

**German Financial Cooperation with the „Western Balkan Six Chamber Investment Forum”
(WB6-CIF)
Regional Challenge Fund Project**

Procurement of IT equipment
Europe (non-EU), Montenegro (MNE)
Reference number: RCF/MNE/G/2023/004/B

The answers to requests for clarifications received by the potential bidders to the following e-mail address: procurement@rcf-wb6.org

Q1	<p>In the technical specifications for LOT 1 – IT equipment, a DVB-T2 set-top box is listed, with characteristics typical of standard consumer electronics devices that are commonly procured through retail “white goods” distribution channels.</p> <p>Could you please clarify:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the specific educational and functional purpose of this device within the context of an electrical school and the planned training activities, and 2. the justification for requiring a Manufacturer’s Authorization Form (MAF) for this type of equipment, considering that such devices are generally available on the open market and normally supplied with standard manufacturer warranty and after-sales support. Furthermore, please confirm whether, for this specific item, it would be acceptable to waive the MAF requirement and instead accept standard manufacturer warranty documentation and proof of origin, or alternatively allow an equivalent, more education-oriented multimedia solution.
A1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The functional purpose of this device is as described in the specification, for the tv devices that do not have integrated T2 receiver, but the school has them in their classroom and wants to continue using them. 2. The requirement for MAF is needed because of our guidelines for procurement of this type of equipment and considering that there are a lot of manufacturers for this product in the region it is not acceptable to waive the MAF requirement.
Q2	<p>The technical specifications for LOT 1 include a 43" LED SMART TV, which represents standard consumer audio-visual equipment commonly available through retail distribution channels.</p> <p>Could you please clarify the justification for requiring a Manufacturer’s Authorization Form (MAF) for this type of device, considering that TV manufacturers typically do not issue MAFs for retail products and that such equipment is normally supplied with standard manufacturer warranty and after-sales support?</p> <p>Please confirm whether, for this specific item, the MAF requirement may be waived, and standard warranty documentation and proof of origin accepted instead.</p>
A2	<p>The requirement for MAF is needed because of our guidelines for procurement of this type of equipment and considering that there are a lot of manufacturers for this product in the region it is not acceptable to waive the MAF requirement.</p>

<p>Q3</p>	<p>Mac Computer: please note that, based on confirmation received from Apple and/or its authorized representatives, the specified Apple All-in-One PC (M1) has reached End-of-Life (EOL) status and is no longer in active production.</p> <p>In this context, we kindly request clarification on the following points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Whether equipment that has reached End-of-Life status is acceptable under the technical specifications, taking into account long-term availability, manufacturer support and sustainability requirements. 2. The justification for requiring a Manufacturer's Authorization Form (MAF) for the above-mentioned items, considering that they represent standard commercial consumer equipment typically procured through retail or authorized distribution channels, and that manufacturers generally do not issue MAFs for such product categories. 3. Furthermore, we would like to inform you that a current, actively supported replacement device is available on the market, namely: Apple iMac 24" (M4) – 8-core CPU / 8-core GPU, 16 GB RAM, 256 GB SSD, which represents an equivalent or improved technical solution compared to the specified End-of-Life model. <p>Please kindly clarify whether, for the above-mentioned items:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. the MAF requirement may be waived, and standard manufacturer warranty documentation and proof of origin accepted instead, and/or 5. the contracting authority intends to revise the technical specifications to reflect current, actively supported equipment.
<p>A3</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The following item did reach “discontinued” state but not end of life which means it is not in production anymore, but it will be supported with macOS updates and security updates for the next 7-9 years from the discontinuation of production. But considering that it is a specialized item that may be withdrawn from the stores to make way for newer models it is acceptable to offer a newer model with same or better specifications that correspond to our technical requirements. 2. Requirements for MAF are needed because of our guidelines for procurement of this type of equipment but considering that this item can be offered just by one manufacturer and it can be troublesome to get MAF from Apple the <u>MAF requirement may be waived in this case.</u> 3. The model Apple iMac 24" (M4) – 8-core CPU / 8-core GPU, 16 GB RAM, 256 GB SSD is acceptable to be offered as a replacement for the requested item. 4. <u>The MAF requirement may be waived in this case.</u> 5. You are free to offer newer models with same or better specifications.
<p>Q4</p>	<p>The technical specifications for LOT 1 include Apple iPad Air 5 (M1) with a defined hardware and connectivity configuration. We kindly request clarification on the following points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The specified Apple iPad Air 5 (M1) represents an older generation device. Please confirm whether equipment that is no longer part of the current product lineup is acceptable under the technical specifications, taking into account long-term availability, manufacturer support and lifecycle considerations. 2. The listed communication and connectivity features combine Wi-Fi standards and mobile network technologies (3G / 4G / 5G, SIM card slot), which correspond to different product variants. Please clarify whether the required device is intended to be Wi-Fi only or Wi-Fi + Cellular, as these are distinct configurations. 3. Please clarify the justification for requiring a Manufacturer's Authorization Form (MAF) for this category of standard commercial tablet devices, considering that such equipment is

	<p>typically supplied through retail or authorized distribution channels and covered by standard manufacturer warranty.</p> <p>Furthermore, we would like to inform you that a current, actively supported replacement model is available on the market, namely: Apple 11-inch iPad Air (M3), Wi-Fi, 128GB – Space Grey, which represents an equivalent or improved technical solution compared to the specified Apple iPad Air 5 (M1), while maintaining the same intended educational use.</p> <p>Kindly confirm whether clarification or revision of the technical specifications is foreseen in order to reflect a clearly defined, currently supported device configuration and the applicable MAF requirements.</p>
A4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Equipment that is no longer part of the current product lineup is acceptable to be offered, but as we said already if you have option to offer a newer replacement product you can do so if it corresponds to our technical specification. As per specification the required device needs to be Wi-Fi + Cellular. Requirements for MAF are needed because of our guidelines for procurement of this type of equipment but considering that this item can be offered just by one manufacturer and it can be troublesome to get MAF from Apple the <u>MAF requirement may be waived in this case.</u> <p>To summarize this item, you can offer the item that the specification asks for, or you can offer a newer product that is the successor of that item, which will be preferable if it fulfils the requirements. The model that you offered above fulfils those requirements, but it needs to be Wi-Fi + Cellular model. Not just Wi-Fi. And MAF requirement can be waived.</p>
Q5	<p>Meta Quest 2 VR headset: The technical specifications for LOT 1 include “Oculus headsets”, with detailed technical parameters and a requirement for integrated Oculus Insight technology. We kindly request clarification on the following points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Given that “Oculus” is no longer used as a current product brand, and that Oculus Insight represents a proprietary technology of a single manufacturer, please clarify whether the intention is to restrict this item to a specific manufacturer, or whether equivalent VR headsets with comparable functionality and performance would be acceptable. Please clarify whether the use of manufacturer-specific terminology (e.g. Oculus Insight) is mandatory, or whether functional requirements such as 6 degrees of freedom (6DoF) head and hand tracking may be satisfied through equivalent tracking technologies offered by other vendors. Please also clarify the justification for requiring a Manufacturer’s Authorization Form (MAF) for VR headsets, considering that such devices are typically supplied as standard commercial products through retail or authorized distribution channels and covered by standard manufacturer warranty. Kindly confirm whether clarification or revision of the technical specifications is foreseen in order to reflect a manufacturer-neutral description of the required VR equipment.
A5	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> It is the intention to restrict it to specific manufacturer which is Meta (former Oculus) but considering that a newer model is available on our market, Quest 3, it is possible to offer it as a replacement. It is mandatory because it is narrowed to one manufacturer, which is Meta. Only if it is impossible to obtain and offer the Meta VR headset then other manufacturers can be taken into consideration. Requirements for MAF are needed because of our guidelines for procurement of this type of equipment but considering that we are asking for this item to be provided from a specific manufacturer the <u>MAF requirement may be waived in this case.</u>

	<p>4. Clarified in the answers above.</p>
Q6	<p>The technical specifications for LOT 1 include “Jamboard for whiteboard collaboration” with defined technical and functional characteristics. We kindly request clarification on the following points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please note that Google Jamboard hardware has officially reached End-of-Life status, and the Jamboard service has been discontinued. In this context, please confirm whether equipment that is no longer actively produced and supported is acceptable under the technical specifications, taking into account long-term availability, support and sustainability requirements. 2. Please clarify whether the reference to “Jamboard” is intended to indicate a specific product/brand, or whether it is used as a generic term for an interactive digital whiteboard / collaboration display, in which case equivalent solutions with comparable functionality and performance would be acceptable. 3. Please clarify whether the listed Google-specific features (e.g. Google Cast) are mandatory, or whether equivalent screen sharing and collaboration technologies offered by other vendors would be acceptable. 4. Kindly confirm whether clarification or revision of the technical specifications is foreseen in order to reflect a currently supported, manufacturer-neutral interactive whiteboard solution.
A6	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Specifically for this item it is not acceptable anymore considering that the aforementioned item does not get any kind of support anymore. 2. For this item it is used as a generic term for the interactive digital whiteboard. 3. Other technologies that offer similar or better features that are required would be acceptable to be offered. 4. Clarified in the answers above.
Q7	<p>The technical specifications for LOT 1 include a “Stream Deck USB 3.0 Controller” with defined functional characteristics (programmable LCD buttons, shortcut mapping, USB connectivity). We kindly request clarification on the following points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please clarify whether the reference to “Stream Deck” is intended to indicate a specific brand and model, or whether it is used as a generic description of a programmable USB control device, in which case equivalent devices with comparable functionality would be acceptable. 2. Please note that such devices represent standard commercial USB peripherals, which are readily available through retail and authorized distribution channels (including local IT and electronics retailers). In this context, please clarify the justification for requiring a Manufacturer’s Authorization Form (MAF) for this category of equipment. 3. Kindly confirm whether, for this item, the MAF requirement may be waived, and standard manufacturer warranty documentation and proof of origin accepted instead. 4. Please confirm whether any clarification or revision of the technical specifications is foreseen in order to reflect a manufacturer-neutral description and the applicable MAF requirements.
A7	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In this item the term “Stream deck” is used as a generic description of a programmable USB control device, so all devices that will match the requirements are acceptable. 2. The requirement for MAF is needed because of our guidelines for procurement of this type of equipment and considering that there are a lot of manufacturers for this product in the region it is not acceptable to waive the MAF requirement. 3. The MAF requirement cannot be waived for this item.

	<p>4. Clarified in the answers above.</p>
Q8	<p>Server - Rack type</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please confirm whether the specified Intel® Xeon® E-2324G processor represents a fixed requirement, or whether higher-performance CPUs from the same Dell PowerEdge platform would be acceptable. 2. The technical specification lists 8 GB ECC UDIMM memory. Kindly confirm whether this represents the minimum required configuration, and whether servers with higher RAM capacity may be proposed. 3. The specified storage configuration includes a single 1 TB 7.2K SATA drive with software RAID. Please clarify whether alternative storage configurations (e.g. multiple drives, SSD-based storage and/or hardware RAID controllers) would be acceptable, provided that they meet or exceed the intended functional requirements. 4. Please confirm whether the listed server configuration should be understood as a baseline / minimum configuration, allowing vendors to propose enhanced configurations within the same platform to ensure better performance, reliability and long-term support.
A8	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The mentioned processor is not a fixed requirement but other processors with same or slightly higher performance can be offered. 2. Servers with up to 32gb of ram can be offered. 3. Alternative storage configurations can be offered but only if they do not raise the overall price of the item too much so it stays in the budget. 4. The listed configuration should be understood as what is required in that scope for the item to have, there can be slight improvements like a newer generation processor that corresponds to the one requested or a bit more ram and storage, but it doesn't need to be enhanced to a point where it goes out of the budget for the specific item. The specification already has another item which is high performance server, so this item will fulfil its purpose with the specification requested.