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<b>Bidding Instructions and Administrative Requirements</b>
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TO : ALL BIDDERS

SUBJECT : REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR THE PROVISION OF Nuts and washers used on Lynx MK95A

RFP COLLECTIVE NUMBER : AVO24047

Dear Sir/Madam,

The NATO Support and Procurement Agency has a requirement for the establishment of a contract for the supply of the materiel described in the "List of Items" attached to this Request for Proposal (RFP).

You are invited to submit a firm fixed price proposal, based on delivery – FCA (Incoterms 2020).

**IMPORTANT NOTES ON MATERIEL EXPORT**

**For non-U.S. vendors:**

- For proposals for materiel not originating in the U.S. / not to be shipped from the U.S.:
  - In case of Incoterm "FCA Contractor's facilities", the contractor has to obtain the export license or export under existing licenses, if necessary.
- For proposals for materiel originating in the U.S. with place of delivery "FCA" in the U.S., to be delivered through the NSPA freight forwarder (JAS):
  - The same rules as for U.S. vendors apply (see below).
  - **To be also included in the proposal:**
    - Name, address, POC, phone, and fax number of the U.S. subcontractor.

**For U.S. vendors:**

- For proposals for materiel with place of delivery "FCA" in the U.S., delivered through the NSPA freight forwarder (JAS):
  - **For defense items:**

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- For Significant Military Equipment (SME) (as defined under ITAR Part [§120.36](#)) the contractor shall obtain the export license. A copy of the export license must be sent to the NSPA POC and to JAS before the materiel is shipped.

**To be included in the proposal:**

- A statement that the item is Significant Military Equipment, and that the vendor possesses an export license or will apply for one.
  - The Schedule B Export Code. For details see <http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/schedules/b/index.html>
- For non-SME materiel: NSPA purchases most of the materiel for use in a NATO weapon / defense system. In these cases it is assumed that ITAR ([22 CFR](#)) U.S. Munitions List applies. A copy of the export license must be sent to the NSPA POC and to JAS ([iadfms@jas.com](mailto:iadfms@jas.com)) before the materiel is shipped.

**To be included in the proposal:**

- The U.S. Munition List ([USML](#)) Category.
- The Schedule B Export Code. For details see: <http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/schedules/b/index.html>

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## 1. REGISTRATION IN NSPA SOURCE FILE AND e-PROCUREMENT PLATFORM

Companies shall be registered in the NSPA Source File to participate in NSPA solicitations and to be considered for contract award. Furthermore, registration in the NSPA Source File is necessary in order to have a supplier account for the users indicated to access NSPA's e-Procurement platform. Questions related to the RFP and your proposal can only be submitted electronically through the e-Procurement platform.

Companies interested in participating in an NSPA solicitation and not yet registered in NSPA's Source File or, if registered, do not have an e-Procurement account, are encouraged to register online via the NSPA [website](#) at the earliest opportunity, as the vendor registration needs to be evaluated and validated before the company can receive its e-Procurement account. This latter process typically takes between one to three working days.

For information or assistance with Source File registration, please contact:  
[source-file@nspa.nato.int](mailto:source-file@nspa.nato.int)

## 2. BID SUBMISSION

Bids must be submitted through the e-Procurement platform by selecting "Bid on RFP" within the Request for Proposal (RFP) prior to the indicated Bid Closing date and time. This e-submission functionality is accessible exclusively from the supplier e-Procurement account, consequently, bidders will need to login and access the RFP page in order to be able to submit their bid.

Once the bid is submitted using the e-Procurement platform, it is automatically encrypted and transferred to an electronic vault, where it will be safeguarded until the Bid Closing date and time.

Upon RFP closure, the system retrieves the **last version of the bid submitted** for decryption, and subsequent release for evaluation by NSPA. Therefore, bidders wishing to modify their bids **before** the Bid Closing date and time **must submit their bid in its entirety, as this submission will override their previous ones.**

Bids submitted to NSPA through channels other than the e-Procurement platform may not be evaluated. In the event that exceptional circumstances, as deemed by NSPA, justify the acceptance of a bid submitted outside the e-Procurement platform, the bid closing date and time must be respected.

Prospective bidders are expected to familiarise themselves with the functionalities and operational modalities of the e-Procurement platform. They are also advised to submit their bids sufficiently in advance so that any technical issue(s) may be resolved before the Bid Closing date and time.

In case of questions or issues when using the e-Procurement platform, the e-Procurement helpdesk is available by email at: [e-procurement.helpdesk@nspa.nato.int](mailto:e-procurement.helpdesk@nspa.nato.int), or by phone at: +352 3063 5629 (during NSPA-Capellen business hours: MON-THU 09.00-16.00; FRI 09.00-12.00, CET)

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NSPA does not accept any responsibility for technical difficulties or issues accessing the eProcurement platform, particularly related to last minute bid submission or access to RFPs.

### **3. RFP QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

Bidders are encouraged to read all the RFP documentation and seek clarifications on any unclear point(s) at the earliest opportunity. Consequently, the relevant question(s) shall be submitted via the e-Procurement platform, by accessing the RFP from the supplier account.

Bidders' questions and the respective answers will be published on the appropriate section of the RFP page with no identification of the originator.

Questions on the RFP content and terms shall be submitted exclusively through the e-Procurement platform. Bidders contacting NSPA staff directly in relation to an on-going RFP, other than for technical issues using the platform or registering in Source File, may be considered in breach of these Bidding Instructions and potentially excluded from the solicitation.

### **4. CONSIDERATION OF ALL INFORMATION**

Your proposal must be prepared after careful consideration of all information provided in this RFP. In order for your proposal to receive an accurate evaluation it must conform to the terms of this RFP. Non-conforming or incomplete proposals may be evaluated as being non-compliant and may be refused consideration for award of a contract.

It is therefore mandatory that the following elements be provided with your offer:

- Quality certification held by your firm (ISO, AQAP, ...), OEM certification, etc...;
- Traceability of origin of materiel (please refer to paragraph below entitled: "Condition of materiel");
- Remaining shelf life where applicable.

The following documents are available on the Internet under:

<https://www.nspa.nato.int/business/procurement/general-information>

- NSPA General Provisions for Fixed-Price Contracts (Materiel)
- Termination for Convenience of NSPA
- NSPA Supplier Code of Conduct
- NSPA Materiel Inspection and Shipping Report (MISR) NSPA Form 194 with relevant distribution instructions.

### **5. CONTRACTOR'S RESPONSIBILITY**

With the submission of a proposal, the bidder guarantees that they have read the [NSPA Supplier Code of Conduct](#) and acknowledges that this Code of Conduct provides the minimum standards expected to be adhered to by the bidder, their employees, subsidiary or affiliate entities and subcontractors.

Furthermore, the bidder guarantees that they are in possession of all the necessary intellectual property rights in force in the countries where the items will be manufactured and / or services will be performed, under the resulting contract and in other countries where the intellectual property rights are in force. It is the sole responsibility of the bidder

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to obtain any licenses necessary for the performance of this contract and for making any other arrangements required to protect NSPA from any liability for intellectual property rights infringement in said countries. The bidder shall at their own expense hold NSPA harmless and fully indemnify NSPA against all damages, costs, charges, expenses and the like arising from or incurred by any reason of any infringement or alleged infringement of intellectual property rights in consequence of the provision of the service and / or materiel.

You will be solely responsible for the performance of the contract resulting from this RFP. The fact that NSPA allows to you subcontract or to call upon a third party for the performance of any part of the contract does not relieve you of your responsibility.

## **6. EMPLOYMENT OF FORMER NSPA STAFF**

Any bidder who proposes to employ former NSPA staff member(s) in the performance of the resulting contract shall specifically identify the individual(s) and the position for which they will be hired. If NSPA determines that the former NSPA staff members will be employed in supporting a requirement for which they were personally and substantially involved while an NSPA employee, the bidder's proposal may be removed from further consideration for award. Failure to disclose such employment shall result in the immediate removal of the bidder's proposal from further consideration for award. This restriction shall be in effect for a period of two years after the former NSPA employee concludes their employment with the Agency, unless authorized in writing by the NSPA General Manager or their authorized representative.

## **7. BALANCING OF PRODUCTION**

For contracts amounting to EUR 160,000.- or more, or equivalent in another NATO nation currency, NSPA takes into account a "balanced production" policy. Under this policy, when offers from firms of different participating NSPO member states are otherwise similar, contract award is made to that bidder whose country, at time of award, is poorly placed in terms of balance, provided that the offer does not exceed the lowest offer by more than a certain percentage (10 % or 20 % depending on the relative position of the countries in terms of balancing) and the bidder agrees to match such lowest offer. Relative positions of the countries in terms of production balancing are determined by using the ratio "R"; value of the contracts placed by NSPA in a country compared with the value of sales made to the same country. The three categories in the NSPA scale of balancing are well-placed, less well-placed and poorly-placed, the latter category having the lowest ratio.

## **8. GEOGRAPHICAL LIMITATIONS**

In accordance with NSPO Procurement Regulations 4200 Para. 4.5, this solicitation is limited to suppliers located in NATO nations and Austria.

## **9. BID EVALUATION**

The criteria, which NSPA will use to select the successful bidder are indicated in the "List of Items" attached hereto.

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The evaluation will be conducted on a line item basis. Therefore partial bidding (per line item) is authorized and partial award might be envisaged.

NSPA reserves the right to select either the proposal for “NEW” or the proposal for “NEW-SURPLUS” material as defined in paragraph “**CONDITION OF MATERIEL**” below.

**NOTE:** For basic, non-complex supplies & services requirements at a firm fixed price not exceeding financial level B, NSPA reserves the right to accept a Bidder’s Terms & Conditions (T&Cs), provided that these T&Cs do not represent undue risk for NSPA.

## **10. ALTERNATIVE ITEM(S)**

If you desire to submit a proposal for an alternative item(s), you may do so in addition to the proposal submitted in response to this Request for Proposal. Proposals for alternative items shall be submitted with a complete description of the proposed items, and be accompanied with a certificate stating that the items offered are **fully interchangeable** with the requested items (same form, fit and function) or an explanation given on how they differ.

When a stock number is superseded, the bidder will so indicate in its offer furnishing the new stock or part number. In case of inconsistency between the National/NATO Stock Number and the Part Number, the NATO Stock Number will govern. However, should specific part numbers in this RFP be identified as “authorized references”, only these part numbers are acceptable for award, except as otherwise approved by the customer aircraft national airworthiness authorities.

## **11. AUTHORISED SIGNATURE**

Your proposal must be signed by an official authorized to bind your firm to a contract. Proposals submitted in response to this RFP are binding offers and, on acceptance by NSPA, constitutes a binding contract.

## **12. VALIDITY**

Your proposal shall be valid until the “Offer Validity” date indicated in Table 1 on the first page of this RFP.

## **13. LANGUAGE**

The proposal must be submitted in English, as this is the language of this RFP and the resulting contract. Any document or information in the bid in a language other than English shall be accompanied by a courtesy translation. At the request of NSPA, the bidder shall provide at its cost sworn translation(s) of any document identified as having special relevance or with legal implications.

## **14. CONDITION OF MATERIEL**

The condition of the material must be **NEW OF CURRENT PRODUCTION**, (i.e. Item of latest production in accordance with applicable specifications / drawings in conformance with the appropriate airworthiness standards in production, quality, condition monitoring and documentation), offered by the original manufacturer, its licensee or authorized distributor.

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Parts manufactured shall be traceable back to the Type Certification Holder, the Production Approval Holder, the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) or its authorized representative where applicable. For commercial parts, delivery from an authorized representative or distributor with Certificate of Conformance – COC - from the OEM, licensed/authorized manufacturer is acceptable unless certificates such as EASA Form One or FAA Form 8130-3 for aircraft flying under relevant airworthiness regulations are requested.

Notices:

- Over-run parts, recycled parts from scrap, or quality rejections are not acceptable.
- No substitutes or deviations are authorized without prior express approval by NSPA.
- NEW-SURPLUS material obtained from other than original manufacturer or approved distributor, which shows no evidence of prior use or installation, which may or may not be in original manufacturer's packaging is acceptable provided that the part or packaging is identified by the proper manufacturer's marking and identification, accompanied by the correct certification and documented traceability to an approved source.(i.e. Certificate of Conformance – COC - from the OEM, licensed/authorized manufacturer is acceptable unless certificates such as EASA Form One or FAA Form 8130-3).
- Proposals for FAA PMA parts, are not acceptable.
- If a Government Qualified Products List (QPL) is applicable, the identity of the manufacturer must be provided.
- For military specific parts (non-commercial items): the proposal shall include the built standard document for the part number offered. This document shall list the drawing revision plus all major and minor waivers and deviations to be incorporated in the delivered item for each serial number/fabrication numbered assembly and sub-assembly.
- Aircraft hardware and fasteners: bidders must provide evidence of adherence to the relevant aeronautical standards, and airframe manufacturer's certification or any other similar standards or certification.
- Proposals for items with a shelf life should specify the shelf-life period and the remaining shelf life of the part.

## **15. QUALITY ASSURANCE**

The detailed Quality Assurance requirements applicable to this RFP are set forth in the attached Terms and Conditions / List of Items.

The Contractor is responsible for maintaining effective control of the quality of materiel.

The Contractor must always provide a Certificate of Conformity (COC) (or on a case-by-case basis certificates such as EASA Form One, FAA 8130-3, TCCA 24-078 for aircraft maintained under civilian airworthiness regulations respectively, if requested by NSPA) from the original aircraft type holder/authorized (for part procurement) or from the QA department of the authorized contractors (for part maintenance).

Additionally for delivery of parts commonly designated as "consumables or raw material", the contractor will provide evidence of conformance with the relevant aeronautical standards, including original source identification and evidenced conformance with the appropriate aeronautical standards for the manufacturing process and specifications.

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Delivery documentation must refer to the production lot identification and testing. The test and/or lot testing documentation must remain on record for three (3) years and be made available to NSPA on demand (free of charge).

The Contractor and the Subcontractor(s) will for the duration of the contract, maintain a Quality Management System compliant with AQAP 2131

The bidder shall be compliant with AQAP 2131 and must provide a Certificate of Conformity (CoC) (A MISR shall not be used in lieu of a CoC).

If not the OEM, the bidder shall provide the CoC received from the OEM. This does not relieve the Bidder from its contractual quality requirements.

The contract is not subject to Government Quality Assurance.

Information on NATO Quality Assurance Standards may be found at the following web site: <http://nso.nato.int/nso/nsdd/ListPromulg.html>

## **16. PRICES, CURRENCY AND PAYMENT**

Prices will be quoted in the currency of any NATO Nation or the currency of the Partner Nation where, according to the geographical limitations of the RFP (set forth above in Paragraph 8), companies incorporated in such countries are allowed to participate. However, all the prices must be quoted in the **same** currency and this currency will be reflected in the resulting contract and used for payments made thereunder.

Comparison of the price quotations will be made in Euro; the exchange rates to be used for the purposes of such price comparison will be the rates that are published by the ECB – European Central Bank – and updated every first working day (Following ECB Calendar) of the week of the bid closing date.

NSPA payment terms are 30 days net upon receipt of Contractor's invoices duly documented as contractually provided for. Discount for early payment shall be indicated in your proposal.

NSPA payments will be made to the bank account provided by the Contractor at time of registration to the NSPA Source File or to the bank account identified by the Contractor at time of contract award. For companies incorporated in a NATO Nation, NSPA will only accept to make payments on an account in a bank located in a NATO Nation.

In case the contract is awarded to a company incorporated in a non-NATO nation (in accordance with the geographical limitations of the RFP set forth above in Paragraph 8) NSPA will accept to make payments on an account in a bank located in the country of the bidder.

## **17. NO NSPA COMMITMENT**

This RFP is not a commitment that an award of contract will be made. NSPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals partially or completely, stop the bidding procedure, postpone it to a later date or award a contract for any or part of the items solicited. NSPA shall bear no liability for costs or losses incurred by bidders in relation to their participation

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in the RFP process. Any claim from bidders against NSPA for a refund of expenditure or charges resulting from preparation and submission of the bid will not be accepted.

## **18. INFORMATION ON CONTRACT AWARD**

If your proposal did not result in an award, you will be notified that your proposal has not resulted in an award. Your company's name will remain in the NSPA Source File and will be considered for invitation for any future competitions in this field.

## **19. NSPO PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS / NSPA PROCUREMENT OPERATING INSTRUCTION**

The NSPO Procurement Regulations and the NSPA Procurement Operating Instruction, governing this Request for Proposal, are available on NSPA's website under:  
<https://www.nspa.nato.int/business/procurement/general-information>.

## **20. PUBLICATION OF CONTRACT AWARDS**

In accordance with NSPO Procurement Regulations, NSPA periodically publishes the contract awards exceeding EUR 80,000, indicating the contractor's name and country, as well as the purpose and total amount of the contract. This procedure will not apply to classified contracts or when the customer has stipulated that publication is not wanted. This information is to be found on the NSPA website under:  
<https://www.nspa.nato.int/business/procurement/bid-awards>

### Enclosure(s):

- Terms and Conditions
- List of Items