

## PRELIMINARY MARKET CONSULTATION

<b><u>Preliminary Market Consultation No.:</u></b>	ECTL_SRC_250041
<b><u>Title:</u></b>	ACDLS (ATS Common Data Link Services)

### **Topic of the Preliminary Market Consultation:**

#### ACDLS Governance

The ATS common datalink services (ACDLS) Governance has been established by means of the conclusion of the ACDLS Memorandum of Cooperation (ACDLS governance MoC), dated 1st October 2021, the purpose of which is to establish an ACDLS Governance including its bodies, policies and processes by means of cooperation between the Parties to jointly improve and promote the development of a common approach, vision, design, procurement, management and evolution of ATS common datalink services.

The current membership of the ACDLS Governance is described attached CFT material in Part 5.A – Scope of Implementation.

On 1st March 2023, the 18 ACDLS Governance members signed a common procurement agreement (CPA) and mandated EUROCONTROL for the procurement of European ACDLS to be rendered by the DSP and the management of the Contract(s) in accordance with the provisions of the CPA. Today, the ACDLS Governance counts 27 members.

#### EUROCONTROL

EUROCONTROL has 42 Member States and two Comprehensive Agreement States and is a civil-military intergovernmental organisation committed to building, together with its partners, a Single European Sky, i.e. arrangements allowing the air navigation management system in Europe to achieve the level of performance required for the coming decades.

The EUROCONTROL Agency, which was set up to carry out the Organisation's mission, provides sustained support for all its Member States, for the European Commission and for the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA). This assistance is provided in numerous fields, in particular those of regulation, general oversight of air navigation management arrangements, and the environment. The EUROCONTROL Agency is also tasked with the permanent monitoring of the performance of the air navigation management system in place in Europe and of the associated civil-military coordination.

### **SUPPORTING EUROPEAN AVIATION**

**Member States:** Albania, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom.

**Comprehensive Agreement States:** Israel, Morocco.

### ACDLS Call for Tender (CFT)

The ACDLS Governance issued a Call for Tender for the procurement of a DLS Service Provider in November 2023. Tenders were received on 24 June 2024, and an Evaluation Procedure was initiated as per published criteria.

The following type of services will be requested to be provided by the DLS Service Provider:

- *Baseline Services*, which are the common services contained in the Service Catalogue of the DSP that are provided to all the users. Such services must be contracted and financed by all DSP Users. The Baseline Services comprise:
  - o DSP Service Management, includes all activities required from the DSP for the proper functioning of the ACDLS: project and service management, safety/quality/security management, certification management, monitoring and Testing.
  - o Common European ATN Backbone Operation Management includes all activities related to the set-up, operation management, and evolution of the CEAB, including the connection to ANSPs through PENS.
  - o ATN/VDLm2 baseline service, consisting of the provision of ATN/VDLm2 services. All VDLm2 services provided are considered as part of the Baseline Services. The services provided from the DSP will, at a minimum, be provided from the same level as provided today.
- *Optional Services*, which are the services contained in the Service Catalogue offered by DSP that are only provided to DSP Users contracting them. These services are not included in the minimum set of Baseline Services but are available to all. All Optional Services can therefore be ordered by none, some or all the DSP Users. The related costs are borne only by the users requesting those services. The Optional Services comprise:
  - o Logon and ADS-C Common Service (LACS), which includes the set-up and operation of the Logon and ADS-C Common Service.
  - o SATCOM Service, which includes the set-up and operation of the SATCOM service.

On 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024, the (EU) 2024/2803 (SES2+ Regulation) entered into force. This Regulation introduces a provision establishing the 'Conditions regarding the provision of CNS, AIS, ADS and of air traffic services for approach and aerodrome control'. Article 11 defines the rules that apply to air traffic providers when procuring these services, such as CNS for en-route services.

As the SES2+ Regulation Article 11 introduced new criteria for the selection of communication service providers, the ACDLS Call for Tender could not be pursued on the basis of the released call for tender material and established selection criteria. Consequently, the ACDLS CFT was cancelled. The ACDLS Governance remains however fully committed to the coordination and integration of European datalink services.

### Way Forward

The intention of the ACDLS Governance is to timely re-publish a Call for Tender for the Datalink Service Provider that:

- includes new selection criteria ensuring compliance with EU SES2+ Regulation;

- capitalises on the work performed and the lessons learnt of the first call for tender;
- takes on board any regulatory amendments and necessary adaptations to technical requirements;
- considers regulatory deadlines applicable to some of the services such as the enabler for AF6 compliance.

### Purpose

Therefore, the purpose of the market consultation is to evaluate how market capabilities, providers' portfolios, industry trends can help achieve ACDLS business objectives. It is specifically looking into the following topics:

- Market readiness to provide datalink services in line with the requirements of SES2+ Regulation article 11.6;
- Market readiness to deliver the level of performance expected by the applicable standards;
- Market interest to develop and deliver software products that can be used by the future DSP to provide the LACS service;
- Allow market actors to provide any feedback on the CFT material that was used for the ACDLS Call for Tender.

The outcome of the Preliminary Market Consultation will be considered in the publication of future Call for Tender(s).

### **Preliminary Market Consultation closing date:**

30 June 2025 at 15:00 Brussels time.

Companies interested in the subject matter shall make their intentions known via the below listed points of contact. They will be invited to a bilateral meeting to express their views on the topics.

Via this Preliminary Market Consultation, Companies are not asked to produce specific content or material. They are free to decide what they want to present to EUROCONTROL and in which format.

### **Points of Contact:**

Please see the "Important Notice" below and if you have any other related questions, please contact:

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**If this Preliminary Market Consultation should interest you, please read the important information below:**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

The full Preliminary Market Consultation documentation is in electronic format (.pdf). If you wish to obtain the Preliminary Market Consultation documentation, please read and follow carefully the instructions below:

1. If you are already registered in the EUROCONTROL Supplier Portal, you can search for this Preliminary Market Consultation, and its relevant documentation, in the “*View Active Negotiations*” section of the Supplier Portal.
2. If you are not yet registered as a EUROCONTROL supplier, please follow the process described on the following link: <https://www.eurocontrol.int/portal/new-supplier-portal>.
3. EUROCONTROL accepts no responsibility whatsoever for the completeness, accuracy and/or timeliness of the transmission of the electronic documents (nor for the electronic documents themselves).

**An environmental notice:**

With a view to reduce the exponential growth of paper consumption, we would invite you only to print out electronic documents received and/or request paper copies of the price enquiry documentation if you are actually considering to submit a tender.