



European Environment Agency



Open call No EEA/MDI/14/002

ANNEX 6 to the Tender Specifications

DRAFT FRAMEWORK SERVICE CONTRACT EEA/MDI/14/002

The European Environment Agency (hereinafter referred to as "the Agency"), acting on behalf of the European Commission, which is represented for the purposes of the signature of this contract by Mr Chris Steenmans, Head of Programme, of the one part,

and

[official name in full]

[official legal form]

Statutory registration number:

[official address in full]

VAT registration number: **[complete]**

hereinafter referred to as "the Contractor", represented for the purposes of the signature of this contract by *[name in full and function]*, of the other part,

HAVE AGREED

the **Special Conditions** and the **General Conditions** below and the following Annexes:

Annex I – Tender specifications No EEA/MDI/14/002

Annex II – Contractor's offer dated **[complete]**

Annex III – Draft specific contract

which form an integral part of this contract (hereinafter referred to as "the Contract").

The terms set out in the Special Conditions shall take precedence over those in the other parts of the Contract. The terms set out in the General Conditions shall take precedence over those in the Annexes. The terms set out in the Tender Specifications (Annex I) shall take precedence over those in the specific contract (Annex III), the latter taking precedence over the offer (Annex II).

Subject to the above, the several instruments forming part of the Contract are to be taken as mutually explanatory. Ambiguities or discrepancies within or between such parts shall be explained or rectified by a written instruction issued by the Agency, subject to the rights of the Contractor under Article I.8 should he dispute any such instruction.

I – SPECIAL CONDITIONS

ARTICLE I.1 - SUBJECT

- I.1.1 The subject of the Contract is the “provision of Copernicus Initial Operations 2011-2013 - Land Monitoring Service - Coordination and production of CORINE Land Cover for non-EU countries: Turkey”
- I.1.2 Signature of the Contract imposes no obligation on the Agency to purchase. Only implementation of the Contract through specific contracts is binding on the Agency.
- I.1.3 Once implementation of the Contract has been asked or has commenced, the Contractor shall reply and provide the services in accordance with all terms and conditions of the Contract.
- I.1.4 The Contract does not confer on the Contractor any exclusive right to provide the services described in Annex I to the Agency.

ARTICLE I.2 - DURATION

- I.2.1 The Contract shall enter into force on the date on which it is signed by the Agency.
- I.2.2 Under no circumstances may implementation commence before the date on which the Contract enters into force. Execution of the tasks may under no circumstances begin before the date on which the specific contract enters into force.
- I.2.3 The period of implementation of the contract may not exceed 12 (twelve) months or 30 June 2015, whichever date comes first. This contractual period and all other periods specified in the Contract are calculated in calendar days unless otherwise indicated.
- I.2.4 The specific contracts shall be returned signed before the Contract to which they refer expires.

The Contract shall continue to apply to such specific contract after its expiry, but no later than 6 (six) months after this date.

ARTICLE I.3 –PRICES

- I.3.1 The maximum budget available for the Contract is EUR 1.250.000 (one million two hundred fifty thousand euro) over the maximum period specified in Article I.2.3. The prices of the services shall be as listed in Annex II.

The price indicated in the specific contract covers any fees payable to the Contractor in relation to the vesting of rights in the Union and where applicable the transfer of rights to the Union and any use of the results by the Agency.

- I.3.2 Prices shall be expressed in EUR.
- I.3.3 Prices shall be fixed and not subject to revision for the whole duration of the contract.

ARTICLE I.4 – IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONTRACT

All services delivered under this Contract will be the subject of a written specific contract. The specific contract will specify the terms of the performance including in particular the reference of the Contract, the type of the services and the amount.

Within 10 (ten) working days of a request for services being sent by the Agency to the Contractor, the Agency shall receive an offer, with particulars in support, duly signed and dated.

Within 10 (ten) working days of an specific contract being sent by the Agency to the Contractor, the Agency shall receive it back, duly signed and dated.

The period allowed for the execution of the tasks shall start to run on the date both parties sign the specific contract, unless a different date is indicated.

ARTICLE I.5 – INVOICING AND PAYMENT

Payments under the Contract shall be made in accordance with the provisions in Article II.4. Payments shall be executed only if the Contractor has fulfilled all his contractual obligations by the date on which the invoice is submitted. Payment requests may not be made if payments for previous periods have not been executed as a result of default or negligence of the Contractor.

Within 30 (thirty) days of completion of the tasks referred to in each specific contract, the Contractor shall submit to the Agency an invoice indicating the reference number of the Contract and of the specific contract to which it refers, accompanied by the relevant supporting documents relating to the services carried out. The invoice shall be sent to the Agency at the address invoices@eea.europa.eu.

Payments shall be made upon provision of the services requested, within 30 (thirty) days from the date of receipt by the Agency of the relevant invoice(s) and supporting documents.

ARTICLE I.6 – BANK ACCOUNT

Payments shall be made to the Contractor's bank account denominated in euro¹, identified as follows:

Bank name: *[complete]*
Branch address: *[complete]*
Account holder: *[complete]*
Account No: *[complete]*
IBAN code: *[complete]*
BIC/Swift Code: *[complete]*

1 Or local currency where the receiving country does not allow transactions in EUR

ARTICLE I.7 – GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

Any communication relating to the Contract or to its implementation shall be made in writing and shall bear the Contract and specific contract numbers. Ordinary mail shall be deemed to have been received by the Agency on the date on which it is registered by the department responsible indicated below.

Electronic communication must be confirmed by paper communication when requested by either party. The parties agree that paper communication can be replaced by electronic communication with electronic signature.

Communications shall be sent to the following addresses:

Agency:

European Environment Agency
Att.: Mr Hans Dufourmont
Kongens Nytorv 6
1050 Copenhagen K
Denmark
Tel: +45 33 36 11 15
Fax: +45 33 36 71 99
E-mail: hans.dufourmont@eea.europa.eu

Contractor:

[Contractor's name in full]
Att.: *[title, name, function]*
[Contractor's address in full]
Tel: *[complete]*
Fax: *[complete]*
e-mail: *[complete]*

ARTICLE I.8 – APPLICABLE LAW AND SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

- I.8.1** The Contract shall be governed by Union law, complemented, where necessary, by the national substantive law of Denmark.
- I.8.2** Any dispute between the parties resulting from the interpretation or application of the Contract which cannot be settled amicably shall be brought before the courts of Copenhagen.

ARTICLE I.9 – DATA PROTECTION

Any personal data included in or relating to the Contract, including its execution, shall be processed pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 45/2001² on the protection of individuals with

² OJ L 8 of 12.1.2001, p. 1.

regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data. It shall be processed solely for the purposes of the performance, management and follow-up of the Contract by the entity acting as data controller without prejudice to possible transmission to the bodies charged with a monitoring or inspection task in conformity with Union law.

The Contractor shall have the right of access to his personal data and the right to rectify any such data that is inaccurate or incomplete. Should the Contractor have any queries concerning the processing of his personal data, he shall address them to the entity acting as data controller. The Contractor shall have right of recourse at any time to the European Data Protection Supervisor.

Where the Contract requires the processing of personal data, the Contractor may act only under the supervision of the data controller, in particular with regard to the purposes of the processing, the categories of data which may be processed, the recipients of the data, and the means by which the data subject may exercise his/her rights.

The data shall be confidential within the meaning of Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data. The Contractor shall limit access to the data to the staff strictly necessary for the performance, management and monitoring of the Contract.

The Contractor undertakes to adopt appropriate technical and organisational security measures having regard to the risks inherent in the processing and to the nature of the personal data concerned in order to:

- a) prevent any unauthorised person from having access to computer systems processing personal data, and especially:
 - unauthorised reading, copying, alteration or removal of storage media;
 - unauthorised data input as well as any unauthorised disclosure, alteration or erasure of stored personal data;
 - unauthorised persons from using data-processing systems by means of data transmission facilities;
- b) ensure that authorised users of a data-processing system can access only the personal data to which their access right refers;
- c) record which personal data have been communicated, when and to whom;
- d) ensure that personal data being processed on behalf of third parties can be processed only in the manner prescribed by the Agency;
- e) ensure that, during communication of personal data and transport of storage media, the data cannot be read, copied or erased without authorisation;
- f) design its organisational structure in such a way that it meets data protection requirements.

ARTICLE I.10 – TERMINATION BY EITHER CONTRACTING PARTY

Either contracting party may, of its own volition and without being required to pay compensation, terminate the Contract by serving 60 (sixty) days formal prior notice. Should the Agency terminate the Contract, the Contractor shall only be entitled to payment corresponding to the services ordered and executed before the termination date.

On receipt of the letter terminating the Contract, the Contractor shall take all appropriate measures to minimise costs, prevent damage, and cancel or reduce his commitments. He shall draw up the documents required by the Special Conditions for the services rendered up

to the date on which termination takes effect, within a period not exceeding 60 (sixty) days from that date.

ARTICLE I.11 – USE OF THE RESULTS

I.11.1 Any results or rights thereon, including copyright and other intellectual or industrial property rights, obtained in performance of the Contract, shall be owned solely by the European Union, which may use, publish, assign or transfer them as it sees fit, without geographical or other limitation, except where industrial or intellectual property rights exist prior to the Contract being entered into.

I.11.2 Where industrial and intellectual property rights, including rights of ownership and use of the Contractor and third parties, exist prior to the Contract being entered into (“pre-existing rights”) the Contractor shall list precisely at the end of the period of the execution of the tasks at the latest all materials, information, IT tools, methodology and any other results or parts of the result to which third parties have rights or for which the right is not to be unconditionally given to the European Union. For every listed item the Contractor shall describe precisely the scope of pre-existing rights and other rights and the scope and the way, direct or indirect, of the partial vesting and thereby the effective transfer of rights to the European Union.

I.11.3 The Contractor shall present relevant and exhaustive evidence of acquiring all necessary rights together with presentation of the relevant result. In case parts of the results were created by employees of the Contractor, documentary evidence shall be provided as to how the creator’s or author’s rights were transferred to the Contractor.

I.11.4 Subject to the provision of Article I.11.2, all pre-existing rights to delivered results shall vest in the European Union and thereby under the terms of the Contract be effectively transferred to the European Union, as provided for in Article II.7.2.

II – GENERAL CONDITIONS

ARTICLE II.1 – PERFORMANCE OF THE CONTRACT

- II.1.1** The Contractor shall perform the Contract to the highest professional standards. The Contractor shall have sole responsibility for complying with any legal obligations incumbent on him, notably those resulting from employment, tax and social legislation.
- II.1.2** The Contractor shall have sole responsibility for taking the necessary steps to obtain any permit or licence required for performance of the Contract under the laws and regulations in force at the place where the tasks assigned to him are to be executed.
- II.1.3** Without prejudice to Article II.3 any reference made to the Contractor's staff in the Contract shall relate exclusively to individuals involved in the performance of the Contract.
- II.1.4** The Contractor must ensure that any staff performing the Contract have the professional qualifications and experience required for the execution of the tasks assigned to him.
- II.1.5** The Contractor shall neither represent the Agency nor behave in any way that would give such an impression. The Contractor shall inform third parties that he does not belong to the European public service.
- II.1.6** The Contractor shall have sole responsibility for the staff who execute the tasks assigned to him.

The Contractor shall make provision for the following employment or service relationships with his staff:

- staff executing the tasks assigned to the Contractor may not be given orders direct by the Agency;
 - the Agency may not under any circumstances be considered to be the staff's employer and the said staff shall undertake not to invoke in respect of the Agency any right arising from the contractual relationship between the Agency and the Contractor.
- II.1.7** In the event of disruption resulting from the action of a member of the Contractor's staff working on Agency premises or in the event of the expertise of a member of the Contractor's staff failing to correspond to the profile required by the Contract, the Contractor shall replace him without delay. The Agency shall have the right to request the replacement of any such member of staff, stating its reasons for so doing. Replacement staff must have the necessary qualifications and be capable of performing the Contract under the same contractual conditions. The Contractor shall be responsible for any delay in the execution of the tasks assigned to him resulting from the replacement of staff in accordance with this Article.

- II.1.8** Should any unforeseen event, action or omission directly or indirectly hamper execution of the tasks, either partially or totally, the Contractor shall immediately and on his own initiative record it and report it to the Agency. The report shall include a description of the problem and an indication of the date on which it started and of the remedial action taken by the Contractor to ensure full compliance with his obligations under the Contract. In such event the Contractor shall give priority to solving the problem rather than determining liability.
- II.1.9** Should the Contractor fail to perform his obligations under the Contract, the Agency may - without prejudice to its right to terminate the Contract - reduce or recover payments in proportion to the scale of the failure. In addition, the Agency may impose penalties or liquidated damages provided for in Article II.16.

ARTICLE II.2 – LIABILITY

- II.2.1** The Agency shall not be liable for damage sustained by the Contractor in performance of the Contract except in the event of wilful misconduct or gross negligence on the part of the Agency.
- II.2.2** The Contractor shall be liable for any loss or damage sustained by the Agency in performance of the Contract, including in the event of subcontracting under Article II.12, but only up to 3 (three) times the total amount of the relevant specific contract. Nevertheless, if the damage or loss is caused by the gross negligence or wilful misconduct of the Contractor or by its employees, the Contractor shall remain liable without any limitation as to the amount of the damage or loss.
- II.2.3** The Contractor shall provide compensation in the event of any action, claim or proceeding brought against the Agency by a third party as a result of damage caused by the Contractor in performance of the Contract.
- II.2.4** In the event of any action brought by a third party against the Agency in connection with performance of the Contract, the Contractor shall assist the Agency. Expenditure incurred by the Contractor to this end may be borne by the Agency.
- II.2.5** The Contractor shall take out insurance against risks and damage relating to performance of the Contract if required by the relevant applicable legislation. He shall take out supplementary insurance as reasonably required by standard practice in the industry. A copy of all the relevant insurance contracts shall be sent to the Agency should it so request.

ARTICLE II.3 - CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

- II.3.1** The Contractor shall take all necessary measures to prevent any situation that could compromise the impartial and objective performance of the Contract. Such conflict of interests could arise in particular as a result of economic interest, political or national affinity, family or emotional ties, or any other relevant connection or shared interest. Any conflict of interests which could arise during performance of the Contract must be notified to the Agency in writing without delay. In the event of such conflict, the Contractor shall immediately take all necessary steps to resolve it.

The Agency reserves the right to verify that such measures are adequate and may require additional measures to be taken, if necessary, within a time limit which it shall set. The Contractor shall ensure that his staff, board and directors are not placed in a situation which could give rise to conflict of interests. Without prejudice to Article II.1 the Contractor shall replace, immediately and without compensation from the Agency, any member of his staff exposed to such a situation.

II.3.2 The Contractor shall abstain from any contact likely to compromise his independence.

II.3.3 The Contractor declares:

- that he has not made and will not make any offer of any type whatsoever from which an advantage can be derived under the Contract,
- that he has not granted and will not grant, has not sought and will not seek, has not attempted and will not attempt to obtain, and has not accepted and will not accept, any advantage, financial or in kind, to or from any party whatsoever, where such advantage constitutes an illegal practice or involves corruption, either directly or indirectly, inasmuch as it is an incentive or reward relating to performance of the Contract.

II.3.4 The Contractor shall pass on all the relevant obligations in writing to his staff, board, and directors as well as to third parties involved in performance of the Contract. A copy of the instructions given and the undertakings made in this respect shall be sent to the Agency should it so request.

ARTICLE II.4 – GENERAL PROVISIONS CONCERNING PAYMENTS

II.4.1 Payments shall be deemed to have been made on the date on which the Agency's account is debited.

II.4.2 The payment periods referred to in Article I.5 may be suspended by the Agency at any time if it informs the Contractor that his payment request is not admissible, either because the amount is not due or because the necessary supporting documents have not been properly produced. In case of doubt on the eligibility of the expenditure indicated in the payment request, the Agency may suspend the time limit for payment for the purpose of further verification, including an on-the-spot check, in order to ascertain, prior to payment, that the expenditure is eligible.

The Agency shall notify the Contractor accordingly by registered letter with acknowledgment of receipt or equivalent. Suspension shall take effect from the date of dispatch of the letter. The remainder of the period referred to in Article I.5 shall begin to run again once the suspension has been lifted.

II.4.3 On expiry of the payment periods specified in Article I.5, and without prejudice to Article II.4.2, the Contractor may claim interest on late payment. Interest shall be calculated at the rate applied by the European Central Bank to its most recent main refinancing operations ("*the reference rate*") plus 8 (eight) percentage points ("*the margin*"). The reference rate shall be the rate in force on the first day of the month in which the payment period ends as published in the C series of the Official Journal of the European Union.

The suspension of the payment period in accordance with Article II.4.2 may not be considered as late payment.

Interest on late payment shall cover the period running from the day following the due date for payment up to and including the date of the actual payment as defined in Article II.4.1.

However, when the calculated interest is lower than or equal to EUR 200, it shall be paid to the Contractor only upon request submitted within two months of receiving late payment.

II.4.4 Payments are executed in the currency of the Contract.

Costs of the transfer are borne in the following way:

- cost of dispatch charged by the bank of the Agency are borne by the Agency,
- cost of receipt charged by the bank of the Contractor are borne by the Contractor,
- all costs of repeated transfer caused by one of the parties are borne by the party who caused repetition of the transfer.

ARTICLE II.5 – RECOVERY

II.5.1 If total payments made exceed the amount actually due or if recovery is justified in accordance with the terms of the Contract, the Contractor shall reimburse the appropriate amount in euro on receipt of the debit note, in the manner and within the time limits set by the Agency.

II.5.2 In the event of failure to pay by the deadline specified in the request for reimbursement, the sum due shall bear interest at the rate indicated in Article II.4.3. Interest shall be payable from the calendar day following the due date up to the calendar day on which the debt is repaid in full.

II.5.3 In the event of failure to pay by the deadline specified in the request for reimbursement, the Agency may, after informing the Contractor, recover amounts established as certain, of a fixed amount and due by offsetting, in cases where the Contractor also has a claim on the Agency that is certain, of a fixed amount and due. The Agency may also claim against the guarantee, where provided for.

ARTICLE II.6 - REIMBURSEMENTS

II.6.1 Where provided by the Special Conditions or by Annex I, the Agency shall reimburse the expenses that are directly connected with execution of the tasks on production of original supporting documents, including receipts and used tickets.

II.6.2 Travel and subsistence expenses shall be reimbursed, where appropriate, on the basis of the shortest itinerary.

II.6.3 Travel expenses shall be reimbursed as follows:

- a) travel by air shall be reimbursed up to the maximum cost of an economy class ticket at the time of the reservation;

- b) travel by boat or rail shall be reimbursed up to the maximum cost of a first class ticket;
- c) travel by car shall be reimbursed at the rate of one first class rail ticket for the same journey and on the same day;
- d) travel outside Community territory shall be reimbursed under the general conditions stated above provided the Agency has given its prior written agreement.

II.6.4 Subsistence expenses shall be reimbursed on the basis of a daily allowance as follows:

- a) for journeys of less than 200 km (return trip) no subsistence allowance shall be payable;
- b) daily subsistence allowance shall be payable only on receipt of a supporting document proving that the person concerned was present at the place of destination;
- c) daily subsistence allowance shall take the form of a flat-rate payment to cover all subsistence expenses, including accommodation, meals, local transport, insurance and sundries;
- d) daily subsistence allowance, where applicable, shall be reimbursed at the rate specified in Article I.3.

II.6.5 The cost of shipment of equipment or unaccompanied luggage shall be reimbursed provided the Agency has given prior written authorisation.

ARTICLE II.7 – OWNERSHIP OF THE RESULTS - INTELLECTUAL AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY

II.7.1 A result shall be any outcome of the implementation of the Contract and provided as such by the Contractor.

A creator shall be any person who contributed to production of the result.

Pre-existing intellectual property rights, sometimes referred to as background technology, are any industrial and intellectual property rights which exist prior to the contract being entered into and include rights of ownership and use of the Contractor, the Agency and any third parties (“pre-existing rights”).

It shall be a material term of the Contract and of the essence of the Contract that the Contractor shall be under a duty to provide a list of pre-existing rights at the latest on the date of delivery of the final result.

II.7.2 The ownership of all the results or rights thereon as listed in the tender specifications and the tender attached to the Contract, including copyright and other intellectual or industrial property rights, and all technological solutions and information embodied therein, obtained in the performance of the Contract, shall be

irrevocably and fully vested to the European Union, which may use, publish, assign or transfer them as it sees fit. All the rights shall be vested on the European Union from the moment the results were delivered and accepted by the Agency.

For the avoidance of doubt and where applicable, any such vesting of rights is also deemed to constitute an effective transfer of the rights from the Contractor to the European Union.

The payment of the fee under Article I.3 is deemed to include all forms of use of the results by the European Union.

The above vesting of rights in the Union under this Contract covers all territories worldwide and is valid for the whole duration of intellectual property rights protection.

- II.7.3** Any intermediary sub-result, raw data, intermediary analysis made available to the Agency by the Contractor cannot be used by the European Union without written consent of the Contractor, unless the tender specifications explicitly provide for it to be treated as self-contained result.
- II.7.4** The Contractor retains all right, title and interest in pre-existing rights not fully vested into the European Union in line with Article I.10, and hereby grants the European Union for the requested period a licence to use the pre-existing rights to the extent necessary to use the delivered results.
- II.7.5** The Contractor shall ensure that delivered results are free of rights or claims from third parties including in relation to pre-existing rights, for any use envisaged by the Agency. This does not concern the moral rights of natural persons and rights referred to in Article II.7.4.
- II.7.6** The Contractor shall clearly point out all quotations of existing textual works made by the Contractor. The complete reference should include as appropriate: the name of the author, the title of the work, the date of publishing, the date of creation, the place of publication, the address of publication on internet, the number, the volume and other information allowing identifying the origin easily.
- II.7.7** The Contractor shall clearly indicate all parts to which there are pre-existing rights and all parts of the result originating from external sources: parts of other documents, images, graphs, tables, data, software, technical inventions, know-how, etc... (delivered in paper, electronic or other form).

For non-textual results or results provided in electronic form only, the description, instruction or information document shall list all parts coming from external sources: IT development tools, routines, subroutines and/or other programmes (“background technology”), concepts, designs, installations or pieces of art, data, source or background materials or any other parts of external origin.

- II.7.8** If the Agency so requires, the Contractor shall provide proof of ownership or right to use all necessary rights to the materials referred to in Article II.7.7.

- II.7.9** By delivering the results the Contractor confirms that the creators undertake not to oppose their names being recalled when the results are presented to the public and confirms that the results can be divulged.

The Contractor shall possess all relevant agreements of the creator and provide proof by way of documentary evidence.

- II.7.10** By delivering the results the Contractor warrants that the above transfer of rights does not violate any law or infringe any rights of others and that he possesses the relevant rights or powers to execute the transfer. He also warrants that he has paid or has verified payment of all fees including fees to collecting societies, related to the final results.

- II.7.11** The Contractor shall indemnify and hold the European Union harmless for all damages and cost incurred due to any claim brought by any third party including creators and intermediaries for any alleged breach of any intellectual, industrial or other property right based on the European Union's use of the works and in relation to which the Contractor has granted the European Union user rights.

ARTICLE II.8 – CONFIDENTIALITY

- II.8.1.** The Contractor undertakes to treat in the strictest confidence and not make use of or divulge to third parties any information or documents which are linked to performance of the Contract. The Contractor shall continue to be bound by this undertaking after completion of the tasks.

- II.8.2.** The Contractor shall obtain from each member of his staff, board and directors an undertaking that they will respect the confidentiality of any information which is linked, directly or indirectly, to execution of the tasks and that they will not divulge to third parties or use for their own benefit or that of any third party any document or information not available publicly, even after completion of the tasks.

ARTICLE II.9 - USE, DISTRIBUTION AND PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONTRACT

- II.9.1** The Contractor shall authorise the Agency to process, use, distribute and publish, for whatever purpose, by whatever means and on whatever medium, any data contained in or relating to the Contract, in particular the identity of the Contractor, the subject matter, the duration, the amount paid and the reports. Where personal data is concerned, Article I.9 shall apply.

- II.9.2** Unless otherwise provided by the Special Conditions, the Agency shall not be required to distribute or publish documents or information supplied in performance of the Contract. If it decides not to publish the documents or information supplied, the Contractor may not have them distributed or published elsewhere without prior written authorisation from the Agency.

- II.9.3** Any distribution or publication of information relating to the Contract by the Contractor shall require prior written authorisation from the Agency and shall mention the amount paid by the Community. It shall state that the opinions expressed are those of the Contractor only and do not represent the Agency's official position.

- II.9.4** The use of information obtained by the Contractor in the course of the Contract for purposes other than its performance shall be forbidden, unless the Agency has specifically given prior written authorisation to the contrary.

ARTICLE II.10 – TAXATION

- II.10.1** The Contractor shall have sole responsibility for compliance with the tax laws which apply to him. Failure to comply shall make the relevant invoices invalid.
- II.10.2** The Contractor recognises that the Agency is, as a rule, exempt from all taxes and duties, including value added tax (VAT), pursuant to the provisions of Articles 3 and 4 of the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the European Union.
- II.10.3** The Contractor shall accordingly complete the necessary formalities with the relevant authorities to ensure that the goods and services required for performance of the Contract are exempt from taxes and duties, including VAT.
- II.10.4** Invoices presented by the Contractor shall indicate his place of taxation for VAT purposes and shall specify separately the amounts not including VAT and the amounts including VAT.

ARTICLE II.11 – FORCE MAJEURE

- II.11.1** Force majeure shall mean any unforeseeable and exceptional situation or event beyond the control of the contracting parties which prevents either of them from performing any of their obligations under the Contract, was not due to error or negligence on their part or on the part of a subcontractor, and could not have been avoided by the exercise of due diligence. Defects in equipment or material or delays in making it available, labour disputes, strikes or financial problems cannot be invoked as force majeure unless they stem directly from a relevant case of force majeure.
- II.11.2** Without prejudice to the provisions of Article II.1.8, if either contracting party is faced with force majeure, it shall notify the other party without delay by registered letter with acknowledgment of receipt or equivalent, stating the nature, likely duration and foreseeable effects.
- II.11.3** Neither contracting party shall be held in breach of its contractual obligations if it has been prevented from performing them by force majeure. Where the Contractor is unable to perform his contractual obligations owing to force majeure, he shall have the right to remuneration only for tasks actually executed.
- II.11.4** The contracting parties shall take the necessary measures to reduce damage to a minimum.

ARTICLE II.12 – SUBCONTRACTING

- II.12.1** The Contractor shall not subcontract without prior written authorisation from the Agency nor cause the Contract to be performed in fact by third parties.
- II.12.2** Even where the Agency authorises the Contractor to subcontract to third parties, he shall none the less remain bound by his obligations to the Agency under the Contract and shall bear exclusive liability for proper performance of the Contract.
- II.12.3** The Contractor shall make sure that the subcontract does not affect rights and guarantees to which the Agency is entitled by virtue of the Contract, notably Article II.17.

ARTICLE II.13 – ASSIGNMENT

- II.13.1** The Contractor shall not assign the rights and obligations arising from the Contract, in whole or in part, without prior written authorisation from the Agency.
- II.13.2** In the absence of the authorisation referred to in Article II.13.1, or in the event of failure to observe the terms thereof, assignment by the Contractor shall not be enforceable against and shall have no effect on the Agency.

ARTICLE II.14 – TERMINATION BY THE AGENCY

- II.14.1** The Agency may terminate the Contract or a pending order in the following circumstances:
- (a) where the Contractor is being wound up, is having his affairs administered by the courts, has entered into an arrangement with creditors, has suspended business activities, is the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or is in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;
 - (b) where the Contractor has not fulfilled obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which he is established or with those of the country applicable to the Contract or those of the country where the Contract is to be performed;
 - (c) where the Agency has evidence or seriously suspects the Contractor or any related entity or person, of professional misconduct;
 - (d) where the Agency has evidence or seriously suspects the Contractor or any related entity or person, of fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation or any other illegal activity detrimental to the Union's financial interests;
 - (e) where the Agency has evidence or seriously suspects the Contractor or any related entity or person, of substantial errors, irregularities or fraud in the award procedure or the performance of the Contract;
 - (f) where the Contractor is in breach of his obligations under Article II.3;

- (g) where the Contractor was guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the Agency as a condition of participation in the Contract procedure or failed to supply this information;
- (h) where a change in the Contractor's legal, financial, technical or organisational situation could, in the Agency's opinion, have a significant effect on the performance of the Contract;
- (i) where execution of the tasks under a pending order has not actually commenced within fifteen days of the date foreseen, and the new date proposed, if any, is considered unacceptable by the Agency;
- (j) where the Contractor is unable, through his own fault, to obtain any permit or licence required for performance of the Contract;
- (k) where the Contractor, after receiving formal notice in writing to comply, specifying the nature of the alleged failure, and after being given the opportunity to remedy the failure within a reasonable period following receipt of the formal notice, remains in serious breach of his contractual obligations;

II.14.2 In case of force majeure, notified in accordance with Article II.11, either contracting party may terminate the Contract, where performance thereof cannot be ensured for a period corresponding to at least to one fifth of the period laid down in Article I.2.3.

II.14.3 Prior to termination under point c), d), e), h) or k), the Contractor shall be given the opportunity to submit his observations.

Termination shall take effect on the date on which a registered letter with acknowledgment of receipt terminating the Contract is received by the Contractor, or on any other date indicated in the letter of termination.

II.14.4 Consequences of termination:

In the event of the Agency terminating the Contract or a pending order in accordance with this Article and without prejudice to any other measures provided for in the Contract, the Contractor shall waive any claim for consequential damages, including any loss of anticipated profits for uncompleted service. On receipt of the letter terminating the Contract, the Contractor shall take all appropriate measures to minimise costs, prevent damage, and cancel or reduce his commitments. He shall draw up the documents required by the Special Conditions for the tasks executed up to the date on which termination takes effect, within a period not exceeding 60 (sixty) days from that date.

The Agency may claim compensation for any damage suffered and recover any sums paid to the Contractor under the Contract.

On termination the Agency may engage any other contractor to execute or complete the services. The Agency shall be entitled to claim from the Contractor all extra costs incurred in doing so, without prejudice to any other rights or guarantees enforceable under the Contract.

ARTICLE II.15 – SUBSTANTIAL ERRORS, IRREGULARITIES AND FRAUD ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE CONTRACTOR

Where, after the award of the Contract, the award procedure or the performance of the Contract prove to have been subject to substantial errors, irregularities or fraud, and where such errors, irregularities or fraud are attributable to the Contractor, the Agency may refuse to make payments, may recover amounts already paid or may terminate all the contracts concluded with the Contractor, in proportion to the seriousness of the errors, irregularities or fraud.

ARTICLE II.16 – LIQUIDATED DAMAGES

The Agency may impose liquidated damages should the Contractor fail to complete his contractual obligations, also with regard to the required quality level, according to the tender specifications.

Should the Contractor fail to perform his obligations under the Contract within the time limits set by the Contract or the relevant specific contract, then, without prejudice to the Contractor's actual or potential liability or to the Agency's right to terminate the Contract or the relevant specific contract, the Agency may impose liquidated damages for each and every calendar day of delay according to the formula $0.3 \times (V/d)$, where V is the price of the relevant purchase and d is the duration specified in the relevant specific contract or, failing that, the period between the date specified in Article I.4 and the date of delivery or performance specified in the relevant specific contract, expressed in calendar days.

The Contractor may submit arguments against this decision in writing within 30 (thirty) calendar days of receipt of the formal notification. In the absence of reaction on his part or of written withdrawal by the Agency within 30 (thirty) calendar days of the receipt of such arguments, the decision imposing the liquidated damages shall become enforceable.

The Agency and the Contractor expressly acknowledge and agree that any sums payable under this Article are in the nature of liquidated damages and not penalties, and represent a reasonable estimate of fair compensation for the losses that may be reasonably anticipated from such failure to perform obligations.

ARTICLE II.17 – CHECKS AND AUDITS

II.17.1 Pursuant to Article 161 of the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the European Union, the European Court of Auditors shall be empowered to audit the documents held by the natural or legal persons receiving payments from the budget of the European Union from signature of the Contract up to 5 (five) years after payment of the balance of the last implementation.

II.17.2 The Agency or an outside body of its choice shall have the same rights as the European Court of Auditors for the purpose of checks and audits limited to compliance with contractual obligations from signature of the Contract up to 5 (five) years after payment of the balance of the last implementation.

II.17.3 In addition, the European Anti-Fraud Office may carry out on-the-spot checks and inspections in accordance with Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96 and

Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013³ of the European Parliament and of the Council, from signature of the Contract up to 5 (five) years after payment of the balance of the last implementation.

ARTICLE II.18 – AMENDMENTS

Any amendment to the Contract shall be the subject of a written agreement concluded by the contracting parties before fulfilment of all their contractual obligations. An oral agreement shall not be binding on the contracting parties. An specific contract may not be deemed to constitute an amendment to the Contract.

ARTICLE II.19 – SUSPENSION OF THE CONTRACT

Without prejudice to the Agency's right to terminate the Contract, where the Contract is subject to substantial error, irregularity or fraud, the Agency may at any time and for any reason suspend execution of the Contract or pending specific contract or any part thereof. Suspension shall take effect on the day the Contractor receives notification by registered letter with acknowledgment of receipt or equivalent, or at a later date where the notification so provides. The Agency shall as soon as possible give notice to the Contractor to resume the service suspended or inform that it is proceeding with contract termination. The Contractor shall not be entitled to claim compensation on account of suspension of the Contract, of the specific contract, or of part thereof.

SIGNATURES

For the Contractor,
[Company name/forename/surname/function]

For the Agency,
Chris Steenmans
Head of Programme

Signature[s]: _____

Signature: _____

Done at _____, on _____

Done at Copenhagen, on _____

In duplicate in English

³ OJ L 248/1, 18.9.2013

ANNEX III

DRAFT SPECIFIC CONTRACT No XXX
Implementing Framework service contract No EEA/MDI/14/002

The European Environment Agency (hereinafter referred to as "the Agency"), acting on behalf on the European Commission, which is represented for the purposes of the signature of this specific contract by Mr Chris Steenmans, Head of Programme, of the one part,

and

[official name in full]

[official legal form]

Statutory registration number: [complete]

[official address in full]

VAT registration number: [complete]

hereinafter referred to as "the Contractor", represented for the purposes of the signature of this specific contract by [insert title, first name and surname], of the other part,

collectively "the contracting parties",

HAVE AGREED

the **Special Conditions** below and the following Annexes:

Annex 1 – Request for service dated [complete]

Annex 2 – Contractor's specific tender dated [complete]

which form an integral part of this specific contract.

The terms set out in the Special Conditions shall take precedence over those in the annexes. The terms set out in the request for service (Annex 1) shall take precedence over those in the Contractor's specific tender (Annex 2).

Subject to the above, the several instruments forming part of the specific contract are to be taken as mutually explanatory. Ambiguities or discrepancies within or between such parts shall be explained or rectified by a written instruction issued by the Agency subject to the rights of the Contractor under Article I.8 of the framework contract should he dispute any such instruction.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

ARTICLE 1 – SUBJECT

- 1.1 This specific contract implements Framework service contract No EEA/MDI/14/002 (hereinafter referred to as “the framework contract”) signed by the Agency and the Contractor on *[insert date]*.
- 1.2 The subject of this specific contract is *[complete with a short description]*.
- 1.3 The contractor undertakes, on the terms set out in the framework contract and in this specific contract and the annexes thereto, to perform the *[following]* tasks *[:[complete with a short description]]* *[specified in Annex 1]*.

ARTICLE 2 – DURATION

- 2.1 This specific contract shall enter into force *[on the date on which it is signed by the Agency]* *[on [insert date]⁴]*.
- 2.2 The duration of the execution of the tasks shall not exceed *[[complete] months]* *[[insert date]]*. This period and all other periods specified in the specific contract are calculated in calendar days. Execution of the tasks shall start from *[the date of entry into force of this specific contract]* *[[insert date]]*. The period of execution of the tasks may be extended only with the express written agreement of the contracting parties before such period elapses.

ARTICLE 3 – PRICE

- 3.1 The total price to be paid by the Agency under this specific contract shall be EUR *[insert amount in figures and in words]* covering all tasks executed.

The price also covers any fee payable to the Contractor in relation to the vesting of rights in the European Union and where applicable the transfer of rights to the European Union and any use of the results by the Agency.

- 3.2 In addition to the price *[no reimbursable expenses are foreseen]* *[expenses up to the amount of EUR [insert amount in figures and in words]]* will be reimbursed according to the provisions of the framework contract⁵.

ARTICLE 4 – PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS⁵

- 4.1 *[Pre-financing]*

Following signature of this specific contract by the Agency, a pre-financing payment of *[complete in figures]* % of the total price specified in Article 3.1 shall be made to the Contractor within 30 (thirty) days of the receipt of the relevant invoice indicating the reference number of the framework contract and of this specific contract *[and of a duly constituted financial guarantee [for a corresponding amount] [equivalent to at least [complete in figures] % of the total price specified in Article 3.1]]*.

⁴ if it has already been signed by both contracting parties

⁵ These provisions shall be tailored according to the nature and scope of the request for service.

[The guarantee shall specify that it enters into force at the latest on the date on which the Contractor receives the pre-financing. The guarantor shall stand as first-call guarantor and shall not require the Agency to have recourse against the principal debtor (the Contractor). The guarantee shall specify that the guarantor shall pay to the Agency at its request an amount corresponding to payments made by it to the Contractor which have not yet been covered by equivalent work on his part. The Agency shall release the guarantor from its obligations as soon as the Contractor has demonstrated that any pre-financing has been covered by equivalent work. The guarantee shall be retained until the pre-financing has been deducted from interim payments or payment of the balance to the Contractor. It shall be released the following month. The cost of providing such guarantee shall be borne by the Contractor.]

4. [x] Interim payment

At the end of the period indicated in Annex 1, an interim payment of *[complete in figures]* % of the total price specified in Article 3.1 shall be made to the Contractor within 30 (thirty) days of the receipt **[and approval]** of the relevant invoice indicating the reference number of the framework contract and of this specific contract accompanied by the relevant supporting documents relating to the services carried out which are provided for in Annex 1.

[If a technical report is a condition for payment, on receipt the Agency shall have 30 (thirty) days to:

- approve it, with or without comments or reservations, or suspend approval and request additional information; or
- reject it and request a new report.

If the Agency does not react within this period, the report shall be deemed to have been approved. Approval of the report does not imply recognition either of its regularity or of the authenticity, completeness or correctness of the declarations or information enclosed.

Where the Agency request a new report because the one previously submitted has been rejected, this shall be submitted within 30 (thirty) days. The new report shall likewise be subject to the above provisions.]

4. [x] Payment of the balance

Within 30 (thirty) days of completion of the tasks referred to in Annex 1, the Contractor shall submit to the Agency an invoice indicating the reference number of the framework contract and of this specific contract, accompanied by the relevant supporting documents relating to the services carried out which are provided for in the request for service (Annex 1).

[If a technical report is a condition for payment, on receipt the Agency shall have 30 (thirty) days to:

- approve it, with or without comments or reservations, or suspend approval and request additional information; or
- reject it and request a new report.

If the Agency does not react within this period, the report shall be deemed to have been approved. Approval of the report does not imply recognition either of its regularity or of the authenticity, completeness or correctness of the declarations and information enclosed.

Where the Agency requests a new report because the one previously submitted has been rejected, this shall be submitted within 30 (thirty) days. The new report shall likewise be subject to the above provisions.]

Payment shall be made within 30 (thirty) days from the date of receipt [and approval] of the relevant invoice and supporting documents.

SIGNATURES

For the Contractor,
*[insert company name
Title, first name, surname and function]*

Signature[s]: _____

Done at _____, on _____
In duplicate in English

For the Agency,
Chris Steenmans
Head of Programme

Signature: _____

Done at Copenhagen, on _____