

Mr. Matthias Oel

Director for Borders, Interoperability and Innovation
Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs
European Commission

Tallinn, 21 May 2021

Subject: Written question from MEP Patrick Breyer on technical implementation of the 'Interoperability' project

Dear Mr Oel,

In reply to your letter (ref. Ares(2021)3073378 – 07/05/2021) concerning the Written Question [E-001790/2021] by MEP Patrick Breyer (Verts/ALE) to the Commission, please find below the Agency's proposal for the replies to the three questions for your perusal.

- 1. Can eu-LISA meet the launch schedule for the 'interoperability agenda', and when will the individual components (ESP, sBMS, CIR, MID, CRRS) be available for initial testing?***

All organizational measures have been put in place in order to meet the agreed political timeline for implementation of the new interoperability architecture by the end of 2023. The Agency in close cooperation with the European Commission and the Member States managed also to mitigate to great extent the negative effects of COVID-19 pandemic on the implementation schedule. The latest status of the work on implementation of the interoperability components is provided in the 3rd Interoperability Progress Report published in December 2020 (eu-LISA Ref. No 2020-373).

In particular, the planned date to start the pre-compliance testing is 1st of July 2021 for the shared Biometric Matching Service (sBMS) and end of the 1st quarter of 2022 for the other interoperability components i.e. the European Search Portal (ESP), the

Common Identity Repository (CIR), the Multiple Identity Detector (MID) and the Common Repository for Reporting and Statistics (CRRS).

eu-LISA would like also to remind that for the timely implementation of the new interoperability architecture alongside with availability of the interoperability components at central level, it is equally important Member States to finalize on time the planned tasks at national level.

2. *What contracts have already been awarded for individual 'interoperability components', and who has been chosen as the main contractor?*

Interoperability components are to be procured via Reopening of the Competition between 5 contractors of the Framework Contract under Transversal Engineering Framework Lot 2. The reopening will lead to several different Specific Contracts. Interoperability components are currently under evaluation and planned to be awarded by the end of June 2021 at latest.

Further details could be found in the contract notice for Transversal Engineering Framework Lot 2 Framework Contract, which is available here:

<https://ted.europa.eu/udl?uri=TED:NOTICE:410436-2020:TEXT:EN:HTML>

3. *Which companies are to implement the Entry/Exit System and the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS), and which products will be installed for this purpose.*

Development and implementation of EES (Framework Contract Ref. LISA/2017/RP/03 EES) was awarded, following a rigorous procurement procedure, to a consortium led by IBM Belgium BVBA and composed by Atos Belgium NV and Leonardo S.p.a .

The contract award notice is available here:

<https://ted.europa.eu/TED/notice/udl?uri=TED:NOTICE:243528-2019:TEXT:EN:HTML>

Development and implementation of the biometric system for EES and of the shared BMS (Framework Contract Ref. LISA/2019/RP/05 EES BMS & sBMS) was

awarded to a consortium led by Idemia Identity & Security SAS and composed by Sopra Steria Benelux SA/NV .

The contract award notice is available here:
<https://ted.europa.eu/udl?uri=TED:NOTICE:200083-2020:TEXT:EN:HTML>

Development and implementation of ETIAS was awarded under the Transversal Engineering Framework contract Lot 2 (FWC Ref. LISA/2019/OP/01). The winning contractor for ETIAS is a consortium led by ARHS DEVELOPMENTS SA and composed by SWORD TECHNOLOGIES SA. U

The contract award notice is available here:
<https://ted.europa.eu/udl?uri=TED:NOTICE:410436-2020:TEXT:EN:HTML>

Agency also would like to note that all contracts mentioned above are for development of custom-tailored software rather than for installation of off-the-shelf products, given the specific purpose of the systems in question.

Agency remains available to provide further clarifications if needed.

Yours sincerely,

Krum Garkov
Executive Director