

## **PRE-BID CONFERENCE MINUTES**

### **Tender on development of web-site for the Central Electoral Commission of Moldova**

*UNDP House, 13 October 2009*

*Mr. Balan*, Manager of the Electoral Support to Moldova (ESM) Project, welcomed the bidders and informed them that the official language of the Pre-Bid Conference would be English. He added that they may ask the questions in Romanian or Russian, which would be translated into English.

He introduced the participants to the Conference, Mr. Condrea, the Head of the CEC IT Department, Mr. Olivier, the International IT Specialist within the ESM Project, and himself.

He asked if the bidders were familiar with the requirements of the tender and encouraged them to ask specific questions with regard to the tasks described there.

**Question 1:** With regard to some sections of the website, it is clear that the data comes from the database, but the business processes regarding the creation of the data are not clear. For example, the Calendar of Events, Meetings and Procedures.

**Answer 1:** All the modules will have the same format. The format will basically have the Graphical Interface, Business Rules or Business Objects and the Database. So, in case of Events, depending on permissions, some of the functionalities will be hidden. But, for instance, if the general public access the website, the people will not see all the functionalities, they will only see the Events. But the System Administrator or the person responsible for entering events, will have additional functions for example to enter events into the database. So the basic process will be that we will be able to display a list of events. That list of events is stored in the database, let's say in the Events Table. So those records will be synchronized between the database and the website. So, if the public access the website, they will see the events and those events come from the database. If the System Administrator wants to enter a new event, then there will be additional functions available to them to say the date, some edit functions and there will be a button to say "Add" or "Delete" or "Edit"... The moment they say "Add" or "Insert", that information will be stored into the database. So next time the public logs in, they will see the events.

**Question 2:** So, is that all? Without any work flow or document flow, acceptance of invitation on meeting or other...?

**Answer 2:** No, at this moment nothing like that, it's just plain information, what's in the database - show it to the public and there must be administrators able to put information into the database.

**Question 3:** Can we have the description of all those platforms and technologies which already exist at the Central Electoral Commission because, as we understand from the description, this website is one of the components of a bigger system.

**Answer 3:** The system is currently being built using Microsoft Visual Studio, so that is a Microsoft platform, the database is Microsoft SQL Server, the operating system is also Microsoft Server and it will run Microsoft Internet Information Server (IIS).

**Question 4:** Do these exist or will they be in the new system?

**Answer 4:** They will be in the new system.

**Question 5:** What about the existing system, any legacy systems?

**Answer 5:** There is no legacy system.

**Question 6:** Does this mean that the new website will not include communication channels with the existing systems?

**Answer 6:** The previous website will be completely replaced.

**Question 7:** On page 10 in the requirements, an MVVM development pattern is indicated and it is said that this pattern has to be realized using Microsoft Silverlight. But according to Microsoft documentation, this pattern refers to WPF Technology and is not realized in Microsoft Silverlight. So, which of the requirements is valid, the use of MVVM pattern or the use of Microsoft Silverlight?

**Answer 7:** The MVVM pattern is actually developed because of Silverlight. The WPF platform is using an MVP platform. And I think on that same page the design pattern is pretty clear.

**Question 8:** We have read the Microsoft documents and we have found out that Microsoft Silverlight pattern is a bit different than the pattern shown in the description.

**Answer 8:** There are a few patterns on the practices. MVC was always used – ASPX is using an MVC. The View Presenter (MVP) is used as well. But MVVM is a special case of MVP, but it's the same concept. The big concept is that in the code behind of the XAML graphics file, there is no source code, so we can give this graphic design to a graphic designer and he can change the colors, the layout, anything, but he does not influence the code. So, for example, if the designer accidentally remove for example a data grid, it does not break the software, it will still run. And that is the big advantage about MVVM.

**Question 9:** Ok, but which requirement is mandatory, Microsoft Silverlight or MVVM?

**Answer 9:** Both. I do not understand why you want to make a choice between the two. You use MVVM in pattern, but it's a Silverlight product. Silverlight is a product, just like WPF is a product, and MVVM is a pattern like MVP and MVC.

**Question 10** (Veaceslav Balan): Would it be possible to produce several slides explaining the answer to this question and post it on the website?

**Answer 10:** I can provide you a number of links to illustrate the use of MVVM and Silverlight.

<http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/magazine/dd458800.aspx>

<http://development-guides.silverbaylabs.org/Video/Model-View-View-Model---Silverlight-2>

<http://johnpapa.net/silverlight/5-minute-overview-of-mvvm-in-silverlight/>

<http://www.silverlight-travel.com/blog/tag/mvvm/>

To search more about Silverlight and MVVM please click on this link:

<http://www.google.com/search?hl=en&source=hp&q=silverlight+mvvm&aq=0&oq=silverlight+mv&aqi=g10>

**Question 11:** On the next page after the Contents, there is a list of abbreviations, and a lot of abbreviations are not used in the Terms of Reference. The question is “Do we have the entire document?”

**Answer 11:** That is the standard list of abbreviations which we use in the Project, and we attach it to every document related to electoral issues. That does not mean that all the abbreviations are used in the document. So, everything that you need for drafting your proposal is posted on the website.

**Question 12:** There is an Order regarding the approval of standard requirements with regard to the official websites of public administration authorities. Some of the requirements that we have are in contradiction with that Order. For example, the tender terms require that the language should be selected from the drop down list and the Order says that there should be separate buttons for selecting the language.

**Answer 12:** We suggest the following: those of you who will identify discrepancies between the Order and the tender requirements, please send us a list of those discrepancies, preferably by tomorrow, so that we manage to include the respective clarifications / comments in the minutes to this Pre-Bid Conference.

**Question 13:** There is another issue with regard to Silverlight: why was Silverlight selected? Because, according to Wikipedia, there are some discrepancies in relation to the official document and respectively the possibilities of Silverlight, and namely the possibilities to logon checkpoints activities, that Silverlight cannot provide control over the login, over auditing at any stages, and that is an important requirement in the Order on Governmental websites, requiring that all the activities should be logged on. And Silverlight in a way ties the hands in this respect.

**Answer 13:** The activity is logged via the Business Objects (running on the IIS Server), not in Silverlight which runs on the client PC. That is exactly why you use Silverlight, to have security on the computer so that the computer cannot talk to Silverlight and Silverlight cannot talk to the computer, it is like a web browser. It is like Adobe Flash. The Adobe Flash also does not allow you to make a log file on the client computer, that is the nature of Internet Browsers. The browser (containing Silverlight) is running on a client computer, you are actually not allowed to write on a client computer - that is called a virus. The Browser is running on a client, this is Internet side, the Business Objects is running on IIS, and this is the database on a different computer. If the user logs on to the Silverlight User Interface, the request will go to the Business Object so that request you can be authenticated, validated and logged into the database. Any time that the user logs on, you write in the system user audit table that the person logged on. If he changes something, in the Events table one will normally have a trigger in the database and if any changes happen there, you put it into the EventAudit Table, and then you just duplicate any changes that have been made, so audit trail is not on the client side, it is on the server side.

**Question 14:** With regard to page 12, Microsoft Net RIA Service is in the Technologic Preview Phase now. In 2010 there will be a review, some changes to it. How do you comment this?

- Which version of Microsoft Net RIA Service?
- First version and there is only one version so far.

**Answer 14:** I think Framework is now on 3.5 and Framework 4 is coming out, and the RIA services are following the same framework versions. The thing about RIA is actually also for you a better tool to use for the security. And for the audit trail that has just been mentioned, you do not need to use the RIA Service, but I can tell you it is the only way you will be able to do security, auditing and getting the data across in an easy and secure way, like on the picture on page 10, because it is shadowing all the data. If you make any changes on the client, then on the business objects it will also be made. If you make any changes to the table structure, it will also be reflected on to the GUI side in Silverlight.

**Question 15:** About the compatibility with Internet Explorer 5.5, the Order says that it should support 5.5 or higher. So do you have to conform to this 5.5 and up or 6?

**Answer 15:** We will examine this issue and we will find a solution.

### **Additional Questions addressed by a potential bidder after the Pre-Bid Conference**

#### **Question 16:**

**What is the budget for the Central Electoral Commission of Moldova website development ?**

**Answer 16:** This is confidential information.

#### **Question 17:**

##### **Integration information:**

- ☐ Is there going to need data migration ?**
- ☐ What is the number of the user that and the categories of the users that will access the website ?**
- ☐ Who will provision the SSL certificates ?**
- ☐ Which are the components that the website will be integrated with ?**
- ☐ Is there going to need integration with other systems ?**

#### **Answer 17:**

**a.** No need for Data Integration

**b.** Users

- i.** Public Domain: It is the replacement of [www.cec.md](http://www.cec.md)
- ii.** Central Election Commission Users: Authorized CEC users to access more functions such as Event ad, Press Release Administration, etc.
- iii.** District Election Commission and Polling Station Officers: Authorized members will access the website for Election Procedures and Training Manuals

- iv. Few other categories such as Political Parties, Observers, etc.
- c. Vendor will provide the SSL Certificate in the name of the Central Election Commission. More details will be available after contract assignment.
- d. The CEC Website will part of an integrated system, but the RFP is crafted in such a way that the CEC Website can be developed completely independent and standalone.
- e. No integration with other systems is done by the Vendor.

**Question 18:**

**Does the contracting authority need a hardware configuration to be included in the offer for the website hosting ?**

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**Answer 18:**

No hardware. The CEC Website will be installed on existing CEC Hardware.

**Question 19:**

**Does the contracting authority require a warranty for the provided solution ? If yes, for what period ?**

**Answer 19:**

The warranty on software development is not relevant, however the Vendor should fix software defects (bugs) at own costs within an acceptable time frame for a period of one (1) year.

**Question 20:**

**Does the contracting authority require users training [ administrator ] for the CEC website modules? If yes, please provide the following information: number of participants, location, who will support the costs ( travel costs, training location, course materials, etc).**

**Answer 20:**

No training is needed. However, the System will need to be handed over with full source code and well documented. The CEC Head of IT should at least have an in-depth knowledge of the system.