

Open call for proposals for a study entitled 'The impact of the development of electronic mail on postal markets'

(95/C 165/17)

1. **Awarding authority:** The European Commission, Directorate-General for Telecommunications, Information Market and Exploitation of Research, DG XIII/A, for the attention of Mr P. Picard, BU 9 5/176, rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 200, B-1049 Bruxelles/Brussel.
Tel. (32-2) 296 83 42. Facsimile (32-2) 296 83 93.
2. **Category of Service and Description:** The aim of the study is to assist the Commission in understanding the present and future impact of the development of electronic mail and other types of new advanced services such as EDI - Electronic Data Interchange - on the postal markets.

Therefore, the study will review the developments of part or whole electronic mail systems and assess the likely impact of substitution technologies on traditional mail patterns and the potential for new postal services.

Consequently, the study will provide a basis of reference which will help the medium-term work of the Commission in proposing measures which will implement a new European postal framework with impacts *inter alia* at the level of services offered and new services, quality of services, technical standardization required and European industry promotion.

Tasks to be undertaken in this study include, primarily, research which must be done in order to ensure that:
 - the study identifies the key technologies involved both currently and anticipated in the future; the potential for loss of traffic currently handled by the public operators in the EU should be forecast and ranges of uncertainty given;
 - the study examines the potential for hybrid mail systems to inhibit this potential loss of traffic or for it to replace the use of existing postal services;
 - the study examines the potential impact of electronic messaging systems on the present range of product (supply) and to the different customers' sectors (demand).
3. **Place of delivery:** As in point 1.
- 4., 5., 6.
7. **Time limit for completion of work:** The study will commence in 1995. The duration will be 6 months.
8. a) **Name and address of the service from which the terms of reference for the studies may be requested:** As in point 1.
b) **Final date for making such requests:** 21. 7. 1995.
c) **Requests for the terms of reference for the studies may be made by facsimile or letter:** When requests are made by facsimile, they must be confirmed by letter dispatched before the expiry of the time limit referred to in paragraph 8. b).
9. a) **Final date for submission of tenders:** 12. 8. 1995.
b) **Name and address of the service to which proposals must be sent:** As in point 1.
10. a) **Persons authorized to be present at the opening of tenders:** Official representatives of the European Commission and 1 authorized representative of each tenderer.
b) **The opening will take place on:** 24. 8. 1995 (10. 00). The address will be communicated to those interested parties the week following expiry of the time limit.
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12. **Main terms concerning financing:** The study will receive 100 % funding.
13. **Legal form in the case of group bidders:** Proposals may be submitted individually or jointly. If 2 or more applicants submit a joint bid, 1 must be designated as the lead contractor and agent responsible.
14. **Information concerning the proposer's position:** The proposer will be required to provide economic and technical information for appraisal purposes. These requirements will be specified in the specifications.
15. **Validity period:** 12 months.
16. **Evaluation criteria:** Will be included in the terms of reference.
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18. **Date of dispatch of the notice:** 21. 6. 1995.
19. **Date of receipt of the notice by the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities:** 21. 6. 1995.