

Brussels,

Ex-ante publicity notice - negotiated procurement procedure

Subject : External Quality Assessment of Internal Audit activities
Ref : SRB/NEG/29/2022

Purpose of the tender:

Standard 1312 of the International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing as drawn up by the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) states that an 'external assessment must be conducted at least once every five years by a qualified, independent reviewer or review team from outside the organisation'. The primary objective of this assignment is to conduct, by the end of 2022, a full external assessment of the SRB Internal Audit activities.

Background information

The SRB was established in 2016 and IA operates effectively since October 2016, when the Internal Auditor was hired. The audit team currently has 3FTEs however it will increase to 4 FTEs in September 2022 for an organisation of approximately 400 staff members. In addition, IA has on one occasion outsourced the execution of an audit engagement to an external consultant.

Being a self-financed EU Agency (by the financial services industry), the SRB is not audited by the Internal Audit Services of the Commission. It is, however, audited by the European Court of Auditors as an external auditor, together with a private sector external auditor for the accounts.

Over the past three years, the average number of audit engagements carried out per year was four. The SRB and its IA function are located in Brussels.

Scope and description of the tender

The Service Provider should design a detailed assessment highlighting the requirements of the Standards and ways to achieve conformance. The Service Provider will work with the SRB to:

- 1) systematically review the way the SRB conducts its internal audit activities according to recognised professional practice and,
- 2) identify potential scope for development.

The EQA will involve the examination and assessment of SRB's:

- Internal audit charter;
- Related governance structures, policies and relationships in action;
- IA annual plans;
- Human resources: audit team, training and development;
- Quality assurance arrangements: processes and performance measurement;

- Processes: including the use of internal audit technology;
- Engagement files and reports;
- Reporting, communication and follow-up arrangements.

The external assessment should cover the entire period (years 2017-2022).

Description of the procedure:

Ex-ante publicity is the first stage of a negotiated procurement procedure below the Directive threshold with minimum 3 candidates, through which the Agency may award the abovementioned contract.

The aim of this notice is to support the SRB in the selection of the tenderers who will be invited to submit a tender for the contract.

Economic operators interested in taking part in this tender should send an e-mail expressing their interest by **19/08/2022, 12:00 Brussels time** to SRB-PROCUREMENT@srb.europa.eu. Further specific information will be communicated to interested economic operators.

It should be noted that the SRB reserves the right not to launch the negotiated procedure. This decision shall be communicated accordingly.

SRB PROCUREMENT