

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

CIVIL UAVs INITIATIVE

Request for Information on development of an R&D&I initiative for unmanned aerial vehicle systems (UAV/RPAs) to improve different public services.

As a part of its aeronautics research and technology policy, the Regional Government of Galicia (hereinafter Government of Galicia) is launching the Civil UAV/RPAs Initiative for the use of UAV/RPAs in the civil sector, in particular for the improvement of public services.

In the 2015-2020 timeframe, the Government of Galicia and national Government of Spain have the intention of investing up to € 55 Million in this initiative, which will be developed on the grounds established in the present document. From that funding, an amount of € 10 Million is already being invested in infrastructures development at the Rozas airfield. The remaining of up to € 45 Million are envisaged for public-private partnership investment with one or more strategic technological and industrial partners (through a partnership agreement for pre-commercial development), as well as for public procurement of specific innovation solutions (pre-commercial procurement, public procurement of innovative technology and innovation partnership).

The Government of Galicia is competent in areas where the use of UAV/RPAs has huge potential to allow significant improvement of public services efficiency, and therefore will act as pilot customer and validator of new technological solutions. The main areas where the Government of Galicia expects to apply such technologies are, but not not limited to: fire prevention and fighting, control of fisheries, coastal surveillance and monitoring, land management (biomass, cultural heritage, etc.), etc.

The technological and industrial partners (Strategic Partners) will be selected along 2015 (attending RFP-A, laid down in this document) on the basis of market interest and the best value for money contribution to the initiative by the interested economic operators. The Strategic Partner or Partners will have to undertake long term commitment for developing this initiative and the aeronautics research and technology pole in Galicia. A partnership agreement will be signed with the selected Partners, which will include R&D services contract(s) (pre-commercial procurement), for an amount of up to € 21 Million + VAT.

Manufacturers and developers of specific solutions and services based on UAV/RPAs will be also selected during 2016 (RFP-B referred to in this document) through public procurement processes for specific innovation solutions (pre-commercial procurement, public procurement of innovative technology and innovation partnership), and the preliminary market consultations will start in 2015.

1. HISTORY/BACKGROUND

1.1. Galicia

Galicia is located in the Northwest of Spain and has an area of 29,574 km², representing 5.8 % of the Spanish area. It is one of the Spanish Regions with the longest coastline, namely; 1,498 kilometres.

In the forestry sector, Galicia holds quite a strong position in Spain. Its area exceeds 1,400,000 hectares and covers 48 % of the total land of the Autonomous Community.

Thanks to its geographical location, Galicia is a part of the trans-European networks and primarily of the western European "motorway of the sea".

The resident population in the Region of Galicia amounts to 2,761,970 people (as of 1st January 2013), which represents 5.9 % of the total population of Spain. The fragmentation of population settlements is one of the unique territorial characteristics of Galicia.

1.2. Objectives of the Government of Galicia

The Region of Galicia policy aims to transform the region in an international aeronautics research and technology pole, through various actions:

- Creation and development of an aeronautics technology park around the Rozas airfield.
- Search for innovative technological solutions through partnerships for pre-commercial development, pre-commercial public procurement, partnership for innovation and public procurement of innovative technology.
- Attraction and promotion of investment for technological and industrial development.
- Improvement of public services through the use of unmanned aerial vehicle systems.
- Development of long lasting relation of the Aeronautic Pole to the European and world-wide aerospace industry.

1.3. General purpose of the technological pole

a) To foster basic and applied research, as well as technological development and innovation in Galicia in the field of aeronautics.

b) To boost improvement of technology, productivity and presence of the Galician production system in the aeronautics sector, on the basis of innovation, transfer and exploitation of research results, and boosting evolution of the productive model.

c) To promote implementation of new business initiatives and entrepreneurship in the area of influence of the pole, on the basis of technological-industrial capabilities, transfer and exploitation of R&D results, in order to boost a new entrepreneurial culture rooted in innovation and to provide sustainable wealth to the territory.

d) To nurture and support training of scientific personnel, researchers and innovation managers in Galicia and contribute to the creation of a suitable environment for development of their careers.

e) To encourage co-ordination of policies, plans and programmes in research, transfer of research results, enhancement and innovation of the general administration and the rest of the public sector in the Region of Galicia, with the policies of the Spanish Government and the European Union.

f) To promote internationalisation of scientific research, technological development and innovation, especially within the area of the European Union.

g) To place the industry of Galicia within the world wide aerospace sector as a Long Term reliable player

h) To foster cooperation between public entities for the development and acquisition of innovative solutions provided by companies, in order to contribute to:

- The improvement of the public services effectiveness and efficiency.

- The improvement of innovation and corporate competitiveness by attracting funds for entrepreneurial R&D&I via public procurement, and the reinforcement of innovation marketing by using the public client as reference customer.

1.4. The creation of the technology park at the Rozas airfield

The creation of the technology park at the Rozas airfield finds its full framework within the policy of promoting an aeronautics research and technology pole. The technology park is a research infrastructure which is composed of the Rozas airfield, dedicated to civilian use UAV/RPAs, and the INTA-XUNTA (CIAR) new Aeronautics Research Centre.

CIAR is a joint centre owned by the Spanish Government and the Government of Galicia via a collaboration agreement signed between the Galician Innovation Agency (GAIN), the Galician Institute for Economic Promotion (IGAPE) and the National Institute of Aerospace Technology "Esteban Terradas", (INTA). Its creation was authorised by the Council of the Xunta de Galicia on the 21th of May 2015.

GAIN, IGAPE and INTA are interested in cooperating towards scientific research and technological development in the aeronautic sector. The CIAR Research Centre will be the tool to promote UAV/RPAs as a reference system to develop European benchmarking research in the efficient public services. The CIAR will become a test centre with the necessary testing infrastructure for aircraft and system campaigns, that will allow safe and efficient verification of a broad variety of technologies.

2. The CIVIL UAV/RPAs INITIATIVE

2.1. Description of the initiative

This initiative aims to foster transfer of knowledge between the business sector and the research entities and, furthermore, to encourage collaborative projects geared towards achieving market objectives based on research results.

The purpose of this initiative is to boost civilian use of UAV/RPAs, in particular, to improve public services via public-private partnership with one or more strategic technological and industrial partners (through a partnership agreement for pre-commercial development), and, also via public procurement of specific innovation solutions (pre-commercial procurement, public procurement of innovative technology and innovation partnership). Participants in the UAV/RPA Civil Initiative will be able to use not only the Rozas airfield dedicated to civil UAV/RPAs but also the INTA-XUNTA DE GALICIA Aeronautics Research Centre within the scope of the framework agreements signed by both administrations.

The possible future needs of the Xunta de Galicia to be covered by these intended innovative products and services include: prevention and management of forest fires, inventory and land management, disaster management, hazard mapping, control of poaching, coastal surveillance, management of tourist flows, etc. These needs cannot be addressed through the acquisition of products and services already available on the market.

Within the framework of this RFI, the Galician Government is willing to receive proposals that fall within the strategic objectives of the aerospace pole, the technology park and the Civil UAV/RPAs Initiative.

2.2. Calendar of activities

Although it is not any binding commitment, the time-table set out below shows an indicative schedule for the development of the initiative.

<p>Publishing of Request for Proposals (RFP-A)</p> <p>Call for the selection of strategic partner/s to sign partnership agreement/s for the development of the Civil UAV/RPAs Initiative, in particular, for the improvement of public services.</p> <p>Opening of a process of preliminary market consultations prior to publication of RFP-B.</p>	<p>July 2015</p>
<p>Workshop</p>	<p>July 2015 (after publication of RFP-A)</p>
<p>Signature of partnership agreement/s for the development of the Civil UAV/RPAs Initiative, in particular, for the improvement of public services.</p>	<p>End of 2015</p>
<p>Publishing of public procurement procedures for innovation on specific solutions (Request for Proposals (RFP-B)).</p> <p>These procedures may include actions involving pre-commercial procurement, public procurement of innovative technology and partnership for innovation.</p>	<p>2016</p>

3. PRESENTATION OF RESPONSES TO THIS RFI

The deadline for submission of documents in response to the present RFI is 22th of June 2015, at 24:00h.

Companies interested in becoming Strategic Partner of the Civil UAV/RPA's Initiative shall send their documentation following the indications and contents of the standard form set out in Annex I and II to this announcement (*Letter of Response* and *Form of the Responses to the RFI*).

The motivation behind this Request for Information is that the Government of Galicia wishes to: a) gauge the possible interest of the economic operators for participating in the actions described in this document and b) organise attendance and participation of stakeholders in an event (workshop), to explain the aims and objectives of the regional administration regarding the Civil UAV/RPAs Initiative.

Responses must be sent by email to the address shown below.

A response to this RFI is not any mandatory prerequisite for participation in the tender procedures to be convened later.

Data provided in the expression of interest will be handled in a confidential manner.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Email: programas.gain@xunta.es

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