

Compiled Answers to RfP questions

RAM-23-04-RSIS-1

Q1: With regard to the current "RSIS PHP application": in your opinion, is it feasible to keep this PHP application with small adjustments for the new version of Drupal? Or you'd rather recommend to fully incorporate it in the Drupal website?

Answer: It is feasible to keep as separate application. The effort it takes to incorporate into the Drupal website would have to be evaluated.

Q2: Is it possible to share its source code with the selected bidders, or at least some relevant statistics such as total lines of code, number of classes etc?

Answer: This information could unfortunately not be obtained on time.

Q3: Why is the online form a standalone PHP application? Is it possible to integrate this form (and their workflow) using a custom Drupal module? Is there any special requirement regarding this that should be considered to be a standalone solution?

Answer: See Q1. It is standard PHP code, mainly tapping into Drupal for permission control.

Q4: Is it necessary to use Geoserver to manage the GIS information? Can we integrate all this information into Drupal and show that information using, for example, Leaflet?

Answer: As long as all functionality is preserved another solution can be explored. Note that there are several layers that may be displayed like the country boundaries, river basins etc.

Q5: Is it possible to have a user/password to review the Drupal solution but also the password protected zone? We want to see the standalone form, the secretariat tools to manage the workflow/permissions, etc.

Answer: Each bidder will receive a separate login before Thursday 3 August COB to explore a test version of the system.

Q6: Which data should be migrated from the current solution? Only sites information (with geoserver data) or there are pending forms that should be migrated also?

Answer: A snapshot of the current RSIS database, including all site data and also the pending forms (which are part of the DB, not Drupal forms)

Q7: Can we have some information about the budget related to this project?

Answer: We expect each bidder to estimate based on the information available in the RfP, this Q&A and through the access to the system. We do not have more budget information for this RfP.

Q8: Can you please share technical specification and setup of the current RSIS hosting server/environment (including OS, Firewall, model and number of CPUs, RAM and storage)?

- vCPU: 4 core over Intel(R) Xeon(R) Gold 6240 CPU @ 2.60GHz
- 8GB RAM

- 137GB DISK
- Ubuntu 20.04.4 LTS
- Firewall: two Linux machines managed by current vendor's IT

Q9: Which PHP version is running on current RSIS website/application?

Answer: PHP 7.4

Q10: Does the current system have a real-time system and/or service monitoring solution implemented? Is it provided as a part of the hosting infrastructure or custom implemented?

Answer: Google analytics for the site visits. The system status monitor tool is <https://checkmk.com/>

Q11: What is the current physical location of the hosting server and do you have any requirements for the new system hosting in that regards?

Answer: The server is in Switzerland. We prefer to keep the data in Europe.

Q12: Is there any additional technical information that you can share regarding RSIS PHP application?

Answer: No

Q13: Can you please share information on the current integration of Ramsar website <https://www.ramsar.org> and RSIS website <https://rsis.ramsar.org/>? In what ways are the two sites connected and how is the information shared between two web sites (descriptive data, multimedia and geodata)? Is data about Ramsar sites maintained at both sites independently or is the data maintained only is RSIS and retrieved by Ramsar website via web services or other means?

Answer: The website reads the RSS flux from the RSIS to import site data. It's one way, the RSIS only needs to expose the data.

Q14: What type (free/paid tier) of Bing API key does the current system use?

Answer: Free

Q15: What type (free/paid tier) of Mapbox API key does the current system use?

Answer: This information could not be obtained on time.

Q16: What type (free/paid tier) of <https://www.highcharts.com/> API key does the current system use?

Answer: The highcharts is on version 4 and it's usage falls under the non-profit website terms

Q17: What type (free/paid tier) of <https://html2pdfrocket.com/> API key does the current system use?

Answer: Paid

Q18: Does the Url2pdf service mentioned in the "Annotated report by country" chapter refer to the open-source project <https://github.com/yyc1217/url2pdf>?

Answer: The "Annotated report by country" uses the PDF Rendering Service <https://github.com/restorecommerce/pdf-rendering-srv>

Q19: Are there any paid Drupal modules or extensions used within the current solution?

Answer: No

Q20: How come the print functionality (Mapfish print plugin) uses the OpenStreetMap background map instead of WYSIWYG Mapbox/Bing background map used in “Map” part of the system. Is it a legal or a technical issue?

Answer: This information could not be obtained on time.

Q21: Is the catalogue of species maintained in scope of RSIS database or does RSIS communicate via API with some external catalogue of species such as Catalogue of Life <https://www.catalogueoflife.org/>?

Answer: The COL data is imported into the RSIS database at least twice a year. This process is semi-automated, a developer exports the data and then uses scripts to import into the RSIS.

Q22: Is there any other integration with external systems/websites such as IUCN Red List of Threatened Species <https://www.iucnredlist.org/> or similar?

Answer: Besides the RedList there are the CITES and CMS appendix, maintained in a similar manner to the COL, see Q21.

Q23: Is there an existing ticketing system in place or should one be provided in a scope of requested services?

Answer: A project on Jira is set up and can be used.

Q24: In RfP point 5.3. Technical Proposal, the second criteria in the table states “Adequacy of technology and systems proposed, including demonstrated expertise in proposing robust options to 5 key requirements.”. Which 5 key requirements does this refer to?

Answer: This is an error, it should read “... robust options for the 4 tasks”

Q25: Are there any travels envisaged and planned during the project implementation to the Ramsar Secretariat/IUCN headquarters in Gland, Switzerland? If yes, how many travels/visits should be planned and how should the travel costs be indicated in the financial offer?

Answer: No travel is planned, the vendor is expected to conduct the work remotely

Q26: Regarding the RfP point 5.4.5. Breakdown of rates and prices, should the Total Price for Task 2 and Task 4 be indicated for the period of 12 months or one month?

Answer: On a monthly basis

Q27: In the general structure section, it has been mentioned that two databases have been used. Can you elaborate the use of the second database (RSIS database), which holds the information for the sites and the online form. In terms of volume of data.

Answer: The RSIS database currently occupies 4.2GB

Q28: Do let us know if whether there are any plans to migrate the RSIS PHP application also into Drupal, in near future?

Answer: See answers to Q1 & Q3.

Q29: We wish to get some clarity on the usage of the server resources, like average site visit and existing hosting environment (infrastructure) details.

Answer: In 2022 Google analytics registered around 600'000 unique site visits for the whole year.

Q30: Is there any user experience and performance assessment conducted recently? If so, what are the major bottlenecks in terms of the application concerned. Let us know!

Answer: No

Q31: Url2pdf: one of the services hosted in the docker is this one. There are several types of services with this name, can we know exactly the one you are using?

Answer: See answer to Q18.

Q32: Where is the system currently hosted? Is it on-premises or in a cloud environment? If it's in the cloud, which cloud provider is being used, and are there any associated vendors?

Answer: The current vendor have their own servers. Cloud is an option in case of take over. We prefer smaller hosters like Hetzner etc. instead of Amazon or Azure.

Q33: What are the current system's infrastructure requirements, including details about machines, capacity, sizing, and the operating system?

Answer: See answer Q8.

Q34: Apart from the application, do you have plans to modernize other infrastructure resources?

Answer: In this first phase it is only a take over and upgrade to a new version of Drupal or another Framework, no further "modernization" is in the scope of that project.

Q34.1: If so, how do you intend to carry out the modernization? Will you start with a lift and shift approach and then proceed with further modernization, or is it a direct modernization from the outset?

Answer: This would go into a separate project if need arises.

Q34.2: If modernization is planned, can the vendor define the architecture of the new infrastructure? Are there any specific standards that must be followed?

Answer: Architecture will be defined in consultation with the Secretariat. No specific standards besides the normal best practice and current laws.

Q34.3: Can Postgres and PostGIS be managed directly by the vendor? Can Docker be replaced with a new instance?

Answer: Yes

Q35: Is any downtime acceptable during the migration? If so, what is the maximum allowed downtime, and what is the possible time window for it?

Answer: One full working day is acceptable at the beginning of a week.

Q36: What are the differences between the staging and production environments? Should both environments be active at all times, or is it possible to shut down one of them for cost-saving purposes, and if so, during which time window?

Answer: Staging can be shut down for cost saving, but the secretariat should have easy control over the status of the machine.

Q37: Should the databases be synchronized or not?

Answer: The DB from production should regularly be copied over to staging. The frequency is low (few times a year) and this can be done by hand upon request of the Secretariat.

Q38: What type of monitoring is currently implemented?

Answer: See answer to Q10.

Q39: Is it possible to conduct an infrastructure assessment before the migration begins? This assessment will involve installing agents.

Answer: Most probably yes, needs to be coordinated with current vendor.

Q40: At which phase of the project do you plan to decommission the old infrastructure?

Answer: Once the new infrastructure is up and in production, we want to keep the old server running for at least 6 more months.