INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACY AND ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE

TENDER REFERENCES NO: 2026-01-080

Terms of Reference (ToR) for Procurement and Delivery of Server and Network Hardware for the cyber-resilient compute hyperconverged infrastructure for the Central Election Commission (CEC) of Ukraine

1. Background

As Ukraine prepares for post-war elections, its Central Election Commission (CEC) faces acute technical challenges, including cyber threats, outdated infrastructure, and gaps in ICT systems.

Digitalization of electoral processes and ensuring their transparency, in turn, requires a reliable, fault-tolerant and highly available computing infrastructure built on modern principles and approaches. Currently, the CEC has only one computing complex, deployed based on a cluster of the latest Lenovo servers managed by Microsoft HCI in a single data center.

Accordingly, to ensure the necessary level of fault tolerance and high availability, as well as considering the requirements of Ukrainian legislation on the protection of critical infrastructure, it is necessary to ensure the availability of a second (backup) data center, in which it is advisable to deploy a mirrored hyperconverged cluster.

A cyber-resilient compute hyperconverged infrastructure (HCI) integrates compute, storage, networking, and virtualization resources into a single, software-defined system that is inherently designed to resist, detect, and recover from cyber threats with minimal downtime.

- **High Availability and Scalability**: The distributed, scale-out architecture ensures that the loss of a single node does not impact operations, providing inherent high availability.
- **Software-Defined Security**: Security controls and policies can be centrally managed and automated through the software layer, ensuring consistent enforcement across the entire infrastructure.
- **Cyber Resilience**: Hyperconverged Infrastructure goes beyond simple prevention to include the ability to maintain operational continuity and safeguard data even during a cyberattack or system failure, followed by a rapid and effective recovery.

The result of this project will be the creation of a modern, scalable computing infrastructure that meets the needs of the CEC and minimizes the risks of data loss and operational failures during electoral processes.

2. Objectives of the Assignment

IDEA requires a reliable Bidder to ensure effective, secure, and compliant procurement and delivery of Server and Network Hardware for a cyber-resilient compute hyperconverged infrastructure of the CEC of Ukraine in preparation for post-war elections.

3. Scope of Work

3.1 The selected Bidder will be expected to deliver Server and Network Hardware. Any other hardware (or / and software) products or related services that may be required by the CEC in the future and are relevant to this procurement may be procured under Framework Contract to be concluded as an outcome of this tender based on a separate quotation.

3.2 General list of Server and Network Hardware for a cyber-resilient compute hyperconverged infrastructure that needed to be procured and delivered is provided below in Table 1.

Table 1 Hardware for a cyber-resilient compute hyperconverged infrastructure

#	Item	Q-ty
1.	Network switch (48x1/10/25G, 6x40/100G, dual AC PS), 5 years support	2
2.	Server (2x32-core CPU, 1 TB RAM, 2x960 GB SATA SSD, 10x6.4 TB NVMe SSD), 5 years support	8

3.3 The detailed technical specification of the Server and Network Hardware that needed to be procured and delivered is provided in Annex 2.2 (Specification in Annex 2.2 takes precedence over the general list in Table 1 above).

4. Timing and Work Plan

Project implementation schedule should be completed before May 2026. A detailed timeline of deliverables will be developed and agreed with the selected bidder.

5. Deliverables and Reporting Requirements

5.1 The deliverables for this assignment shall include:

- Server and Network Hardware according to Annex 2.2
- CEC Acceptance Letter which proves the delivery of hardware

5.2 As the part of reporting the Bidder must submit:

- An initial delivery plan within 3 working days of contract signature
- Final delivery report including list of delivered hardware

6. Management and Organization

From International IDEA, a relevant Project Manager will be designated to provide relevant guidance for the achievement of the overall objective of the assignment and deliverables. All bidder communications shall be directed to the designated IDEA Project Manager. Final deliverables must be jointly confirmed by IDEA and the designated CEC technical contact.

All questions arising during the course of the project should be coordinated with Tetiana Bibik, International IDEA Project Manager (e-mail: t.bibik@idea.int).

7. Monitoring and Evaluation

This Monitoring and Evaluation section defines how International IDEA will track the progress, quality, and outcomes of the purchase and delivery of Server and Network Hardware for the CEC of Ukraine. The aim is to ensure timely purchase and secure delivery, compliance with technical specifications.

7.1 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs):

- Delivery of all Server and Network Hardware before June 2026
- Compliance with the technical specifications outlined in Annex 2.2
- Delivery of a valid Acceptance Letter from the CEC.

7.2 Monitoring Activities:

- Document verification: review of delivery reports, invoices and other related documentation
- Confirmation with the CEC of receipt of Server and Network Hardware for a cyber-resilient architecture.

7.3 Evaluation Framework

Evaluation Criteria:

- Adherence to timeline milestones
- Full compliance with requirements in Annex 2.2

Evaluation Process:

- Baseline technical assessment at project launch
- Final evaluation after delivery Server and Network Hardware
- Feedback survey from CEC technical staff

Annexes (to be provided)

Annex 2.2. Technical specifications of Server and Network Hardware for a cyber-resilient compute hyperconverged infrastructure for the Central Election Commission (CEC) of Ukraine

Annex 2.3. Documentation provided by Bidder