

Procurement rules

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ACTRIS ERIC Procurement Rules

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Preamble

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 723/2009 of 25 June 2009 on the Community legal framework for a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC), and in particular Article 7(3);

Having regard to Directive 2014/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on public procurement in particular Article 9(1)(b);

Having regard to the Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2023/900 of 25 April 2023 setting up the Aerosol, Clouds and Trace Gases Research Infrastructure (ACTRIS ERIC) and article 11 of STATUTES OF ACTRIS ERIC 2023/C 156/02 C/2023/2646

and

Whereas:

ACTRIS ERIC wishes to regulate procurement to promote the objectives of:

- (1) Value for Money – Secure the best mix of quality, effectiveness, and price over the whole life cycle of the purchased goods, works or services,
- (2) Publicity – Contracts above certain thresholds shall be published in appropriate media, except where the circumstances or the nature of the contract justify reliance on specific exemptions,
- (3) Integrity – All procurement shall be conducted in a manner above reproach and with complete impartiality and preferential treatment for none,
- (4) Sustainability - In accordance with relevant EU policy, seek to procure goods, services and works with a reduced environmental impact throughout their life cycle when compared to goods, services and works with the same primary function that would otherwise be procured. This may include, for example, the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants, improved energy and water efficiency, use of renewable resources, reduced hazardous waste and support for refuse and recycling. Seek to promote decent work, social inclusion, accessibility, employment opportunities, ethical trade, gender equality, health and safety and achieve wider compliance with social objectives, provided these are linked to the subject matter of the contract, and
- (5) Innovation - Whenever practicable the need to spur innovation is taken into account when planning the procurements.

The General Assembly of the ACTRIS ERIC has adopted the following procurement rules:

Chapter 1

General Provisions

Article 1 Definitions

“Call for tenders” means a call for competition made in a manner required or permitted by Article 10.

“Contract” means an agreement concerning procurement of goods, works or services, concluded in writing between ACTRIS ERIC and a third party or parties.

“Contractor” means a party who has been awarded and entered into a Contract with ACTRIS ERIC.

“Days” means calendar days, unless otherwise indicated.

“Electronic means” means electronic equipment for the processing and storage of data transmitted, conveyed or received electronically.

“Notice” means communication in writing where in writing refers to any expression consisting of words or figures which can be read, reproduced and subsequently communicated, including information transmitted and stored by electronic means.

“Partner country” means a country, which is a member or an observer in the ACTRIS ERIC.

“Procurement documents” or “Tender documents” means any document or documents produced or referred to by ACTRIS ERIC to describe or determine elements of the procurement or the procedure, including the Call for tenders, the invitation to tender, the technical specifications, and where appropriate, the proposed conditions of Contract and any additional documents.

“Supplier” means any natural or legal person, a public entity or group of such persons and/or bodies, which offer the execution of works, supply of products or services on the market.

“Tenderer” means a Supplier that has submitted a tender or a request to participate in a tender procedure.

“Working day” means a day other than Saturday, Sunday, or a bank holiday in Finland.

Article 2 Scope of application

(1) These procurement rules apply to all Contracts concerning procurement of goods, works or services, concluded in writing between ACTRIS ERIC and a third party or parties.

(2) These procurement rules only apply to procurement Contracts that are financed, for the most part, by ACTRIS ERIC’s budget and carried out by ACTRIS ERIC or on behalf of ACTRIS ERIC.

(3) These procurement rules are applicable to Suppliers and Tenderers from the EU Member States, Partner Countries, and other states that benefit from relevant international or bilateral agreements on procurement with the EU, but only where such agreements apply to the procurement concerned.

Article 3 Principles and objectives

(1) The procedures for award of Contracts by ACTRIS ERIC shall respect the EU principles of transparency, proportionality, mutual recognition, equal treatment and non- discrimination.

(2) While conducting procurement, ACTRIS ERIC shall seek to promote the objectives of Value for Money, Publicity, Integrity, Sustainability, and Innovation, as set out in the preamble to these rules.

Article 4 Estimated value of contracts

(1) The estimated value of a procurement shall be based on the total amount payable over the duration of the Contract, without VAT, as estimated by ACTRIS ERIC, including any forms of options and renewals, taking into account all forms of remuneration.

(2) Unless objectively justified by the specific circumstances of the Contract, ACTRIS ERIC shall neither divide its procurement nor use a particular valuation method for estimating the value of procurement to limit competition among Suppliers or Tenderers or to otherwise avoid its obligations under these rules.

(3) Notwithstanding paragraph (2) above and provided that transparency and competition are preserved, ACTRIS ERIC shall seek to subdivide contracts into separate lots to facilitate market access opportunities for small and medium enterprises and to reduce the risk of over dependency on one Supplier.

Article 5 Information on possible forthcoming procurements

(1) ACTRIS ERIC shall, where possible, publish on its website information regarding procurement activities planned for forthcoming months or years.

(2) Any publication in accordance with this Article does not constitute a Call for tenders and does not confer any rights on Suppliers or Tenderers.

Article 6 Specific exclusions

These procurement rules do not apply to contracts for:

- (1) the acquisition or rental, by whatever financial means, of land, existing buildings, or other immovable property,
- (2) employment, secondment and personnel placement contracts,
- (3) arbitration, conciliation or other legal services,
- (4) the delivery of in-kind contributions entered between ACTRIS ERIC and a delivering body following an in-kind expression of interest, provided that the financing of such in-kind contribution is through the budget contribution of the Partner Country as defined in article 25 a) of the ACTRIS ERIC statutes. For the purpose of this paragraph, it does not matter if the financing provided by the Partner Country is done by way of a direct payment to the delivering body, or through a designated cash contribution made to ACTRIS ERIC, which is transferred further to the delivering body,
- (5) joint or collaborative procurement conducted in accordance with Articles 21 (2),
- (6) banking services and loans,
- (7) educational and vocational services,
- (8) recreational, cultural and sporting services,
- (9) hotel and accommodation services,
- (10) health and work environment related services.

Article 7 Language

(1) As a general rule, Tender documents and ancillary correspondence shall be in English, unless decided otherwise by ACTRIS ERIC where the following conditions are fulfilled:

- a) the value of the Contract is less than EUR 70.000,
- b) the decision is justified by the subject matter of the Contract, and
- c) where, due to technical or geographical reasons, only domestic Suppliers or Contractors are likely to be interested in submitting tenders.

(2) Responses to Calls for tenders shall be in the language of the Tender documents or in any other language permitted by the Tender documents.

Article 8 Currency

(1) The Suppliers shall submit tender quotes in EUR which is the currency used regarding all procurements.

Article 9 Conflict of interest

(1) For the purpose of this Article, a conflict of interest shall, at the least, be deemed to arise in any situation where a staff member of ACTRIS ERIC, involved in the exercise of the procurement procedure or in a position to influence the outcome of the exercise of the procurement procedure, has a private or other interest which influences, or appear to influence, the impartial and objective performance of the procurement process, the outcome of the procurement process, or his or her official duties.

(2) All staff members of ACTRIS ERIC shall take appropriate measures to effectively identify, prevent and remedy conflicts of interest arising from the conduct of the procurement to ensure integrity, equal treatment of all Suppliers and Tenderers and to avoid any distortion of competition.

(3) All staff members of ACTRIS ERIC shall follow any internal rules of ACTRIS ERIC concerning conflict of interest as well as the conflict-of-interest rules of the Administrative Procedure Act (434/2003) in Finland.

Chapter 2 High value procurements

Article 10 General provisions

(1) The provisions under this chapter shall only apply to Contracts with an estimated value of EUR 70.000 and above and which do not fall under one of the exemptions listed in Article 6.

(2) As a general rule, the Procurement documents shall be free of charge and fully accessible to Suppliers from the date of publication of a Call for tenders via the Internet, in a designated area on ACTRIS ERIC's website.

(3) If, due to exceptional reasons justified by the subject matter of the Contract, the Tender documents are not fully available by means of the Internet, Suppliers may request the delivery of the Tender documents, in which case ACTRIS ERIC shall provide the Tender documents within 3 working days of receipt of such request, provided such request was made at least 5 working days before the time limit for receipt of Tenders or request to participate.

(4) In the case referred to in paragraph (3) above, the time limits for the receipt of Tenders referred to in Article 13, Article 14 and Article 15 below, shall be prolonged by 5 days.

(5) Where practicable, ACTRIS ERIC may also allow for Tenders to be submitted by Electronic means, in which case it may reduce the time limit for receipt of Tenders referred to in Article 13, Article 14 and Article 15 by 3 days. Such Electronic means must be non-discriminatory, generally available and compatible with the information and communication technology products in general use.

Article 11 Call for tenders

(1) ACTRIS ERIC shall make known its intention to conduct a new procurement by means of a Call for tenders, unless the circumstances justify use of the procedure without publication of a Call for tenders in accordance with Article 16.

(2) The information provided with the Call for tenders shall be sufficiently precise as to enable Suppliers to identify the nature and scope of the procurement.

(3) A Call for tenders shall be published, as a minimum requirement, on ACTRIS ERIC's website in a designated area accessible to Suppliers via the Internet. Depending on the subject matter and the value of the Contract, ACTRIS ERIC may publish the Call for tenders in additional media to ensure transparency and competition.

Article 12 Choice of procedures

ACTRIS ERIC shall have the freedom to organise the procurement procedure leading to the award of a Contract in accordance with any of the procedures described in Article 13, Article 14 and Article 15, provided that a Call for tenders has been made in accordance with Article 11.

Article 13 Open procedure

(1) Upon publication of a Call for tenders, any interested Supplier may submit a Tender in response.

(2) The minimum time limit for receipt of Tenders shall be reasonable and proportionate to the subject matter of the Contract, no less than 20 days from the date on which the Call for tenders was published or for Contracts with a value exceeding EUR 200.000 no less than 30 days.

(3) ACTRIS ERIC shall assess the tenders submitted based on the award criteria set out in the Tender documents and in line with Article 26.

Article 14 Restricted procedure

(1) Upon publication of a Call for tenders, any interested Supplier may submit a request to participate.

(2) The Call for tenders may require the provision of information for qualitative selection within the time limits indicated and may include a questionnaire. The selection criteria used to carry out the qualitative selection shall comply with Article 25 and shall be published with the Call for tenders.

(3) The minimum time limit for receipt of a request to participate in response to a Call for tenders shall be no less than 15 days or for Contracts with a value exceeding EUR 200.000 no less than 25 days.

(4) Only those Suppliers invited to do so by ACTRIS ERIC following its qualitative assessment of the information provided in response to the Call for tenders, may submit a tender. The minimum number of

Suppliers invited to submit a tender shall be three (3) and in any event, a number sufficient to ensure genuine competition. However, where the number of Suppliers meeting the selection criteria is below the minimum number, ACTRIS ERIC may continue the procedure with those Suppliers only.

(5) The minimum time limit for the receipt of tenders shall be reasonable and proportionate to the subject matter of the Contract, but no less than 15 days or for Contracts with a value exceeding EUR 200.000 no less than 25 days.

(6) ACTRIS ERIC shall assess the tenders submitted on the basis of the award criteria set out in the Tender documents and in line with Article 26.

Article 15 Competitive procedure with negotiation

(1) Upon publication of a Call for tenders, any interested Supplier may submit a request to participate. The information provided with the Call for tenders shall be sufficiently precise to enable Suppliers to identify the nature and scope of the procurement.

(2) The Call for tenders may require the provision of information for qualitative selection within the time limits indicated and may include a questionnaire. The selection criteria used to carry out the qualitative selection shall comply with Article 25 and shall be published with the Call for tenders.

(3) In addition to (2) above, the Call for tenders may also require the submission of an initial tender, which shall be the basis for the subsequent negotiations.

(4) The minimum time limit for receipt of a request to participate in accordance with paragraphs (1) and (2) shall be no less than 15 days or for Contracts with a value exceeding EUR 200.000 no less than 25 days.

(5) If the Call for tenders also requires the submission of an initial tender in accordance with paragraph (3), the time limits shall be no less than 20 days or for Contracts with a value exceeding EUR 200,000, no less than 30 days.

(6) Following the qualitative assessment of the information provided in response to the Call for tenders, only those Suppliers invited to do so by ACTRIS ERIC may take part in the negotiations. Where the Call for tender is made in accordance with paragraphs (1) and (2), the invitation to negotiate may be accompanied by a requirement to submit an initial tender, which shall form the basis for such negotiations. The minimum number of Tenderers invited to take part in the negotiations shall be 3 and in any event a number sufficient to ensure genuine competition. However, where the number of Suppliers meeting the selection criteria is below the minimum number, ACTRIS ERIC may continue the procedure with those Suppliers only.

(7) During the negotiations, ACTRIS ERIC shall ensure equal treatment of all Tenderers and shall not provide information in a discriminatory manner by giving some Tenderers an advantage over others.

(8) The negotiations may take place in successive stages to reduce the number of Tenders to be negotiated.

(9) In the case of research and development activities, ACTRIS ERIC may decide to use the negotiation phase to conduct separate research and development activities with one or several Tenderers. Such activities may aim at the development of an innovative supply, service or work and the subsequent purchase of the resulting supply, service, or work. In such cases, the negotiations may be structured in successive stages reflecting the steps of the research and innovation process.

(10) In accordance with Article 27, ACTRIS ERIC shall not reveal to the other Tenderers any confidential information communicated by a Tenderer participating in the negotiations without first obtaining that Tenderer's consent.

(11) ACTRIS ERIC shall inform Tenderers in good time of its intention to conclude negotiations and set a common deadline for submission of final Tenders. The final Tenders shall comply with the minimum requirements of the Tender documents and be based on the outcome of the negotiations.

(12) ACTRIS ERIC shall assess the final Tenders submitted based on the award criteria set out in the Tender documents and in line with Article 26.

Article 16 Procedure without publication of a Call for tenders

(1) In the specific cases and circumstances laid down in this Article, ACTRIS ERIC may award Contracts by way of direct negotiations with one or more Suppliers, without prior publication of a Call for tenders. In such cases, Article 29 shall not be applicable.

(2) ACTRIS ERIC may award Contracts following the procedure under this Article in the following circumstances:

a) in the absence of competition for technical reasons or due to exclusive rights including intellectual property rights, where no reasonable alternatives are available,

b) where only one or no applications, requests to participate or suitable Tenders have been submitted in response to a previous Call for tenders, provided that the initial conditions of the Contract or the Tender documents are not substantially altered, that the Tender to be awarded the Contract complies with the original exclusion and selection criteria if such were required, and that no more than one year has elapsed since the publication of the original Call for tenders,

c) when due to external circumstances of an urgent nature, unforeseeable and not attributed to ACTRIS ERIC, the time limits under in Article 13, Article 14 and Article 15 cannot be complied with,

d) for additional deliveries by the original Supplier where a change of Supplier would oblige ACTRIS ERIC to acquire supplies or services having different characteristics which would result in incompatibility or disproportionate technical difficulties in operation, maintenance, or application,

e) for strict security reasons,

f) for meeting and conference services,

g) for activities purely intended to promote the objective of innovation,

h) for the procurement of second-hand equipment at particularly advantageous terms, or

i) for contracts at particularly advantageous terms, from a supplier which is winding up business activities, or from receivers or liquidators of a bankruptcy, an agreement with creditors, or similar procedures.

Chapter 3 Low value procurement

Article 17 General provisions

The provisions under this Chapter shall only apply to Contracts with an estimated value of up to 70.000 EUR and which do not fall under one of the exemptions listed in Article 6.

Article 18 Contracts estimated to be less than EUR 20.000

- (1) Where appropriate, ACTRIS ERIC shall ensure limited competition through requests for quotation and price comparison.
- (2) ACTRIS ERIC shall ensure that best-value-for-money in accordance with the principles and objectives in Article 3.

Article 19 Contracts estimated to be between EUR 20.000 and EUR 100.000

- (1) Where appropriate, ACTRIS ERIC may publish the Contract opportunity on ACTRIS ERIC's website in a designated area accessible to Suppliers. Publication under this Article does not constitute a Call for tender in accordance with Article 11.
- (2) ACTRIS ERIC may also maintain a Supplier catalogue from which it shall seek requests for quotation. The Supplier catalogue shall be subject matter specific, easily defined based on purchases made under the category concerned.
- (3) The Supplier catalogue shall be open for registration of new Suppliers by way of a call for expression of interest to be published in a designated area on the ACTRIS ERIC's website accessible to Suppliers. The call for expression of interest may specify duration and conditions of admission to the catalogue, including the requirement to meet certain selection criteria for qualification of Suppliers.
- (4) At minimum, the ACTRIS ERIC shall ensure appropriate competition by sending requests for quotations to at least 3 suppliers.
- (5) Where, for objective reasons, the number of Suppliers available to respond to the publication or to the request for quotation is less than 3, the ACTRIS ERIC shall seek to ensure an optimal level of competition in the circumstances.

Chapter 4 Procurement arrangements

Article 20 Arrangements under Hansel Oy

- (1) Where appropriate, ACTRIS ERIC may use the arrangements provided by Hansel Oy, a company established by the Act on limited liability company called Hansel Oy (1096/2008) in Finland. The purpose of the company is to acquire supplies and services for other contracting authorities and to award public procurement contracts and conclude framework agreements on supplies and services. The company maintains public contracts contracted through joint competitive bidding.
- (2) When the arrangements of Hansel Oy are used Contracts are awarded directly to Suppliers selected by the Hansel Oy without going through procedures in Chapter 2, Chapter 3 and Article 29.

Article 21 Collaborative and joint procurement

- (1) ACTRIS ERIC may award a Contract jointly or in collaboration with other contracting authorities in other countries.
- (2) When acting in collaborative procurement with other contracting authorities that are subject to other procurement procedures pursuant to Directive 2014/24/EU, or international rules, ACTRIS ERIC may choose to organise the joint or collaborative procurement in accordance with such other procurement procedures.

Article 22 Electronic catalogues

(1) The ACTRIS ERIC may require Tenders to be presented in the format of an electronic catalogue, in accordance with the technical specifications and format established by the ACTRIS ERIC.

Chapter 5 Conduct of the procurement

Article 23 Grounds for exclusion

(1) ACTRIS ERIC may treat as ineligible and may not invite a Supplier to Tender or award a Contract to a Supplier if ACTRIS ERIC has actual knowledge that the Supplier or its directors or any other person who has powers of representation, decision or control of the Supplier:

a) has been convicted of any of the following offences in the last three years: participation in criminal organisation; corruption; fraud; money laundering; terrorist offences or offences linked to terrorist activities; child labour or other forms of illegal trafficking in human beings,

b) has failed to comply with applicable environmental, social or labour laws in the last three years,

c) is guilty of grave professional misconduct, which renders the Supplier or Tenderer's integrity questionable,

d) is involved in or in the last three years has been involved in collusion,

or where ACTRIS ERIC has actual knowledge of the existence of any of the following circumstances:

e) an unfair advantage that may distort competition as a result of the prior involvement of the Supplier or Tenderer in the preparation of the procurement process, in accordance with Article 28(4),

f) significant previous deficiencies in the performance of prior Contracts awarded by ACTRIS ERIC,

g) serious misrepresentation while supplying information required as part of a Tender procedure, or

h) where the Supplier or Tenderer is bankrupt, or is the subject of insolvency or winding-up procedures or is in any equivalent situation arising from a similar procedure under the laws and regulations of any state.

(2) at any time during the procurement procedure, ACTRIS ERIC may exclude a Supplier or a Tenderer where, due to new information brought to light, it turns out that the Supplier or Tenderer is in one of the situations referred to in paragraphs (1)(a)-(h) above.

(3) ACTRIS ERIC may request that official registers, certificates, statements, and other means of proof are submitted as evidence against grounds for exclusion according to paragraph (1) above.

(4) A Supplier that is in one of the situations referred to in paragraph (1) above shall have the possibility to request that the compliance measures taken by that Supplier are sufficient to demonstrate its reliability, despite the existence of a relevant grounds for exclusion, to have the possible admission to the procurement procedure be examined.

(5) Such compliance measures may particularly include personnel and organisational measures such as the severance of all links with persons or organisations involved in the misbehaviour, appropriate staff reorganisation measures, the implementation of reporting and control systems, the creation of an internal audit structure to monitor compliance and the adoption of internal liability and compensation rules.

(6) The compliance measures taken by the Supplier shall be evaluated by ACTRIS ERIC, taking into account

the particular circumstances of the offence or misconduct. ACTRIS ERIC shall give the Supplier a statement of the reasons for its decision in case it considers the compliance measures taken to be insufficient.

Article 24 Technical specifications

- (1) The technical specifications shall define the components required of the works, supplies or services to be performed under the Contract and shall be set out in the Tender documents.
- (2) Technical specifications shall afford equal access to Suppliers in the procurement procedure and shall not have the effect of creating unjustified obstacles to competition or result in unfair discrimination.
- (3) Where relevant to the subject matter of the Contract, the technical specifications shall be drawn up so as to promote the objectives of Sustainability as set out in the preamble to these rules.
- (4) Technical specifications shall not refer to a specific make or source, or a particular process that characterises the products or services provided by a specific Supplier with the effect of favouring or eliminating certain Suppliers or certain products.
- (5) Notwithstanding paragraph (4) above, when a reference to a specific make or source cannot be objectively avoided to describe the subject matter of the Contract, it shall be accompanied by the words “or equivalent”.

Article 25 Selection criteria

- (1) ACTRIS ERIC may establish selection criteria for the qualitative selection of Suppliers to be invited to tender or, where applicable, to negotiate the Contract.
- (2) The selection criteria used shall be based on objective criteria that ACTRIS ERIC may determine, provided it makes the criteria available to Suppliers in advance.
- (3) The criteria must be related and proportionate to the subject-matter of the Contract and may include (but are not limited to): suitability to pursue a professional activity, economic and financial standing, and technical and professional ability.
- (4) Where appropriate and relevant for a particular Contract, a Tenderer may rely on the capacities of other entities to demonstrate economics and financial standing or technical and professional ability, subject to the following conditions set out in paragraphs (5), (6) and (7) below.
- (5) With regard to criteria relating to economic and financial standing, ACTRIS ERIC may require that the Tenderer and those other entities be jointly liable for the execution of the Contract.
- (6) With regard to criteria relating to technical capacity, ACTRIS ERIC may require the Tenderer to prove that it will have at its disposal the relevant resource by, for example, providing a commitment in writing to that effect.
- (7) With regard to educational and professional qualifications or experience of individuals, a Tenderer may only rely on the capacities of other entities if those individuals perform the services or works that require their qualification or experience.

Article 26 Award criteria

- (1) ACTRIS ERIC shall award Contracts on the basis of best-value-for-money assessed on the basis of objective criteria according to the principles and objectives set out in Article 3 above.

(2) The objective criteria used to assess the best-value-for-money shall be linked to the subject matter of the Contract and shall not confer an unrestricted freedom of choice on ACTRIS ERIC. Such criteria may include environmental, social or innovation-related criteria and shall reflect the objectives set out in the preamble of these rules and Article 3(2) above.

(3) The criteria used to assess the best-value-for-money shall be set out in the Tender documents and be sufficiently clear to allow Tenderers to understand on what basis their Tenders will be assessed and to allow the information provided by the Tenderers to be effectively verified.

(4) In appropriate cases, justified by the subject matter of the Contract, the best-value-for-money may be based solely on price or life-cycle costing.

(5) Except in duly justified cases, ACTRIS ERIC shall require that proposals be submitted following a double envelope system, whereby the commercial offer is separated from the technical offer.

Article 27 Confidentiality

(1) In its communications with Suppliers or Tenderers or any other third party, ACTRIS ERIC shall not disclose any information if the non-disclosure of such information is necessary for the protection of essential interests of ACTRIS ERIC, Finland or a Partner Country.

(2) ACTRIS ERIC shall not disclose information communicated to it by a Supplier or a Tenderer that has been reasonably and clearly designated by that Supplier or Tenderer as confidential and that, according to ACTRIS ERIC's assessment, would likely prejudice the legitimate commercial interests of that Supplier or Tenderer, or would impede fair competition, unless disclosure of that information is ordered by a court or administrative body as required under European Union laws or laws of Finland.

Article 28 Market consultations and involvement of Suppliers in the procurement

(1) Prior to commencing a procurement procedure, ACTRIS ERIC may conduct a market survey or consultation to plan the conduct of the procurement, prepare the Tender documents and inform the market on forthcoming procurement plans.

(2) For this purpose, ACTRIS ERIC may engage external independent experts or market participants, provided this does not have the effect of distorting competition.

(3) ACTRIS ERIC shall take appropriate measures to ensure that competition is not distorted as a result of the participation in the procurement procedure by a Tenderer or an entity related to a Tenderer previously involved in the preparation of the procurement.

(4) ACTRIS ERIC may exclude a Supplier or a Tenderer if it has grounds to conclude that the prior involvement of that Tenderer, Supplier or related entity in the procurement process is capable of distorting competition or compromising the integrity of the procedure.

(5) Prior to any such exclusion, the Supplier or Tenderer shall be given the opportunity to prove that its involvement in the preparation of the tender process is not capable of distorting competition.

Article 29 Notice of decision to reject a Tenderer or to award a contract

(1) ACTRIS ERIC shall send a Notice to Tenderers who failed to meet the exclusion or selection criteria pursuant to Articles 23 and 25. The Notice shall be sent as soon as possible after a decision has been made and include the reasons why the Tenderer was unsuccessful in meeting those criteria.

(2) Prior to entering into a Contract, ACTRIS ERIC shall send all unsuccessful Tenderers, who have not been informed of their rejection pursuant to paragraph (1) above, a Notice communicating its decision to award the Contract.

(3) The Notice referred to in paragraph (2) shall include:

a) the criteria used for the award of the Contract,

and

b) the name of the Tenderer or Tenderers to be awarded the Contract,

and

c) the score for each award criterion obtained by the Tenderer which is to receive the Notice and the Tenderer or Tenderers to be awarded the Contract,

and

d) where paragraph (4) below is applicable, the earliest date ACTRIS ERIC intends to enter into the Contract.

(4) For Contracts awarded under Article 13, Article 14, and Article 15 with value of over EUR 200.000, ACTRIS ERIC must not enter into the Contract before the end of a standstill period.

(5) The standstill period shall end at midnight at the end of the 10th day following the relevant sending date of the notice in accordance with paragraphs (1) and (2). The “relevant sending date” means the day on which the notice is sent, which for the purpose of calculating the standstill period, shall be counted as the first day.

(6) For Contracts falling under Chapter 3, the decision of whether to follow the provisions of this Article shall be at ACTRIS ERIC’s discretion.

Article 30 Cancellation of a procurement procedure

(1) ACTRIS ERIC may decide to cancel a procurement procedure at any time before entering into a Contract, provided such decision is motivated by objective reasons and is in conformity with the principles and objectives set out in Article 3.

(2) ACTRIS ERIC shall inform all Tenderers of its decision within a reasonable time.

(3) Participation in a tender procedure that has been cancelled shall not give rise to any compensation claims for foregone profits or costs incurred by Suppliers or Tenderers.

Chapter 6 Audit

Article 31 General audit

(1) ACTRIS ERIC may appoint an internal auditor to conduct an annual review of procurements against the procurement rules of the ACTRIS ERIC. The auditor shall provide a written report of its findings within 60 days of its appointment. The auditor shall be independent of the ACTRIS ERIC’s procurement functions.

(2) The Procurement Appeal Board (Article 37) may appoint an ad-hoc internal auditor in relation to a specific procurement, in which case it shall provide its report in writing to the Procurement Appeal Board within 14 days of its appointment. The ad-hoc internal auditor shall be independent of the ACTRIS ERIC’s procurement functions.

(3) The internal auditor referred to in paragraph (1) above shall be approved by the Director General and be independent of the ACTRIS ERIC's procurement functions.

Article 32 Oversight by the Financial Committee

The Financial Committee of ACTRIS ERIC shall have oversight over the annual procurement plan for Contracts with a value over EUR 200.000. Additional rules regarding the Financial Committee's involvement in the award of Contracts of this value may be set out in ACTRIS ERIC's internal rules.

Chapter 7 Contract performance

Article 33 Contract conditions

(1) ACTRIS ERIC may require compliance with obligations in the fields of environmental, social, tax and employment law that apply at the place where the works are executed, or the services provided in addition to obligations resulting from laws, regulations, decrees, collective agreements and decisions applicable in the relevant state.

(2) ACTRIS ERIC may also require additional stipulations relating to the performance of the Contract in particular concerning innovation-related, environmental, social, or employment-related considerations.

Article 34 Subcontracting

(1) ACTRIS ERIC may ask Tenderers to indicate in their tenders any share of the Contract that may be subcontracted to third parties and the identity of such proposed subcontractors.

(2) ACTRIS ERIC may verify whether there are grounds for exclusion of subcontractors under Article 23, in which case it may require a Tenderer to replace those subcontractors so identified.

Article 35 Amendments to Contracts during their term

(1) Contracts may not be modified during their term unless one or more of the following conditions are fulfilled:

- a) the modification is not substantial,
- b) the modification has been provided for in the initial Tender documents and is included in the final Contract by way of a clear, precise and unequivocal review or option clause,
- c) the modification is in relation to the identity of the Contractor due to corporate restructuring, including takeover, merger, acquisition, or insolvency of the original Contractor, provided the new contracting partner fulfils the criteria for qualitative selection applied in the original tender procedure,
- d) the modification has become necessary due to unforeseen and urgent reasons related to technical and economic reasons and the replacement of the Contractor would result in significant increase of costs or substantial delays to the ACTRIS ERIC. In any event, the increase in the value of the Contract due to such modification must not exceed 50% of the value of the original Contract, or
- e) the value of the modification (either in terms of price or risk allocation) is below 20% of the original Contract

for services and supplies Contracts, or 25% for Contracts for works, provided the modification does not change the overall nature of the Contract.

(2) For the purpose of this Article, a “substantial modification” is any modification which:

- a) would have attracted additional or other Suppliers to the initial tender process,
- b) introduces or excludes conditions that would have allowed the admission of Suppliers other than those initially selected to the tender process,
- c) would have resulted in the appointment of a Tenderer other than the one originally appointed, or
- d) considerably changes the economic balance of the Contract in favour of the Contractor.

Article 36 Extension of contract term

(1) Contracts may not be extended unless one or both of the following conditions are fulfilled:

- a) where the extension has been provided for in the initial Tender documents and is included in the final Contract by way of a clear, precise, and unequivocal option for extension clause,
- b) where the extension is required for additional works, services or supplies by the same Contractor, which have become necessary due to unforeseeable circumstances and the replacement of the Contractor would result in significant increase of costs or substantial delays to ACTRIS ERIC. In any event, the increase in the value of the Contract due to the extension (or successive extension) must not exceed 5
0% of the value of the original Contract.

Chapter 8 Appeal procedure

Article 37 Right of appeal

(1) Subject to Article 2(3) above and to paragraph (2) below, any Supplier or Tenderer who suffered or risks suffering loss or damage due to breach of these rules, may appeal a procurement decision taken by ACTRIS ERIC.

(2) Appeals must be submitted in writing to ACTRIS ERIC within 14 days from the day on which the person submitting the appeal knew or ought to have known of the grounds for the appeal and in any event no later than 3 months from the date when the grounds for submitting the appeal first arose. In this case the Director General or the Head Office Leader shall appoint an ad hoc Procurement Appeal Board immediately and not later than 21 days from the date the appeal was received by ACTRIS ERIC.

Article 38 Handling of appeals

(1) The Procurement Appeal Board shall be composed of at least 3 but no more than 5 competent members of ACTRIS ERIC’s staff and/or external parties including legal counsel, Financial Committee members or any other person who is legally qualified and competent in procurement legislation. The Procurement Appeal Board shall be chaired by a legally qualified person.

- (2) If the Procurement Appeal Board considers that a decision taken by ACTRIS ERIC infringes these rules, it shall order that the tender procedure or parts of it be rectified or grant any other remedy that would be adequate and reasonable in the circumstances. Where no infringement is considered to have taken place, it shall reject the appeal.
- (3) The Procurement Appeal Board may make an order suspending the procurement procedure or the award of Contract until it has issued its final decision.
- (4) For the purpose of investigating an appeal, the Procurement Appeal Board may order that an audit be conducted in accordance with Article 31(2) prior to issuing its decision.
- (5) The Procurement Appeal Board shall notify the appellant in writing of its final decision within 60 working days following the date of receipt of the appeal; such notification shall state the grounds on which its decision is based. If the Procurement Appeal Board has rejected an appeal in accordance with Article 38 (1), ACTRIS ERIC may immediately proceed with signing the awarded contract(s).
- (6) The Procurement Appeal Board shall be independent of ACTRIS ERIC's personnel handling the procurement processes or any staff member of ACTRIS ERIC within the meaning of Article 9.

Article 39 Jurisdiction

- (1) Any dispute between ACTRIS ERIC and a Supplier arising out of or in connection with the final decision of the Procurement Appeal Board shall be finally settled by arbitration in accordance with the Arbitration Rules of the Finland Chamber of Commerce.
- (2) The Rules for Expedited Arbitrations shall apply, unless the Finland Chamber of Commerce in its discretion determines, considering the complexity of the matter and other circumstances, that the normal Arbitration Rules shall apply.
- (3) The seat of the arbitration shall be in Helsinki, Finland, and the language to be used in the arbitral proceedings shall be English.
- (4) Filing a request for arbitration under this Article shall only be possible following the final decision of the Procurement Appeal Board and shall be done no later than 30 days following the date on which the notification of the decision was communicated to the appellant.

Chapter 9 Final provisions

Article 40 Interpretation

These rules shall be interpreted considering principles of the European Union legislation and the Finnish law.

Article 41 Amendments

Following the recommendation of the Financial Committee material amendments to these procurement rules shall require the approval of the General Assembly by simple majority vote.

Article 42 Entry into force

These procurement rules shall enter into force the date the General Assembly has approved them, unless otherwise decided and defined by the General Assembly.