TENDER SPECIFICATIONS

Part 2: Technical Specifications

1. DESCRIPTION

The services and supplies that are the subject of this call for tender, including any minimum requirements, are described in detail in the document *Tender specifications – part 2: Technical specifications,* hereafter referred to as *Technical specifications*.

Variants (alternatives to the model solution described in the tender specifications) <u>are not allowed</u>. The *Contracting authority* will disregard any variants described in a tender.

1.1. Background and objectives

EBRAINS is Europe's digital research infrastructure for brain research and has recently entered a new phase. The EBRAINS website serves a dual purpose: as the entry point to the digital infrastructure for its user community of international brain researchers and as the main channel of public presentation, especially, to stakeholders from politics and science, including funders and other decision-makers, who use the website to learn more about EBRAINS and stay informed about recent developments and achievements.

To adapt to new project structures and target audiences, the website ebrains.eu needs a new design. We are looking for a graphic design agency with an inspiring portfolio and proven experience in drafting designs for scientific projects to develop a new look and feel for the EBRAINS website that will impress stakeholders of different backgrounds with awe-inspiring aesthetics to present cutting-edge research.

A new sitemap and layout should make the website more visually appealing and easier to navigate for various stakeholders. Currently, the website is running on the CMS Twill, but as part of a redesign and update of the page, the website should be migrated to a different, open-source CMS that is more widely used and offers more flexibility (such as Drupal or typo3).

1.2. Detailed characteristics of the purchase

The scope of the services covers: **Web design and CMS change for EBRAINS website**

Specific services required:
- Strategic planning, assessment and consultation on web design and development
- Creation of wireframes that define, in detail, the new structure, content and functionality of the homepage and all subpages (including at least two rounds of corrections)
- Development of a new design – technical, content-related structural and graphic concept taking into account the content provided by us with a new, modern look and feel
- Development of a modern, responsive website design for all devices, integrating all contents provided
- Programming of new website (integrating all contents): implementation of the design agreed with the customer, development of the technical infrastructure and working environment, adoption of all graphic elements and templates required for the relaunch, comprehensive functional tests and quality assurance, bug fixes.
- Installation and configuration of the new content management system, frontend and backend development including functionalities according to the agreed concept, comprehensive functional testing and quality assurance, bug fixes, support with relaunch
- Creating pages, migrating old content, formatting and integrating text, preparing and integrating photos/graphics/illustrations, creating links, testing
- Contents (texts and images) will be provided by the EBRAINS communication team
- After relaunch, the system, code base and all related files and materials need to be handed over to the EBRAINS team to allow full independence
- Technical documentation: overview of the installed system incl. architecture diagram and description of the configuration of all components (CMS, database, file system) and interfaces of the CMS installation

CMS requirements:
- The new CMS needs to be both open-source and widely used (large user base)
- The CMS should be suitable for the complexity of the ERBAINS website

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- The system should offer a lot of flexibility for (future) customisation, e.g., the option to easily add further pages to sitemap or add further content blocks within existing pages etc.
- Linked digital tools that the EBRAINS platform offers but that are in various other systems are not part of the redesign but links to these contents need to be reestablished

Timeline:
- We aim to relaunch the EBRAINS website at the beginning of December 2025 on the occasion of the EBRAINS Summit, a large international scientific conference during which visibility of the website will be particularly high.
- Please include in your proposal a timeline with strategic milestones, testing, handover and acceptance moments including the relaunch date for the new website ("Go Live") with an internal testing phase (non-public link) of the entire finalised website that starts 17 NOVEMBER 2025 at the latest.