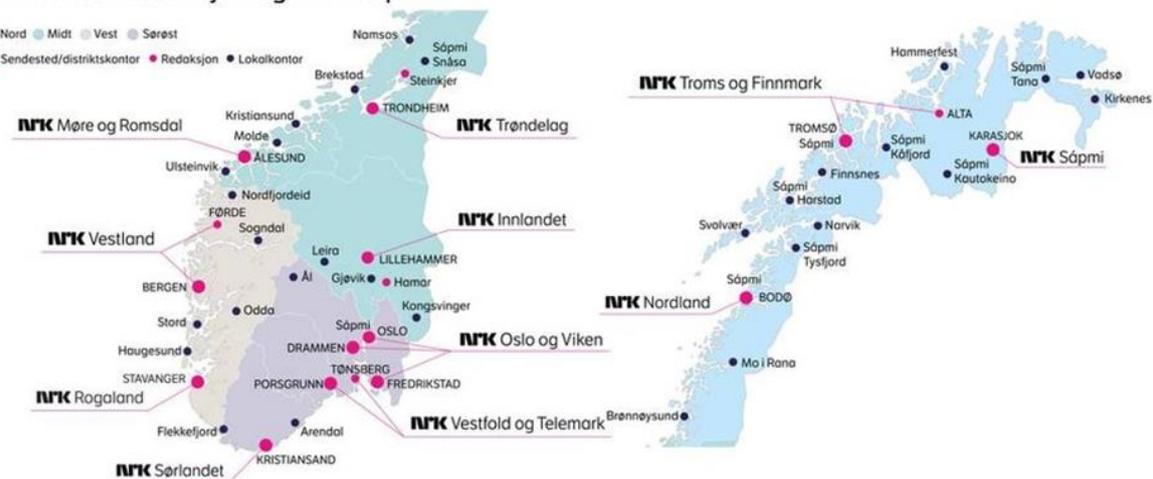


Figure 1 - Overview of NRK locations

1.2 Tender purpose

NRK is currently in the process of performing a business transformation from SDI and AES3 broadcast technologies to native AV over IP services (AVoIP). The AVoIP model will form the standard model for real-time broadcast activities at all sites.

This business transformation is being co-ordinated by a company-wide programme, referred to as MPP – Modernisation of the Production Platform (MPP) as described in chapter 3 below. In addition to the transformation to AVoIP, the MPP programme aims to centralise production processing resources in external datacentres, and to lay the groundwork for integrating public cloud services into broadcast workflows.

Tender Provisions

The transformation was initiated by the decision to establish new headquarters in Oslo at Ensjø, due to outdated facilities at the current Oslo location at Marienlyst. In addition, several large projects have been added to the programme, including establishing a new WAN, and moving NRK's second largest facility in Trondheim to a new premises, making this the largest undertaking in NRK's history.

1.3 Tender scope

NRK conducted a market dialogue (RFI process) with potential BCS suppliers in the period June-September 2023, which has provided valuable insight and knowledge in shaping this tender process. The objective of this RFP and the subsequent dialogue is to provide NRK with a Broadcast Control System (BCS) which is capable of meeting NRK's long-term strategic goals.

The BCS is a central component in a broadcast production platform. It is important to NRK to find both the right product and a long-term partner, with a product roadmap that aligns to the whole scope outlined as part of SSA-T Appendix 1. The BCS specification communicates the following NRK requirements to inform an RFP process:

- A vendor partner to supply, evolve and support a BCS product
- Specific foundational functionality for the first release of the NRK Modernised Production Platform (MPP v0.5)
- A BCS product with a roadmap that meets long term strategic objectives

The BCS requirements specification (SSA-T and SSA-V Appendix 1) should be read in the context of associated tender documentation and should give potential BCS suppliers a clear understanding of the product and partnership requirements to guide their RFP responses.

NRK is seeking to hire several vendors including advisors and System Integrators to support NRK with the MPP objectives. NRK expects that the BCS supplier collaborates with different vendors. More information regarding the other tender processes can be followed throughout the negotiation phase.

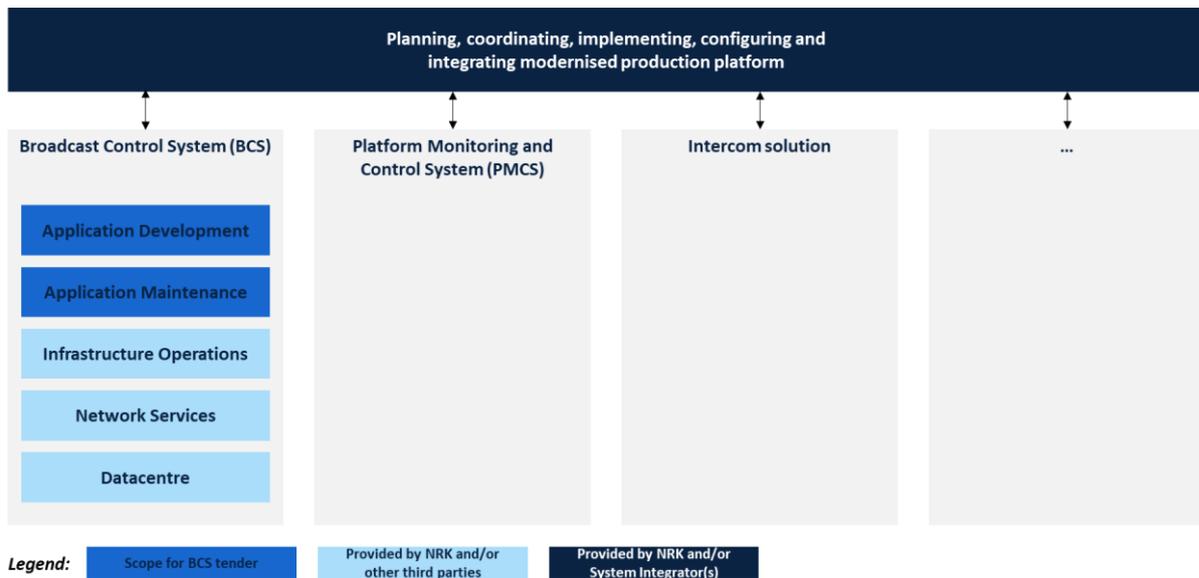


Figure 2 - Scope of BCS tender

2 NRK AMBITIONS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 MPP vision

NRK has modernized production technology from north to south, which contributes to NRK continuing to be a world-class publicist and content producer.

2.2 MPP objectives



Centralise content production

The content must be at the forefront of the production and publishing chain – not where or when, or by whom it is published.



Allow NRK to be present and available at different locations

NRK is less location-dependent and will be able to be present more easily and take productions out to the public and draw on the whole of NRK in productions from anywhere.



Increased ability to change

A modernized production platform gives NRK opportunity to dispose of technical debt and prepare for both the known and the unknown future, and increase funding for content production, increased flexibility, and new opportunities.

2.3 BCS partnership expectations

This section addresses the BCS partnership expectations and collaboration model within the following specific areas;

Co-develop function for dynamic media facility and capability management for production centers

- Modern software or SaaS based architecture and development principles
- Follow a user-centred design approach to product management
- Modular function-based capability for flexibility as well as scaling of implementation gradually
- Fault tolerant, self-corrective (to a defined measure) restorative, redundant in core functionality
- Security and privacy enabled
- Develop features as per NRK's roadmap to deliver Trondheim as well as Oslo relocation

Ecosystem minded

- Allow integrations for and by third parties
- Allow transparent and coexistence with different third parties across workflows (e.g., radio, video and digital)
- Work on a common and NRK specific roadmap of integrations
- Allow NRK's third parties to collaborate commercially and non-commercially (R&D)

Commercial

- Work with NRK to develop and set standards for pricing platform/product
- Flexibility to change to allow optimum total cost of ownership for NRK

Governance

- Ability to work in an ecosystem and to a defined timeline
- Develop RACI to a defined ecosystem including NRK, System Integrator and other involved parties
- Develop requisite operating level agreements and KPIs to measure 'success'
- Shared common and specific roadmaps

3 MODERNIZATION OF NRK'S PRODUCTION PLATFORM

This section addresses the major activities as part of MPP in chronological order.

3.1 New WAN solution

NRK's current WAN is rented as a managed service from Telenor, based on their existing MPLS network. The network is a combined data WAN and real-time contribution network for audio and video. The WAN part provides capacity for file transfer and other data traffic, whilst the contribution part transfers audio and video signals with low latency.

Today's contribution network is based on the Nevia Virtuoso platform, converting AES3 and SDI to IP, controlled by Nevia VideoIPath. All delivered by Telenor. There is no integration between the current BCS system (VSM) and the Telenor VideoIPath. Users currently operate both systems individually.

The contract with Telenor will terminate 31st of December this year. NRK is in the middle of a tendering process for a new WAN contract. The new agreement aims to rent bandwidth only, in the form of optical capacity, allowing for NRK to build its own MPLS WAN on top.

All NRK's approximately 20 locations, with some exceptions within the Bergen facility, are based on legacy AES3 and SDI. NRK is therefore preparing an invitation to tender for AES3 and SDI to SMPTE ST-2110-22 and -30 gateways, to be published this autumn. BCS control of the new gateways is expected. In the future the local production infrastructure will be IP based, without need for conversion.

The process for replacing the WAN will start Q2 2024 and end by Q4 2025.

3.2 Datacentres

The MPP platform is based on a datacentre-centric model, where production processing resources are centralized in external datacentres or in public clouds.

The datacenters will be the main connection points for the new WAN, and location for the production processing resources needed for the new Trondheim facility. New production facilities will be based on the datacentre production resources.

The selection of datacenter locations is in progress. Access to the datacentres is expected to be ready during Q2 2024.

3.3 Media network

The MPP platform will be based on IP media networks. The network design is in progress and the tendering for network components for the media network and for the WAN are in progress, so there are no details available at this stage, but it is expected that the VoIP network in the datacentres will be based on spine-leaf topology.

In NRK's current plans, the multicast network orchestration, setup and management will be handled by a separate network orchestration layer and is as such considered beyond the scope

of the BCS. The BCS needs to be able to provide feedback to the network layer using common APIs about multicast flows and bandwidth requirements for these – in addition to integrating with NRK's other IT infrastructure and IP management platforms.

3.4 New Trondheim facility

The Trondheim facility is NRK's second largest location, and responsible for the main part of NRK's radio activities. Due to extensive building activities next door, related to the Sintef Ocean laboratory, audio production will not be possible for the next 4 years. NRK has therefore decided to move to another location in Trondheim.

The new building is under construction, and the plan is to move in early 2026. The new Trondheim facility will be based on the MPP production platform.

3.5 New headquarter in Oslo

The new headquarter is in an early planning stage, aiming at moving in 2028/2029. Due to the long-term perspective, no detailed technical schematics exist for the new headquarter. The main requirement is to make sure that the MPP platform is able to adapt to the technology changes that will happen in the meantime.

4 STAGED SCOPE

The MPP programme is divided into 3 stages:

4.1 v0.5 - Initial scope

The programme stage leading to release v0.5 is in progress and concludes in Q4 2024. This stage establishes foundation functionality for use at a minimum viable scale for live services operated from a new Media Operations Centre (MOC) workspace.

4.2 v1.0 - Live production and post production workflows needed for new Trondheim

Following v0.5 release in Q4 2024, this stage runs for one year to support the new Trondheim facility launch (v1.0) planned for Q4 2025 in phased increments. v1.0 widens the scope to include all live production and post production workflows needed for new Trondheim. The new NRK Trondheim facility will launch using this functionality, which will evolve to inform Ensjø. All remaining product integrations are introduced for this stage.

4.3 v2.0 - Preparations for the move to the new Oslo headquarter in Ensjø

This stage starts in Q1 2026 and prepares to support the new Ensjø launch (v2.0) and closure of Marienlyst. v2.0 is planned for Q2 2028 and increases platform scale to service Ensjø, using integration and workflows proven through v0.5 and v1.0.

5 STRUCTURE OF THE TENDER NOTICE

The contract terms are based upon the Norwegian Government's Standard Terms and Conditions for Agreement governing the delivery of software that is developed or customised for the Customer and Agreement governing the maintenance and servicing of software and equipment (SSA-T and SSA-V).

For practical purposes "Customer" may be referred to as "NRK", and "Contractor" may also be referred to as "contender" or "BCS supplier" in the tender documentation.

The tender notice consists of the following documents and the RFP should be read in the following order:

Part	Document
I	<p>Tender Provisions (this document) including the administrative provisions for the tendering process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attachment 1: Request for qualification form (template to be filled as part of Requirements for the tender application) • Attachment 2: Tender form (template to be filled as part of tender submission) • Attachment 3: Declaration of commitment (template)
II	<p>General Contract Terms; Agreement governing the delivery of software that is developed or customised for the Customer and Agreement governing the maintenance and support of software and equipment (SSA-T and SSA-V).</p>
III	<p>Appendices to SSA-T:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 1: Customer requirements specification <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Attachment 1: NRK Device ST2110 ST2059 NMOS Conformance ○ Attachment 2: NRK Supplier Security Requirements • Appendix 2: Contractor solution specification • Appendix 3: Customer technical platform • Appendix 4: Project and progress plan • Appendix 5: Testing and approval • Appendix 6: Administrative provisions • Appendix 7: Total price and pricing provisions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Attachment 1: Price Sheet • Appendix 8: Changes to the general contractual wording • Appendix 9: Changes subsequent to the conclusion of the Agreement • Appendix 10: Licence terms and conditions for standard software and free software <p>Appendices to SSA-V:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 1: Customer requirements specification (requirements for the maintenance services) • Appendix 2: Contractor solution specification (description of the maintenance services) • Appendix 3: Software and/or equipment to be maintained • Appendix 4: Project and progress plan for the establishment phase • Appendix 5: Service level with standardised price reductions • Appendix 6: Administrative provisions • Appendix 7: Total price and pricing provisions • Appendix 8: Changes to the general contractual wording • Appendix 9: Changes subsequent to the conclusion of the Agreement • Appendix 10: Third party's terms and conditions for the maintenance of third party's software
IV	<p>Attachment 1: Standard Data Processor Agreement (template)</p> <p>Attachment 2: Business Partner Code of Conduct</p> <p>Attachment 3: Contract performance clauses for safeguarding basic human rights in the supply chain</p> <p>Attachment 4: Regulation on the operation of NRK during national emergency and wartime</p>

6 ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

6.1 Procurement procedure

This public procurement is conducted as a competitive procedure with negotiation in accordance with the Norwegian Procurement Act of 17. June 2016 (Anskaffelsesloven) and the Regulations on Public Procurement No. (Anskaffelsesforskriften) FOR 2016-08-12-974, section I and III - above the EU threshold values.

NRK reserves the right to reduce the number of proposals to be subject to negotiation. A reduction may take place before the negotiations start, or after each of the negotiation stages.

Contenders are expected to possess the necessary knowledge of the general public rules and regulations applicable to the public sector purchases in Norway and the EU. Any omission or mistake in any way whatsoever with reference to this does not give the contender any right to an additional claim.

6.2 Contract notice

The procurement is publicly announced at www.mercell.no (reference NRK 2023-1264), www.doffin.no and TED (www.ted.publications.eu.int/official).

6.3 Time schedule

The procurement will take place in accordance with the general tentative milestone plan shown in the table below. Suppliers will be notified if NRK decides to alter the time schedule.

Milestone/activity	Date
RFP announcement and date of publication	13 th of October 2023
Deadline for submitting questions	30 th of October 2023 at 12:00 CET
Deadline for submitting request for qualification	13 th of November 2023 at 12:00 CET
Invitation to participate in the competitive stage	Week 46 2023
Deadline for submitting questions concerning the tender documents	1 st of December 2023 at 12:00 CET
Deadline for submitting proposal	15 th of December 2023 at 12:00 CET
Initial evaluation with potential shortlisting	Week 1/2 2023
Negotiations and BAFO	Week 2/3 2024
Final evaluation	Week 3/4 2024
Notification of contract award (tentative)	Week 4 2024
Signing of contract	Week 5 2024
Deadline for period during which offers are binding	31 st of March 2024

The contract will be signed upon the expiry of the standstill period following the contract award notification.

6.4 Communication regarding the procurement

This procurement process is managed in the Mercell portal. Contenders will have to log in to the portal to download the tender documents, as well as to conduct other correspondence concerning the procurement and to submit their application for participation.

Any questions regarding the basis for qualification and other matters concerning the procurement process should only be addressed through www.mercell.no. Inquiries should be labelled "NRK BCS 2023-1264" in the subject field. The deadline for questions is stated in section 6.3.

Other inquiries cannot be expected to be answered.

Incoming questions will be reviewed and answered in a general and anonymous manner, and will be distributed successively via www.mercell.no, where e-mail notifications will be sent to the contact persons registered without undue delay.

Attempts to obtain information from, or to influence NRK's employees who are involved in the procurement process may lead to rejection of the contender or the proceedings being cancelled.

For further assistance regarding use of the portal, please contact Mercell support at support@mercell.com / +47 21 01 88 60 / +47 21 01 88 00.

6.5 Confirmation of intent to participate

Contenders are kindly asked to confirm the successful download of the basis for qualification and inform whether they intend to apply for qualification. This can be communicated through the procurement portal, www.mercell.no, by using the button "*I want to submit an offer*", preferably within 10 days after downloading the tender documents.

6.6 Corrections, addenda or change to the tender documents

If a contender understands that the tender documents may contain errors, ambiguities or that submitted files cannot be read as expected, the contender is encouraged to contact NRK to get the error corrected or to clarify potential confusions.

NRK reserves the right to make necessary changes in the tender documents. If needed, the deadline could be extended proportionately.

6.7 Confidentiality and freedom of information

Pursuant to the Norwegian Regulation on Public Procurements § 7-3 (Anskaffelsesforskriften), and the Freedom of Information Act of 19 May 2006 no.16 ("Offentleglova") the public may after the contract is awarded request access to certain documentation, hereunder submitted proposals. Hence NRK reserves the right to request a redacted version of requests for qualification and proposals to be submitted if an access request is received.

For NRK to fulfil its duty on confidentiality in accordance with Regulation on Public Procurements § 7-4, cf. the Norwegian Public Administration Act ("Forvaltningsloven") § 13, the redacted version shall make illegible trade secrets or other matters which are deemed to be competition sensitive. However, NRK has an independent responsibility to assess under Norwegian law the extent to which the information may be disclosed to the public. Similarly, if a redacted version upon request is not submitted without undue delay.

6.8 Cost of participation

Contenders prepare and deliver request for participation and participate in the subsequent competitive stage at their own expense and risk.

NRK assumes no further financial responsibility for the invested effort or other costs in connection with the request for participation or the participation in the proceedings as such.

6.9 Cancellation of the proceedings

NRK reserves the right to cancel the proceedings if there are objective reasons for this.

6.10 Tender documents for the competition stage

The tender documents for the competition stage are enclosed as a consolidated PDF document and will be made available in editable format for qualified and selected contenders along with the invitation to participate.

7 QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

In order to qualify for the competition stage, suppliers must provide the documentation requested below. Please be advised that the SSA-T and SSA-V appendices should not be responded to and submitted in the qualification stage.

7.1 European Single Procurement Document (ESPD)

As a preliminary documentation for the fulfilment of qualification requirements and that there are no grounds for rejection, the contender, and any subcontractors that the contender rely on to fulfil the qualification and selection requirements must validate / fill out the ESPD form in Mercell. The form will automatically be attached to the submitted request for qualification.

As this is a negotiated procedure NRK will also require the documentation on the fulfilment of the qualification criteria to be provided as part of the application in accordance with the following sections of this chapter. Please note also that national grounds for rejection apply.

7.2 National rejection grounds

According to ESPD Part III: Grounds for Rejection, Section D: "Other rules for rejection set out in the national law of the Contracting Member State": The Norwegian procurement rules goes beyond what follows from the grounds for refusal set out in the EU Public Procurement Directive and in the standard ESPD form. It is therefore emphasized that in this procurement, all the national rules for rejection in the Procurement Regulations (Anskaffelsesforskriften) section 24-2, including the solely national rules for rejection, apply.

The following rules for rejection in the Procurement Regulations (Anskaffelsesforskriften) section 24-2 are solely national rules for refusal (non-approved translation):

- § 24-2 (2). In this provision, it is stated that the contracting authority shall reject a supplier when he is aware that the supplier is legally convicted or has accepted a fine for the specified criminal offenses. The requirement that the client rejects suppliers who have accepted a penalty for the specified criminal offenses is a special Norwegian requirement.
- § 24-2 (3) letter i. The rules for rejection in the ESPD form apply only to grave errors in the exercise of a profession, while the Norwegian rules for rejection also include other serious errors that may cause doubts about the supplier's professional integrity.

7.3 Mandatory documentation requirements

Qualification requirement	Documentation requirements
Q 01 The contender should not have substantial arrears related to payment of public taxes and fees	<p>Company tax certificate. Documentation on the tax on the employer's salaries and VAT paid from "kemnerkontor" (Norwegian form RF-1244 should be used). The certificate must not be dated earlier than 6 months following the deadline for submission of application.</p> <p>Any arrears must be explained.</p> <p>The requirement is only mandatory for Norwegian contenders, but international contenders are encouraged to submit similar documentation.</p>

7.4 Organisational and legal position

Qualification requirement	Documentation requirements
Q 02 – The contender shall be a legally registered business	Certificate or equivalent documentation showing that the contender is registered in a public register in their home country.

7.5 Economic and financial situation

Qualification requirements	Documentation requirements
Q 03 – The contender shall have sufficient economic and financial capacity to fulfil the contractual obligations	<p>The contender's economic and financial situation should be documented with the following information:</p> <p>Financial statements for the last three fiscal years including P&L statement, balance sheet, board of directors' annual report and external auditor's report (or equivalent).</p> <p>Any recent information of relevance, e.g., quarterly reports.</p> <p>If the contender relies on other enterprise's capacity to fulfil the qualification requirement, the enclosed "Declaration of commitment" from the relevant subcontractor(s) or co-operating enterprises shall be filled out and submitted, signed by a duly authorised representative from the actual third party/parties. Similar documentation as requested above must also be submitted for the other enterprise.</p> <p>NRK will obtain a solvency assessment of the contender's economic and financial situation through Experian. If the contender also would like to provide their own – it must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be based on the most recent annual or later financially relevant information • provide information on credit worthiness and the degree of bankruptcy risk • not be dated later than 3 months prior to the closing date for submission of request to participate

7.6 Technical and professional capacity

Qualification requirement	Documentation requirements
<p>Q 04 – The contender shall have experience from previous similar and relevant deliveries</p>	<p>Documentation of the most important deliveries in the previous three years with reference to this procurement.</p> <p>The documentation must for each previous delivery provide for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • customer name and contact information. • delivery scope and delivered solutions and services. including a brief elaboration on how the delivery is considered relevant for this procurement. • value and duration of the delivery • statement of whether the delivery has been performed by the Contender alone or with the help of subcontractors/co-operating enterprises. If not alone, the parts performed by other than the Contender must be specified. <p>NRK reserves the right to make necessary inquiries about the relevance of the documented deliveries in order to get a complete picture of the Contender’s capabilities.</p> <p>NRK should be able to contact the references directly without further approval from the Contender</p>

Qualification requirement	Documentation requirements
<p>Q 05 – The contender shall have the capacity and the expertise in relation to the products and services offered</p>	<p>Documentation of the organisational, professional, and technical qualifications of the contender, whether it belongs to the contender itself or subcontractors/co-operating enterprises, listing the number of personnel that can be made available for the execution of the contract. The contender shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a brief overview of the professional competence and experience offered (one page) • Describe the contender’s organisation and the resources the contender has at its disposal for the fulfilment of the contract., including delivery, development, support and maintenance, and facilities, location, and roles • Specify the number of employees, and their experience and certification level per area. Furthermore, which capacity will be made available for the fulfilment of the contract with regards to; the delivery of the project; the subsequent service support and maintenance • Specify turnover in percentage terms for employees and managers for the past three years <p>It must be identified to which organisational/legal entity the resources belong/are employed.</p> <p>If the contender relies on other enterprise’s capacity to fulfil the qualification requirements, the enclosed “Declaration of commitment” and ESPD from the relevant subcontractor(s) or co-operating enterprises shall be filled out and submitted, signed by a duly authorised representative from the actual third party/parties.</p>
<p>Q 06 – The contender shall have established suitable methods and/or systems to ensure the quality of the deliveries</p>	<p>A copy of certificates (ISO9001 or equivalent) issued by an accredited certification body that documents that the contender has implemented quality assurance measures relevant to the scope.</p> <p>If the contender is not certified according to relevant standards, the contender can instead provide a brief presentation of the contender’s implemented methods and/or systems for quality assurance for the relevant parts of the deliveries. The documentation must contain a high-level description and be prepared specifically to enlighten how this has been implemented for the areas such as organisation, management, training, processes, and routines so that they provide high quality and value for the customers.</p> <p>This requirement must as a minimum be fulfilled by the contender/legal applicant. Fulfilment will discretionally be evaluated in relation to the role and scope of any subcontractor/co-operating third party.</p>

Qualification requirement	Documentation requirements
<p>Q 07 – The contender shall have established suitable methods and/or systems to ensure adequate information security</p>	<p>A copy of certificates (ISO27001 or equivalent) issued by an accredited certification body that documents that the contender has implemented information security assurance measures relevant to the scope.</p> <p>If the contender is not certified according to relevant standards, the contender can instead provide a brief presentation of the contender's implemented methods and/or systems for information security assurance for the relevant parts of the deliveries. The documentation must contain a high-level description and be prepared specifically to enlighten how this has been implemented for the areas such as organisation, management, training, processes, and routines so that they provide high quality and value for the customers.</p> <p>This requirement must as a minimum be fulfilled by the contender/legal applicant. Fulfilment will discretionally be evaluated in relation to the role and scope of any subcontractor/ co-operating third party.</p>

7.7 Selection criteria

Among qualified contenders, NRK will select a minimum of three (3) to be invited to participate in the competition stage provided that a sufficient number of contenders are qualified.

The selection will be based on an overall assessment of the contenders' documented economic and financial situation, and technical and professional capacity, of which the latter will be significantly emphasised. The selection will more specifically consider:

- For Q03: Profitability, liquidity, and solidity, including size of total sales and equity.
- For Q04: Experience from similar deliveries within the broadcasting industry.
- For Q05: Overall assessment of capacity and competence, with emphasis on relevant education and certifications. However, proportionality will be applied when assessing total capacity with respect to the estimated contract value.
- For Q06 and Q07: Third party certified quality and information security management systems.

8 REQUIREMENTS FOR THE APPLICATION

8.1 Language

The request for qualification shall be written in Norwegian or English.

8.2 Structure and the content of the request for participation

The application shall contain the following parts and documents:

Part	Description
1.	Signed and filled out the request for qualification form (see Attachment 1)
2.	Signed Declaration(s) of commitment (see Attachment 3) from any subcontractor/co-operating third parties that the contractor relies on for the fulfilment of the qualification criteria.

Part	Description
3.	Validated/filled out the ESPD form in Mercell. cf. sections 7.1 – 7.2
4.	Documentation on fulfilment of the mandatory requirements, cf. sections 7.3-7.6

All electronic application files/documents must be labelled as follows:

<NRK 2023-1264>_<Part no>_<name of document>_<Company short name>

Example: **MA2023-1264_P1_Tender form Company-ABC**

The contenders must ensure that the qualification requirements are sufficiently exhaustively documented for NRK's ability to evaluate the contenders' qualifications, though NRK encourage you to keep responses short and concise. Extensive use of references to brochures or other general information where NRK has to search for the necessary information should be avoided. Similarly, any links to external websites cannot be taken into consideration. Failure to abide by these recommendations may result in the discarding of the contender's request for participation.

8.3 Submission of request for qualification

The application shall be delivered electronically via the Mercell-web portal, no later than the deadline stated in section 6.3.

Please note that the Mercell portal will close at submission deadline.

Electronic signature of the application upon submission in Mercell will not be required.

For further assistance, please contact Mercell support at support@mercell.com and telephone +47 21 01 88 60 / +47 21 01 88 00.

8.4 Amendments and recall

The request for qualification may be recalled or changed until the application deadline. Revocation shall be made in writing. Changing the application is considered as a new application and shall be compiled in accordance with the requirements for the application as stated above.

9 NRK'S PROCESSING OF REQUESTS FOR QUALIFICATION

Received requests for qualification will be processed in accordance with the provisions set out below.

9.1 Opening

Opening of submitted applications will be made in NRK's premises immediately after the submission deadline. Contenders will not be allowed to be present at the opening.

9.2 Evaluation of qualifications

Properly submitted requests for qualification will be evaluated as to whether the qualification requirements are fulfilled. Contenders that do not meet the qualification requirements will be rejected in accordance with the provisions set out in the procurement regulations.

Similarly, public procurement regulations will be applied for assessment of the contender in general.

Provided that a sufficient number of contenders are qualified, NRK will in accordance with the objective and non-discriminatory selection criteria as specified in section 7.7, select a minimum of three (3) qualified contenders to be invited to participate in the competition stage.

10 THE STRUCTURE AND CONTENT OF THE PROPOSAL

10.1 Proposal response structure

The proposal should contain the following parts and documents:

Part	Description
I.	Signed tender form (see Attachment 2)
II.	<p>Appendices to SSA-T, completed by the contender;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 2: Contractor solution specification • Appendix 4: Project and progress plan • Appendix 5: Testing and approval • Appendix 6: Administrative provisions • Appendix 7: Total price and pricing provisions • Appendix 8: Changes to the general contractual wording (if any) • Appendix 10: Licence terms and conditions for standard software and free software <p>Appendices to SSA-V, completed by the contender;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 2: Contractor solution specification (description of the maintenance services) • Appendix 3: Software and/or equipment to be maintained • Appendix 4: Project and progress plan for the establishment phase • Appendix 5: Service level with standardised price reductions • Appendix 6: Administrative provisions • Appendix 7: Total price and pricing provisions • Appendix 8: Changes to the general contractual wording (if any) • Appendix 10: Third party's terms and conditions for the maintenance of third party's software

10.2 Submission of proposals

The proposal shall only be delivered electronically via the Merccell-portal no later than the deadline as stated in section 6.3 above. No paper copies are needed. Please note that the Merccell portal will close at delivery deadline.

All electronic documents must be labelled as follows:

<Part number>_<MA-number>_<short name of document>_<short name of Contender>

Example: **"P1-NRK 2023-1264_Cover letter_Contender name"** and **"P2- NRK 2023-1264_SSA-T Appendix 2_ Contender name"**.

The contenders may submit relevant supplementary information as attachment(s) to Appendices with clear and unambiguous reference.

For avoidance of errors in the above-mentioned files, and to help NRK to see the entire proposal layout the way it is intended from the contender's point of view, we both want to receive the above files in its original format (e.g. word, excel) individually plus one (1) searchable PDF-binder containing all the individual files.

Tender Provisions

According to the Norwegian public procurement regulation only e-signatures issued in accordance with a national Requirement Specification by certification service providers registered with the Norwegian Post and Telecommunications Authority are accepted.

IMPORTANT:

The contenders will not be required to sign the submission electronically, but please remember to submit a signed and scanned copy of your cover letter.

For further assistance, please contact Mercell support at support@mercell.com / +47 21 01 88 60 / +47 21 01 88 00.

10.3 Alternative proposals

As stated in the public notice it is not permitted to submit alternative proposals. Alternative proposals will be rejected.

10.4 Amendment and withdrawal

Proposals may be withdrawn or amended up to the expiry of the submission deadline.

Amended proposals are to be regarded as new proposals, which must be constructed in compliance with the instructions as specified above.

10.5 Abidance period

The period during which the proposal shall be valid: 31st of March 2024.

11 EVALUATION**11.1 Award criteria**

The evaluation of the received proposals will be based on the award criteria as set out below.

Contract will be awarded to the contender having submitted the proposal with the best quality/price ratio according to the criteria listed after the conclusion of the negotiations.

Award criteria	Sub-criteria/documentation
Quality Weight: 65%	The following sub-criteria with associated documentation will be subject to evaluation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality and performance of proposed BCS solution, cf. SSA-T Appendix 2-5 Partnership approach to working with NRK over the whole transformation period, and ability to work with NRK's vendors, cf. SSA-T and SSA-V Appendix 6 Product roadmap that aligns to the whole scope outlined at a high level in the BCS specification, cf. SSA-T Appendix 2-5 Specific, costed, actionable product and delivery approach to satisfy MPP v0.5, cf. SSA-T Appendix 2-5 Quality of proposed operation and maintenance service, cf. SSA-V Appendix 2-6
Price Weight: 35%	Total cost of ownership for BCS solution, project implementation and subsequent support and maintenance over 8 years, cf. SSA-T and SSA-V Appendix 7.

11.2 Previous client references

Previous client references may be contacted by NRK in order to verify quality aspects of previous deliveries. Thus, the result from such reference verifications may be used as supplementary inputs for all aspects of the 'Quality' evaluation.

It is emphasized that any evaluation of previous client references in the award evaluation differ from the evaluation of previous experience in the eligibility evaluation, as the references stated in the cover letter will be evaluated as an expression for anticipated quality related to the contract object.

11.3 Evaluation of reservations, deviations, and prerequisites

NRK will evaluate the extent and consequences of any reservations against the General Contract Terms. Similarly, for any other reservations, deviations, prerequisites, and assumptions from the contender related to the tender documents and the delivery. These will be evaluated under the award criterion 'Price' if they may have an economic value or consequence, and equivalently under the relevant 'Quality' subjects if they may have quality implications.

It is not possible to make significant reservations to the General Contract Terms or to the tender documents. NRK reserves the right to reject proposals that contain reservations, errors, ambiguities, incompleteness or the like that are significant or cast doubt on how the proposal is to be assessed in relation to other proposals, and thus cannot be considered insignificant.

Any deviation from the requirements specification will be evaluated with respect to their significance, the importance of the matter they deviate from and the influence on the competitive situation between the contenders. Furthermore, an overall assessment of discrepancies might result in a duty to reject to ensure that NRK has covered its needs and contenders compete to provide comparable proposals.