

EARN Document

Title: Call for expression of interest for consultancy and
management for OSI networks
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The Commission for the EC wants to draw up a short list of organisations or corporations that could provide support for planning and management of data communications and value added services for use by the European R&D community. The announcement is appended below.

It is proposed EARN applies to be on that short list since the activity may well be within our charter. Naturally, before taking on any contract a full discussion in the Exec and BOD will be needed.

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR CONSULTANCY AND MANAGEMENT FOR OSI NETWORKS.

The Commission has announced in the supplement to the Official Journal of the European Communities reference (S 177/58) of 15 September 1989 the following text:-

The Commission wants to draw-up a short list of organizations or corporations that could provide support for planning and management of data communications and value-added services for use by the European R&D community.

The organization that wishes to be considered for the short-list must, as a minimum, have the following characteristics:

- o It must have extensive experience in the implementation and daily management of major international operational networks.
- o It must have experience in OSI standards, applications and the related market.

- o It must be experienced in the implementation and operation of multivendor heterogeneous environments.
- o A background or knowledge of European and international research networks, such as DFN or JANET, is highly desirable.
- o It must specially be positioned to verify the compliance and compatibility of the components that implement the OSI reference model and other applicable international standards and recommendations in accordance with the requirements set out in Council Decision 87/95/EEC (Official Journal Nx L36/31, 7.2.87).
- o The candidates should have experience in expansion and modifications of complex network environments in short periods of time.
- o The candidate organization must have access to a high level of skills related to complex data communications networks. These should include the following areas:
 - System sizing
 - System design
 - Product implementation
 - Operations
 - Trouble shooting and maintenance
- o The candidates should have demonstrable experience of cooperation with a varied profile of external organizations. These should include, as a minimum, governments, IT vendors, R&D organizations etc.
- o The candidates should be prepared to undertake, jointly with the Commission, the appropriate analysis and planning tasks that are a prerequisite for the implementation of a network.

Interested parties should submit proposals that will be used by the Commission to evaluate their fitness for the tasks described above and the technical and managerial capabilities of the candidates.

As a minimum, these proposals should include the following items:

Financial profile of the organization.

Technical areas of strength and expertise.

A list of reference accounts.

C.V.s of key staff who might be assigned to be responsible for an eventual contract.

Typical charge rates (in Ecus) for tasks related to the topics stated above such as network design, consultancy, implementation and operations.

The Commission intends to address more specific invitations to tender on individual items to the shortlist of organizations selected.

Organizations will be notified of their selection for the shortlist no later than four weeks after the closing date. The shortlist will be valid for 18 months.

Proposals should be sent to the following address:

Commission for the European Communities
Directorate General XIII/A2
ESPRIT Information Office
A25 7/11
200 Rue de la Loi
B-1049 Brussels

Proposals must be written in one of the official languages of the European Community, however, they should be accompanied by an English translation, since the selected organisation will have to manage international network service projects and English is the most commonly used language in this area. Proposals should be sent to the Commission by registered post or by delivery to the above-mentioned office, no later than 4 weeks after the date of the publication of this Journal.

Proposals must be sent in two envelopes, both of which must be closed. The inside envelope should indicate not only the above-mentioned address but also:

- Call for Expression of Interest for Consultancy and Management for OSI Networks.
- Name of organisation.
- Not to be opened by the postal service.

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FG/5.10.89

In response to the request in the Official Journal of the European Communities, EARN declares its interest in consultancy on management for OSI networks.

EARN is an international association with office in France, cf. the enclosed list of the EARN Board of Directors and Administration. For several years, EARN has operated an international network for research and education in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. EARN has an OSI migration strategy, and in 1989 an X.25 backbone is being set up connecting central nodes in the network.

Financially, the association's 1989 accounts show an income of 1,65 MECU, but due to the cooperative nature of the network, the activities coordinated by EARN correspond to much higher numbers.

Technically, EARN has an expertise with all network layers.

So far, EARN has not performed service for organisations outside of our community. However, this community comprises over 450 research and education institutions in Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

At present, the EARN staff is about 6 network experts and administrators. However, in case a contract were agreed, we would probably recruit permanent or temporary staff from our community or externally. No charge rates for external works have been established yet.

Please refer to the enclosed brochure for further information on EARN.

Frode Greisen
EARN President