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PREPARING A PRE-COMMERCIAL PROCUREMENT FOR END-USER SERVICES BASED ON ENVIRONMENTAL OBSERVATION IN THE AREA OF CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION-PROTECT: THE ROLE OF EARTH OBSERVATION PROVIDERS

**Abstract**

Space-based Earth Observation providers have been acknowledged as key stakeholders in understanding and meeting the demands of public authorities, contracting authorities/entities in the field of climate change. Space-based Earth Observation services are essential inputs for actions related to climate research, monitoring, adaptation, mitigation, and risk reduction. Although the European Union (EU) is a major source of space-based Earth Observation data, due to a lack of awareness, expertise, or abilities, public authorities, contracting authorities/entities do not always make effective use of these data. This is especially important for Member States (MS) with low resources, as they have the highest need for local climate information. Because they lack access to accurate information about when droughts or floods are expected to occur, individuals are risking their lives and their means of subsistence in many parts of the world. The demand for improved forecasting has never been stronger. In this context, the EU-funded PROTECT project aims to support European public authorities, contracting authorities/entities in their climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts through the procurement of RD services for innovative climate services. PROTECT brings together a community of European public authorities – and specifically public buyers - to facilitate the definition and aggregation of their needs and requirements for Climate Services and prepare an upcoming Pre-Commercial Procurement (PCP). PROTECT will also support the upskilling of public authorities, contracting authorities/entities by providing them with free awareness-raising and capacity-building activities in the area of innovation procurement, climate change adaptation, Earth-Observation applications, and climate services taxonomy. This paper will first explain the PROTECT Coordination support Action (CSA) project, as the preparatory phase for an upcoming PCP. Section two will explain the PCP approach, the process and its characteristics. The role of Climate Services providers, in particular during the Open Market Consultation (and e-Pitching sessions) will be addressed. The third section will present a snapshot of current trends and Earth-Observation services to tackle climate challenges at the EU level. As a result of PROTECT, public authorities, contracting authorities/entities will have clearly defined their Climate Service needs based on Earth Observation and have a more accurate knowledge about the current and upcoming technologies that the market has to offer. On the other hand, Climate Service providers will be able to concretely understand the needs of the public authorities, contracting authorities/entities in order to be best positioned for the upcoming PCP

where 19M Euros will be available for financing RD activities.