



EuroHPC JOINT UNDERTAKING
DECISION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE EuroHPC JOINT
UNDERTAKING No 26/2020
Approving the selection of the tender for the acquisition of the
Leonardo pre-exascale supercomputer

THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE EuroHPC JOINT UNDERTAKING,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EU) 2018/1488 of 28 September 2018 establishing the European High Performance Computing (HPC) Joint Undertaking (hereinafter "Regulation")¹,

Having regard to the Statutes the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking annexed to the Regulation (thereinafter "Statutes") and in particular to Article 7(4)(h) thereof,

Having regard to the Governing Board Decision No 7/2019 of 5 June 2019 on the selection of the Hosting Entities for the Precursors to Exascale Supercomputers,

Having regard to the Governing Board Decision No 9/2019 of 12 July 2019 adopting the amended EuroHPC Joint Undertaking Work Plan for the year 2019,

Having regard to the Governing Board Decision No 11/2019 of 3 October 2019 adopting the first amendment of the Joint Undertaking's Budget for 2019,

Having regard to the Governing Board Decision No 12/2019 of 14 October 2019 adopting the Hosting Agreement to be concluded between the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking and a Hosting Entity of a Precursor to Exascale Supercomputer.

WHEREAS

- (1) The Joint Undertaking shall procure the Precursors to Exascale Supercomputers and shall own them.
- (2) The Joint Undertaking shall entrust to a Hosting Entity the operation of each individual Precursor to Exascale Supercomputer it owns.
- (3) The Hosting Entities for pre-exascale supercomputers have been selected following a call for expression of interest for Precursors to Exascale Supercomputers (EUROHPC-2019-CEI-PE-01).

¹ OJ L 252, 08.10.2018, p. 1

- (4) Three (3) Hosting Entities for pre-exascale supercomputers have been selected by the Governing Board by its Decision No 7/2019 of 5 June 2019. One Hosting Entity selected is the Cineca Consorzio Interuniversitario (CINECA).
- (5) Once the hosting agreement was concluded, the Joint Undertaking, supported by the selected hosting entities, launched the procedures for the acquisition of the pre-exascale supercomputers.
- (6) The Governing Board has approved the launch of the calls for tenders, in accordance with the annual work plan 2019.
- (7) The EuroHPC JU will procure one (1) pre-exascale supercomputer (so-called LEONARDO supercomputer) within the agreed available budget reserved for its acquisition and shall own it.
- (8) Article 165 (2) of the EU Financial Regulation provides that where the share pertaining to or managed by the contracting authority of a Member State in the total estimated value of the contract is equal to or above 50 %, the Union Institution may decide that the procedural rules applicable to the contracting authority of a Member State shall apply to the joint procurement, provided that those rules may be considered as equivalent to those of the Union institution. Considering that the financial contribution of Italy to the acquisition of the LEONARDO supercomputer will cover 50% of the total acquisition cost of that supercomputer, the Hosting entity, in consultation with the Joint Undertaking decided that the procurement law provisions of Italy will be applicable to the joint procurement. This will be reflected in the Joint Procurement Agreement which will be signed between the parties and which will provide the detailed practical arrangements for the evaluation of the requests for participation or of the tenders, the award of the contract, the law applicable to the contract and the competent court for hearing disputes.
- (9) The evaluation procedure followed the applicable public procurement rules in the jurisdiction of the EuroHPC JU. The competitive dialogue procurement is divided in three main stages: a) selection stage, b) dialogue stage and c) the tendering stage. The selection stage was concluded in 3 January 2020. Among the 6 tenders submitted, 4 were eligible to participate in the dialogue stage. During the dialogue stage, a series of bilateral meetings were organised between CINECA and the JU on the one side and the vendors on the other. The meetings helped to develop the complete technical specifications of the system and finalise the invitation for tender submission which was communicated to the retained vendors on 4 June 2020. The deadline for submission was the 29 June 2020.
- (10) The evaluation committee was appointed by the European Commission. The members of the evaluation committee included four officials of the Commission and two representatives of the EuroHPC JU. Three external experts (two provided by the Hosting Entity and one selected by the EuroHPC JU) assisted the evaluation committee and provided a detailed technical analysis checking the compliance of the tenders with the award criteria.

(11) It was concluded that three vendors submitted eligible tenders after the dialogue stage. These tenders were then evaluated by the evaluation committee. The evaluation committee, taking into account external experts' individual evaluation reports, concluded that one proposal was superior to the others, covering all the tender mandatory requirements, offering a system with 1.5x times of the minimum requested performance and presenting the best overall solution in what concerns the technical value of the system, the quality of support services, the proposed R&D collaboration with the Hosting Entity and the effective EU added value. More details on the evaluation procedure, including the composition of the evaluation committee, are provided in the annexed evaluation report.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The Governing Board hereby approves the selection of the tender for the acquisition of the (1) Pre-exascale Supercomputer (LEONARDO supercomputer), in accordance with the annual Work Plan of the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking for the year 2019, and within the agreed available budget for the acquisition of the respective Pre-exascale Supercomputer.

Article 2

The Executive Director shall inform the applicants of the results of the evaluation and shall communicate simultaneously to each of them the relevant evaluation summary report, as attachment to the notification letter.

Article 3

This Decision shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.

Done at Luxembourg, on 26 August 2020.

For the Governing Board

[signed]

Herbert Zeisel

The Chair