

Date: 24/2/2025

## Public Tender for the appointment of an Ethics External Expert

### WELD-E description

WELD-E (<https://weld-e.com/>) objectives introduce a voice and vision-based AI system integrated into an XR environment to facilitate remote support from the experts to robowelders and remotely monitor the welding process via: 1) Speech recognition and automated translation models (multilingual user support, seamless communications and translation), 2) natural language models and conversation agents (more natural human-machine interfacing, facilitated communications), 3) a collaborative, Mixed-Reality (XR) environment (3D visualization, advanced interaction, welding operations, information modelling etc.). The solution will be tested, validated, benchmarked and demonstrated in realistic welding environments, in various scenarios, including (5-10) welding experts/users.

### Description of responsibilities for Ethics External Expert for WELD-E:

The WELD-E Consortium seeks to appoint an external Ethics Expert to provide strategic guidance on data governance, ethical compliance, and AI accountability within the WELD-E project. The appointed expert will ensure adherence to ethical standards in the project deployment, particularly in the context of data processing, data minimization, and safeguarding against the misuse of AI-driven technologies.

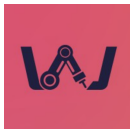
The Ethics External Expert will:

- **Ensure compliance with data privacy and ethical AI principles** by reviewing and advising on data collection, processing, and storage mechanisms in line with relevant regulations (e.g., GDPR, AI Act).
- **Assess and mitigate ethical risks**, ensuring that variables used in data processing are adequate, relevant, and strictly necessary for project objectives.
- **Provide expert input on potential AI misuse risks** (e.g., profiling, biased decision-making) and support stakeholders in implementing preventive measures.
- **Conduct ethics oversight on project procedures** to prevent ethical concerns and recommend mitigation strategies.

### Deliverables:

- **M1 after the signature of the contract (April 2025):** Ethics Expert approval of the WELD-E work plan.
- **M2 after the signature of the contract (May 2025):** Ethics Expert approval for conducted tests, ensuring compliance with ethical standards.

The signature of the contract is expected to be concluded on the **1<sup>st</sup> of April 2025**.



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### Eligible tenderers, joint tenders and subcontracting

Participation in the tendering procedure is open on equal terms to all types of operators, regardless of their size or governance structure. Tenders may be submitted by a single entity or in collaboration with others. The latter can involve submitting a joint tender. Concretely:

- Natural persons residing in one of the following countries:
  - EU and EEA (European Economic Area) member states.
- Legal entities established under the law of the following countries and having their central administration or principal place of business or registered office (seat) in one of the following countries:
  - EU and EEA (European Economic Area) member states.

**Subcontracting is not allowed.**

### Exclusion criteria

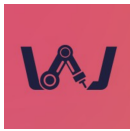
**A) Conflict of Interest.** Tenderers that are subject to a conflict of interest may be excluded. If there is a potential conflict of interest, tenderers must immediately notify the Procuring Entity in writing. A conflict of interest covers both personal and professional conflicts.

**B) Bankruptcy & professional misconduct.** A tenderer or contractor can be excluded from further participation in the tender if the former:

- Is bankrupt or is being wound up, is under compulsory administration or is the subject of a composition or has indefinitely stopped its payments or is subject to a prohibition on conducting business.
- Is the subject of proceedings for a declaration of bankruptcy, for an order for compulsory winding up or administration by the court or composition or any other similar proceedings.
- Has been convicted by a judgment which can apply as *res judicata* for an offence relating to professional practice. Has been guilty of grave professional misconduct and the procuring agencies can prove this.
- Has not fulfilled its obligations relating to social insurance charges or taxation in its own country.
- Shown significant or persistent deficiencies in the performance of a substantive requirement under a prior public contract, a prior contract with a contracting entity or a prior concession contract which led to early termination of that prior contract, condemned for damages or other comparable sanctions.

**C) Criminal offences.** If the Procuring Entity becomes aware that a tenderer, or a representative of the tenderer, under a judgment that has entered into final legal force has been sentenced for a criminal offence listed below, such tenderer can be excluded from the tender. Tenderers must confirm by signing a Declaration of honour that they are not subject to any of the criminal offences indicated below:

- Participation in a criminal organization; this includes the following conduct: Conduct by any person who, with intent and with knowledge of either the aim and general criminal activity of the organization or the intention of the organization to commit the offences in question, actively takes part in:
- Activities of a criminal organization, which shall be taken to mean a structured association, established over a period of time, of more than two persons, acting in cooperation with a view to

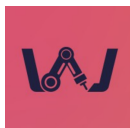


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committing offences which are punishable by deprivation of liberty or a detention order of a maximum of at least four years or by a more serious penalty, whether such offences are an end in themselves or a means of obtaining material benefits and, where appropriate, of improperly influencing the operation of public authorities, even where that person does not take part in the actual execution of the offences concerned and, subject to the general principles of the criminal law of the Member State concerned, even where the offences concerned are not actually committed;

- The organization's other activities in the further knowledge that its participation will contribute to the achievement of the above-mentioned criminal activities;
- Conduct by any person consisting in an agreement with one or more persons that an activity should be pursued which, if carried out, would amount to the commission of an offence as mentioned above, even if that person does not take part in the actual execution of the activity;
- Corruption; corruption shall be considered as deliberately promising or giving, directly or through an intermediary, an advantage of any kind whatsoever to a public official, for himself or for a third party to act or refrain from acting in accordance with his duty or in the exercise of his functions in breach of his official duties; or in the private sector, directly or through an intermediary, deliberately promising, offering or giving an undue advantage of any kind whatsoever, for himself or for a third party to act or refrain from acting in accordance with his duty or in the exercise of his functions in breach of his official duties;
- Fraud; fraud meaning both expenditure fraud and revenue fraud. This means any act or deliberate omission involving the use or presentation of false, incorrect or incomplete statements or documents which has as its effect the misappropriation or wrongful retention of funds from, or the illegal diminution of the resources of the general budget of the European Communities or budgets managed by, or on behalf of, the European Communities, non-disclosure of information in violation of a specific obligation, with the same effect, the misapplication if such funds for the purpose other than those for which they were originally granted or the misapplication of a legally obtained benefit with the same effect;
- Money laundering or terroristic financing, which shall be taken to mean:
  - The conversion or transfer of property, knowing that such property is derived from criminal activity or from an act of participation in such activity, for the purpose of concealing or disguising the illicit origin of the property or of assisting any person who is involved in the commission of such activity to evade the legal consequences of his actions;
  - The concealment or disguise of the true nature, source, location, disposition, movement, rights with respect to, or ownership of property, knowing that such property is derived from criminal activity or from an act of participation in such activity;
  - The acquisition, possession or use of property, knowing, at the time of receipt, that such property was derived from criminal activity or from an act of participation in such activity;
  - Participation in, association to commit, including attempts to commit, aiding, abetting, facilitating and counselling the commission of any of the actions mentioned in the foregoing three paragraphs;
  - Terrorist offences or offences linked to terrorist activities
  - Child labour and other forms of trafficking in human beings as defined in Article 2 of Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2011 on



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preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2002/629/JHA.

**Tenderers must confirm by signing a Declaration of honour that they are not subject to any of the exclusion criteria indicated above.**

### Selection criteria

The purpose of the Selection Criteria is to determine whether a Tenderer has the financial, economic, technical and professional capacity necessary to carry out and perform the work.

Selection Criteria	Evidence
Demonstration of expertise and working experience required to undertake the activities described.	Description of the expertise and working experience required to undertake
University Degree in law	Submitting the copy of the university degree in law

### Award Criteria

- A1. At least 2 years expertise in data privacy and data protection laws and regulations, including those related to data processing, data minimization, and the ethical implications of AI. (35%)
- A2. Demonstrated experience in ethical activities in at least 1 EU funded project. (65%)

The proposal will be evaluated based on the best quality – price ratio using the below :

$$Li = 70 * ( Ti / T_{max} ) + 30 * ( F_{min} / F_i )$$

### Where

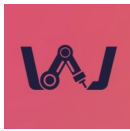
- $T_{max}$  Technical Score of the Best Technical Tender
- $T_i$  Technical Score of the Tender  $i$
- $F_{min}$  Lower Price of all Tenders
- $F_i$  Price of the Tender  $i$
- $L_i$  Total Score of the Offer  $i$  rounded to two decimals places.

Budget: 5.000 euros

### Tender Procedure

Interested bidders must submit:

- **A financial quotation** detailing the cost breakdown per deliverable.
- **A CV** highlighting relevant experience and expertise.
- A copy of the **university degree in law**.
- The **declaration of honour** that none of the exclusion criteria apply



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Submission of proposals

Please submit your proposal by the 24/03/2025 11.00 CET to this email address:

[sd-pmo@iknowhow.com](mailto:sd-pmo@iknowhow.com).

Further contact details:



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