

Request for Proposal

Event organisation and technical support
for
EIT Manufacturing MatchMaking Event
19 & 20 September, online event

1. Context

EIT Manufacturing (KIC) is focused on promoting entrepreneurship, innovation, and education in the domain of Manufacturing. EIT Manufacturing brings together leading organisations along the entire value chain from smaller companies to larger industry, excellent academic and research institutions, as well as public sector organisations, to promote the transformation of manufacturing towards the digital economy, towards the circular economy and the decarbonization of industry, by removing barriers to innovation, promoting talent and education, leveraging enabling technologies and exploiting bigdata.

With this Request for Proposal (RfP) EIT Manufacturing would like to find an external supplier to support with the organisation of the online event and the technical support. More detailed requirements can be found further down in the document.

2. Description

This RfP aims in collecting offers for event organisation and technical support for the second EIT Manufacturing MatchMaking event 2023 taking place on 19 and 20 September as an online event.

This edition of the MatchMaking event, gathering the entire EIT Manufacturing Community is foreseen as an online two-day full event where the morning of Day 1 is the plenary and parallel sessions and the rest of the event is the networking opportunity for the Community. This event that will mark the opening of the second Call for Proposals 2024.

To make this happen, EIT Manufacturing is looking for an external supplier that can support EIT Manufacturing in its setup, organisation and technical execution.

3. Deliverables

The main deliverable of this RfP is the rental of the venue with the below characteristics:

1. EVENT SETUP

- Creation and customisation of the event on EIT Manufacturing corporate event platform (B2Match)
- Regular updates of the content on the platform
- Setting up the programme, registration page and the networking area on the platform

2. TECHNICAL & AUDIOVISUAL SUPPORT

- Technical rehearsal with the speakers (1 and half day of rehearsals maximum)
- Creation of speaker links for various sessions (up to 4 parallel sessions at the same time per day)
- Provision of the ZOOM or similar tools for the speakers
- Embedding of the streaming/ZOOM link into the B2Match platform (including streaming tests prior to the event)
- Creation of PIPs on the basis of current design done by EITM
- Creation of lower thirds for the speakers
- Updating of business cards/filler slides (up to 15)
- Provision of event jingle (if required)
- Running of the full event (including graphic mixing, speaker management and tech support)

3. EVENT HELPDESK

As the actual event will last only half a day and the remaining time will be given to the attendees for booking meetings 1:1, we would like to set up a dedicated helpdesk managed by the supplier. This helpdesk's goal would be aid the participants in setting up their 1:1 meetings during the event. The helpdesk should answer to participants questions that can be:

- Where can I find my personal agenda?
- How can I book meeting with more than one person?
- Can I cancel my meeting?
- How can I access AGORA from B2Match?
- Where can I find person LOREM IPSUM?

Draft programme of the event can be found below:

19 September		
09.30-10.30	Opening session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome words • Introduction to the CFP 2024 • Q&A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caroline VIAROUGE, CEO EIT Manufacturing • Dimitris MAVRIKIOS, COO EIT Manufacturing • Pillar Directors (Pillars TBC) <p><i>Moderator: TBC</i></p>
10.30-11.30	Parallel sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovation • Business Creation 	

11.30-12.30	Parallel sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS) 	
12.30-13.00	Closing Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CfP next steps • Closing remarks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caroline VIAROUGE, CEO EIT Manufacturing • Dimitris MAVRIKIOS, COO EIT Manufacturing <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Moderator: TBC</i></p>
13.00 until 18.00 on the 20 Sept	MatchMaking 1:1 The platform will be open for booking meetings 1:1 until 18:00 CET on 20 September (day after).	

4. Timeline

The timeline for this project is as follows:

Activity	Responsible	Date
RFP Opening	EIT Manufacturing	10 July 2023
Submission of Proposals	Suppliers	24 July 2023
Evaluation and notification of award	EIT Manufacturing	25 July 2023
Standstill period	EIT Manufacturing	31 July
Contract Signature	EITM/ Supplier	31 July 2023
Project Start	EITM/ Supplier	1 August 2023
Project End	EITM/ Supplier	22 September 2023

5. Proposal submission procedure

Please send the proposal to the Communication Director **Cristina Carneiro** (Cristina.carneiro@eitmanufacturing.eu), Corporate Events Manager **Ana Lucic**, (ana.lucic@eitmanufacturing.eu), by 24 July 2023.

6. Evaluation Criteria

Timely received proposals submitted by the tenderers will be examined, evaluated, and compared in accordance with the following criteria and the contract shall be awarded to the highest-ranked tenderer. The decision will be made according to the “Best Value for Money” principle.

- a. Price (30% of decision weight)
- b. Technical expertise (40% of decision weight)
- c. References from similar events (30% of decision weight)

An Evaluation Committee of 3 people will be established. Each bid will be evaluated and ranked according to the criteria above.

Compliance with the principles of transparency, non-discrimination, equal treatment, and absence of conflict of interest will be ensured.

The successful and unsuccessful tenderers will be informed in writing (via email) about the result of the award procedure. In case the winning tenderer is unable to enter the contract, EIT Manufacturing may decide to contract the supplier receiving the second-highest ranking. Proposals must be submitted by e-mail within thirteen (13) days of the date of notification of the request for proposal. All proposals received after the deadline will be rejected. In duly justified cases, however, no later than 1 calendar day before the original deadline, the submission deadline can be extended.

Upon request from the tenderer concerned, EIT Manufacturing will as quickly as possible, and in any event within 15 calendar days from receipt of a written request, inform:

- any unsuccessful candidate of the reasons for the rejection of its request to participate,
- any unsuccessful tenderer of the reasons for the rejection of its tender, including, if this is the case, its decision that the works, supplies or services do not meet the performance or functional requirements,
- any tenderer that has made an admissible tender of the characteristics and relative advantages of the tender selected as well as the name of the successful tenderer or the parties to the awarded contract,
- any tenderer that has made an admissible tender of the conduct and progress of negotiations and dialogue with tenderers.

The information referred to above may be withheld where the release of such information would be contrary to the public interest, would prejudice the legitimate commercial interests of an economic operator, or might prejudice fair competition between economic operators.

Should there be a suspicion that the provider will not be able to perform according to the price offered, EIT Manufacturing has the right to ask for explanations and may reject the tender where the evidence supplied does not satisfactorily account for the low level of price or cost proposed.

7. Complaint procedure

Tenderers believing that they have been harmed by an error or irregularity during the award process may file a complaint. Appeals shall be addressed to EIT Manufacturing only via the following email address legal@eitmanufacturing.eu. The tenderers have six (6) days to file their complaints from the date of receipt of notification of the results.

In your application to EIT Manufacturing the complainant shall explain what procedural aspects they consider having been violated along with any recommendations or remarks. Such claims need to be supported with data and facts and relevant documentation. An appeal whose sole purpose is to obtain a second evaluation for no reason other than that the complainant disagrees with the final award decision is to be rejected.

8. Negotiations & Clarifications

Negotiations can be held in the following cases:

- if it is identified that the scope of services issued by EIT Manufacturing is not detailed enough, incomplete or some areas are lacking crucial information to complete the procedure for direct awards
- if EIT Manufacturing has the intention to reduce the offered prices to find the best value for money
- if all submitted prices are above the planned budget and it is in everyone's interest to finish the procedure with success – in that case, price negotiation can take place. During price negotiation, all tenderers are called to lower their prices by the same deadline in written form

EIT Manufacturing can organize as many rounds of negotiation as needed during the procedure to reach the highest quality of proposals and the best price.

Whenever possible, the negotiations should be carried out in writing, however, in special cases, video conferences or even live can be organized. EIT Manufacturing also reserves the right to invite 5 of the tenderers to an individual meeting before the final award of the contract to clarify details and ambiguities. In case of obvious or perceived errors or omissions in the RfP, Tenderers can request additional information or clarifications by the deadline provided in the above timeframe through an email to ana.lucic@eitmanufacturing.eu and cristina.carneiro@eitmanufacturing.eu

Upon receipt of the bids, they will be reviewed, and additional details will be requested from the tenderers as needed. The requests as well as the answers are to be submitted written by e-mail. Where information or documentation to be submitted by tenderers is incomplete or erroneous or where specific documents are missing, EIT Manufacturing staff may request the party concerned to submit, supplement, clarify or complete the relevant information or documentation within 2 days.

Bid preparation costs are not reimbursable and must be borne by the tenderers.

EIT Manufacturing owns all bids received in this RFP. Proprietary information of vendors in the bids will be kept strictly confidential. The offers as well as the contract may be submitted for audits.

9. Contract

The final award does not yet constitute the Contract. The Contract will be concluded at the time of signature by the Supplier and EIT Manufacturing. The winning supplier will be sent the contract to be signed (indicating the deadline by which the signed contract should be returned to EIT Manufacturing).

The invoicing will be based on a mutually agreed schedule; it will be detailed in the contract. The contract will be awarded until the end of September 2023. The tenderer agrees that the total value of the contract to be signed with EIT Manufacturing for 2 months will in no way exceed the bid (the amount contained in the offer) of the tenderer.

The awarded supplier will be requested to sign Standard Contractual Clauses (SCC) if no other GDPR-compliant safeguards exist, and the supplier is located in a country for which the EU commission has not issued an adequacy decision.

10. Cancellation of the proposal procedure

In the event of cancellation of the proposal procedure, EIT Manufacturing will notify tenderers of the cancellation. In no event shall EIT Manufacturing be liable for any damages whatsoever including, without limitation, damages for loss of profits, in any way connected with the cancellation of a proposal procedure, even if EIT Manufacturing has been advised of the possibility of damages.

The tenderer shall take all measures to prevent any situation where the impartial and objective implementation of the contract is compromised for reasons involving economic interest, political or national affinity, family or emotional ties or any other shared interest ('conflict of interests'). S/he should inform the EIT Manufacturing team immediately if there is any change in the above circumstances at any stage during the implementation of the tasks.

The supplier cannot be an EIT Manufacturing Partner or Activity Partner. Any bid from such an economic operator will be rejected.

Tenderers will be excluded if:

- a. they are 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; they have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgment which has the force of *res judicata*;
- b. they have been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the EIT Manufacturing can justify;
- c. they have not fulfilled obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes by the legal provisions of the country in which they are established or any other country of the EU;
- d. they have been the subject of a judgment which has the force of *res judicata* for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organization or any other illegal activity detrimental to the EU's financial interests;
- e. following a procurement procedure or grant award procedure financed by the EU budget, they have been declared in serious breach of contract for failure to comply with their contractual obligations.

The tenderers must not be in a situation of a conflict of interest, and they have sufficient economic and financial capacity, technical and professional capacity and legal and regulatory capacity to perform the requested services. Additional evidence or declarations might be requested by the contracting authority.

EIT Manufacturing reserves the right to suspend or cancel the procedure, where the award procedure proves to have been subject to substantial errors, irregularities, conflict of interest or fraud. If substantial errors, irregularities, conflict of interest or fraud are discovered after the award of the Contract, EIT Manufacturing may refrain from concluding the Contract.