



## **IRIS<sup>2</sup> Programme – RFP Announcement**

### **Power Conditioning and Distribution Unit (PCDU) and PayLoad Interface Unit (PLIU)**

#### **BACKGROUND**

The IRIS<sup>2</sup> (Infrastructure for Resilience, Interconnectivity, and Security by Satellite) programme is the European Union's third flagship initiative, aiming to deploy a sovereign, multi-orbit (Low Earth Orbit (LEO)/Medium Earth Orbit (MEO)) satellite constellation by 2030. This system will deliver secure governmental services, support critical communications, and strengthen Europe's strategic autonomy in space.

In this frame, the SpaceRISE consortium – consisting of Eutelsat S.A., Hispasat S.A., and SES Astra – signed two important agreements in December 2024: the Concession Agreement with the European Commission and the Partnership Project Contract (ESA PP Contract) with the European Space Agency (ESA).

The SpaceRISE consortium has been selected as the prime contractor to design, deliver, and operate the IRIS<sup>2</sup> infrastructure. In this capacity, SpaceRISE acts as the customer for industrial partners, in particular for the LEO-High satellite platform and industrialisation provider and the LEO-High payload provider.

Airbus Defence & Space S.A.S. (Airbus) is a candidate to become the LEO-High satellite platform and industrialisation provider.

As announced in the High-Level Procurement Plan published on esa-star news (reference IRIS2-PL-ADST-11000135902), Airbus is now launching this Request For Proposal (RFP) processes for listed equipment.

#### **ITEMS TO BE PROCURED**

In preparation of the IRIS<sup>2</sup> LEO-High Space Segment Equipment procurement, Airbus intends to issue an RFP for the derisking activities of the PCDU/PLIU for the LEO-High constellation (264 flight sets) in the frame of the ESA PP Contract.

For the purpose of this RFP, equipment derisking includes all the development activities up to TRL 6 and MRL 6 completion. Only responses for the derisking of complete PCDU/PLIU unit will be considered (i.e. not PCDU/PLIU sub-components).

#### **ELIGIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION CONDITIONS FOR IRIS<sup>2</sup>**

Economic operators interested to participate in this RFP shall comply with the Eligibility and Participation Conditions for IRIS<sup>2</sup> as set out in Article 22 of Regulation (EU) 2023/588<sup>1</sup> and

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) 2023/588 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2023 establishing the Union Secure Connectivity Programme for the period 2023-2027, OJ L 79, 17.3.2023, p. 1.

further detailed in Section 5.1 of Phase I Tender Specifications, available at the TED eTendering website: <https://etendering.ted.europa.eu/cft/cft-display.html?cftId=13625>

In accordance with the IRIS<sup>2</sup> requirements, the PCDU/PLIU Equipment pertains to Category B (i.e.: “Governmental space segment subcontractor with the exclusion of main providers of critical technologies defined in Category A”), as defined in Annex I.G (Eligibility and Participation Conditions - Ref. Ares(2023)2089357 - 22/03/2023) that can be downloaded in the eTendering website.

Economic operators which do not fulfil the Eligibility and Participation Conditions will not be considered for the subsequent stages of the PCDU/PLIU procurement process, unless a waiver is granted by the European Commission.

## TENDERING PROCEDURE

All interested economic operators registered within the Participating States to the Element 1 of the ESA Programme related to EU Secure Connectivity<sup>2</sup> and fulfilling the above-mentioned Eligibility and Participation Conditions are invited to express their interest in receiving the RFP documentation no later than **06/08/2025 at 18:00 CET** by contacting: [contact\\_supply\\_iris2@airbus.com](mailto:contact_supply_iris2@airbus.com).

Please note that access to the RFP documentation will be subject to the signature of the Airbus Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA). Airbus will provide the NDA to the economic operators who have expressed interest, which will be required to accept and sign it by **08/08/2025**. The NDA will be non-negotiable.

In the framework of this RFP process, interested economic operators will be invited to submit proposals, which will be evaluated in accordance with the evaluation criteria detailed in the RFP itself.

As a result of this procurement process, Airbus intends to award (a) contract(s).

*In accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation, please note that your data will be processed by Airbus for the sole purpose of enabling your participation and choice in the framework of this RFP and to enable Airbus to maintain the relationship arising from this RFP. Airbus may disclose your data to the SpaceRISE Consortium and to authorities on request.*

*To exercise your rights or request further information about how Airbus processes your data, please:*

- refer to the Airbus privacy notice: <https://space-solutions.airbus.com/legal/privacy-policy/>
- write to [oliver.boesl@airbus.com](mailto:oliver.boesl@airbus.com)

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<sup>2</sup> To date, all the following ESA Member States are participating in this Programme: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.