

Document date
14 December
2017

Our reference
2017/10653/BEIS

Our Executive Officer
Berit Isaksen, tel. +47 41652291

Your date

Your reference

File code
900

«MOTTAKERNAVN»
«KONTAKT»
«ADRESSE»
«POSTNR» «POSTSTED»
«UTLANDSADRESSE»

Request for Information (RFI) – Next Generation Nødnett

The contract for the current TETRA-based Nødnett will be in force until the end of 2026. Although the State has the option of extending the contract with Motorola beyond 2026, the Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection (DSB) has started the work on evaluating models for a future network for public protection and disaster relief. The reason for this is partly that the public safety agencies and other users of Nødnett already today have an increasing need to take new technological solutions into use, including advanced data services beyond what may be provided by the current Nødnett. The work is based on an addendum to DSB's letter of assignment for 2017, where the Ministry of Justice and Public Security requests that "*studies be carried out of whether or not it is possible to fulfil satisfactory robustness and security requirements in a future solution [for emergency and preparedness communication] based on public mobile networks, and how this may be achieved, [...] evaluations of whether or not the commercial providers will in actuality provide the necessary services, and at what price*".

A "Next Generation Nødnett" (NGN) is to be realised using one or several of the commercial mobile networks, cf. the Government's decision of 8 December 2017 that frequency resources in the 700 MHz band shall be made available to interested commercial providers of electronic communications in Norway¹. The following is quoted from the press release:

Future communications solutions for emergency services and preparedness agencies and the Armed Forces may be provided by the commercial mobile providers. These user groups are responsible for tasks that are very important for the society. Thus, measures will be implemented to facilitate safeguarding of the needs of these users who are so important to society through a combination of requirements imposed by the authorities and commercial procurements.

Reference is also made to the memorandum on Next Generation Nødnett in commercial networks prepared jointly by the Norwegian Communications Authority (Nkom) and DSB and published in October of this year².

The current Nødnett was acquired for the main purpose of obtaining a communications solution that was as robust and self-contained as possible, and that would function in spite of faults and overloading in the regular mobile networks. The key requirement from the emergency services relating to Nødnett was the need for secure and efficient group communication.

It is now necessary to find good solutions for future emergency communication that does not require that the State has a separate, dedicated network at its disposal. The people charged with the task of protecting society shall both in their daily work and during crisis situations rely on the same mobile networks that they previously wanted to operate independently of.

¹ <https://www.regjeringen.no/no/aktuelt/mer-bandbredde-for-bedre-mobile-tjenester/id2581485/> (in Norwegian)

² Next Generation Nødnett in commercial networks – approach for further work, dated 23 October 2017, <http://nodnett.no/en/About-The-Directorate/News-Archive/Joint-memorandum-on-the-next-generation-nodnett/>

Postal address

Oslo Office
Pb 2014
3103 Tønsberg

Office address

Nydalen allé 37a
0484 Oslo

E-mail

postmottak@dsb.no

Telephone

23 00 57 00

Internet

Fax

33 31 06 60

Org. No.

Address main office

The future solution must, in the same manner as Nødnett, fulfil defined functionality requirements and be at least as robust as Nødnett. Increasingly stringent security requirements must also be met. Just functionality and coverage are not enough.

In the work on evaluating appropriate models for NGN using the commercial mobile networks, it is essential to make use of all insight and competence that may help ensure selection of the best possible solution for Norway. DSB has therefore collaborated with Nkom, the Norwegian National Security Authority (NSM) and the Norwegian Defence Materiel Agency on this request for information.

DSB assumes that the mobile operators are the most knowledgeable parties in terms of answering questions such as:

- What solution will ensure users an even better NGN than the current Nødnett?
- To what extent will measures implemented to realise NGN benefit all users of mobile networks in the country?

The enclosed RFI has a list of questions that we would like answers to. Key issues include:

1. What are the most important elements that must be safeguarded in order for the country to trust that an NGN in commercial mobile networks may replace the current Nødnett?
2. What tasks must/should the State handle itself and what responsibilities must/should be assigned to the operator(s)?
3. It may appear attractive to base NGN on several mobile networks. It is claimed that this will ensure greater robustness. Is this realistic and feasible?
4. How can security be safeguarded in a network shared with commercial users?
5. What is the best business model in the opinion of the operator? It is assumed that the operator will subsequently support the business model proposed.
6. Across what range of the crisis spectrum (peace - crisis - war) may a commercially based NGN solution be used? What expectations are realistic? Reference is made in this context to NATO's "Seven baseline requirements", where the need for secure and robust civil communication systems is emphasised.³

For further details on how to respond, specific questions, etc., see the enclosed documents.

This request for information is sent to the three operators with separate nationwide mobile networks in Norway, i.e. Telenor, Telia and ICE. DSB will be very grateful for responses from the operators. The information received will constitute an important part of the decision-basis to be established.

The RFI documents will also be published on www.nodnett.no

Sincerely,

Cecilie Daae
Director DSB

Tor Helge Lyngstøl
Special advisor

The document has been approved electronically.

³ https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_132722.htm?selectedLocale=en

NBK staff

Document date
14 Dec 2017

Our reference
2017/10653/BEIS

Enclosures:

- 1) Request for information (RFI) - Administrative provisions
- 2) Enclosure 1 to RFI - List of questions
- 3) Enclosure 2 to RFI - Supplementary information