Annex I “Assessment criteria” to the Assessment Report for the call no. BMVI/2023-2024/SA/1.2.2

Excerpt from the call document [Ares(2022)6982248]

“5.3. Assessment criteria

Proposals found admissible and eligible will be evaluated by the Commission against the criteria mentioned below.

The evaluation of these criteria by the European Commission - DG HOME will be done in the light of the technical assessment carried out by Frontex, according to the requirements and standards set in Annex I to this note.

The Commission will complete the conclusions of the technical assessment with operational and policy considerations, linked to the purpose and priorities, as detailed above, in the sections 3.3, 3.4 and 3.4.1, and the challenges for the external border management.

Each applicant should provide information and data to demonstrate their ability to operate the equipment once purchased, both at national and EU level, and to maintain it and ensure its readiness for deployments during its registration period in the TEP (notably, minimum 10 years for the Coastal Patrol Vessels (CPV), Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPV), multipurpose vessels and Fixed-wing Aircrafts (FWA) and minimum 5 years for the other types of equipment listed in Table 2 above).

As per the Article 64(14) of the EBCG Regulation, a successful Member State shall register in the technical equipment pool (TEP) all the means of transport and operating equipment purchased under this Specific Action of BMVI, with the clear objective of increasing the operational capacity of Frontex, in addition to the national one.

Following the request made by Frontex, the owner Member State shall make each item of the equipment available for deployment to the Agency, for a period of up to four months, as planned in its annual bilateral negotiations with the Agency. A Member State may decide to deploy an item of equipment to Frontex beyond four months.

When this equipment is needed for an operational activity referred to in Articles 39 “Procedure for launching a rapid border intervention” or in Article 42 “Situation at the external borders requiring urgent action” of the EBCG Regulation, the owner Member State may not invoke the exceptional situation referred to in paragraph 9 of Article 64 of the same Regulation. Therefore, when this equipment is needed for urgent EU interventions and actions, a Member State cannot refuse its deployment to Frontex by invoking an exceptional situation substantially affecting the discharge of its national tasks.

Therefore, in practical terms, the applicants will explain in their proposal:

- The relevance of the equipment for the management of the external borders ensured by the Member State, and for the overall needs addressed by this call.
- The features of the equipment and the cost-effectiveness and risk management elements of the purchase proposal.
- The existing mechanisms and procedures for ensuring the availability, service and maintenance of the equipment.
- The expected results to be obtained.

The proposals will be evaluated by each type of equipment, in the order of the categories listed in Table 2. Within each type of equipment, the proposals will be ranked according to their total score, by adding up all the points for each criterion/ type of equipment proposed in the applications submitted by the Member States.

Within each category, the highest ranked proposals by type of equipment will be considered for selection.

Should two or more proposals for a type of equipment obtain equal total scores, they will be ranked according to their score under criterion “Relevance”, then if a tie remains, according to their score under criterion “Quality”, then if need be, on “Expected results”.

In addition to the assessment criteria below, when selecting the successful proposals, the Commission reserves its right to take into account: the geographical repartition of the capacities listed in Table 2, to ensure an optimal coverage of the EU external borders, as per the existing and emerging challenges. Therefore, the Commission may operate reductions compared to the application submitted by a Member State, notably regarding the categories, types and units of equipment to be co-financed.

Successful proposals will be proposed for selection, while the remaining ones will be included either in the reserve list or rejected.

Proposals will be considered for funding within the limits of the available budget.

**A. Relevance (max. 30 points/100):**

This criterion relates to the manner in which the proposal is meant to fulfil the needs described in section 3.4.1.

In relation to this criterion, the applicant should demonstrate:

1. suitability of the equipment for addressing the specific challenges and gaps at those external borders the security of which is ensured by the applicant Member State; (max. 15 p)

2. relevance of the proposal in the light of the overall needs of this call. Additional points will be attributed to the projects for purchasing categories, types, units of equipment for which not sufficient applications were submitted as per the needs identified by Frontex (section 3.4.1 and Table 2 above). (max. 15 p)

**B. Quality (max. 35 points/100):**

This criterion aims at assessing the technical elements of the equipment, the practical arrangements for the implementation of the project and the elements taken into account when calculating the costs.

When assessing this criterion, the Commission will use as a reference the following elements in the technical assessment made by Frontex:

- Affordability
• Project management
• Adequacy

In relation to this criterion, the applicant is requested:

1. To explain the appropriateness of the design and planned implementation of the project, taking into account:
   a) the project intervention logic - background information, needs assessment, proposed activities and expected results;
   b) the methodology, including operational and financial management,
   c) the indicative timeline and milestones, in particular the project delivery within the proposed timeframe;
   d) the monitoring strategy;
   e) the know-how, experience acquired and composition of the project team, as well as of the entities/units involved in the implementation.  
   (max. 15 p)

2. To detail – if considered - any possible relevant additional features of the equipment, increased availability for EU operations and missions, quick deployment, longer duration of its registration in the TEP and/or higher technical standards applied, including international standards, in addition to the minimum ones presented in Annex I of this call, which would enhance the capabilities of the equipment for the EU border management operations carried out by Frontex (e.g. state-of-the-art, innovative and knowledge-based solutions and technologies applied to the equipment to be purchased, to ensure its increased effectiveness, resilience, adaptability, versatility, ease and readiness for effective deployment to Frontex, etc.); (max. 5 p)

3. To describe the risk assessment and risk management procedures for the implementation of the project proposal once successful - from purchase and registration to the TEP to deployment of the proposed type of equipment, as well as the effectiveness of the identified mitigation measures presented; (max. 5 p)

4. To explain the cost effectiveness and feasibility of the project (notably, if the estimated costs are reasonable and feasible, taking into account the foreseen unit prices in relation to the technical features, types and units of equipment, the soundness of the methodology for the calculation of the costs and the justification of costs not directly linked to the equipment, if any) (max. 10 p)

C. Sustainability (max. 25 points/100)

This criterion aims at assessing to what extent the proposals demonstrate the ability of the applicant to:

• make available the purchased equipment on request
• run it in good service during its lifetime
• maintain the continuous functioning of the equipment
When assessing this criterion, the Commission will use as a reference the following sections in the technical assessment (as per Annex I):

- adaptability
- sustainability and strategic autonomy
- safety, security and health
- availability

In relation to this criterion, the applicant should:

1. describe the procedures for making the equipment swiftly available upon request from the Agency in terms of:
   - bodies/authorities involved and the chain of command;
   - workflow for responding to the request;
   - timing of the process;
   - back-up scenarios for unexpected events with may interfere with the swift provision of the equipment. \(\text{(max. 5 p)}\)

2. describe how it will run the equipment in the good service, once purchased with EU support, in particular, the material, financial and human resources that will be activated to operate and maintain the equipment for the EU operational activities. Details will be provided regarding:
   - the financial resources to be allocated for this purpose;
   - the infrastructure, facilities (storage) and logistics considered
   - the supply of crews, operators and maintenance teams and the ongoing/planned training measures, know-how and qualifications of the dedicated staff to operate the equipment, including through service contracts with specialised companies and exchanges of experience with other Member States,
   - ongoing/planned arrangements to ensure maintenance (preventive and corrective), fuel and consumables, including the availability of supply and service contracts/providers.
   \(\text{(max. 20 p)}\)

D. Expected results \(\text{(max. 10 points/100)}\):

This criterion aims at evaluating to what extent a project is likely to have positive effects in addressing the identified needs, in particular for addressing the challenges for the management of external borders.

In relation to this criterion, the applicant should demonstrate:

1. long-term impact of the proposed specific action in light of its EU added value, namely to support other Member States, by increasing the operational capacity of Frontex; \(\text{(max. 5 p)}\)

2. impact on the national capabilities for the management of the applicant Member State’s external borders; \(\text{(max. 5 p)}\)