



ANNOUNCEMENT

OPEN TENDER WITH THE REFERENCE NUMBER “CBA-2025-062” FOR ACQUISITION OF THE MESSAGING SERVICE FOR THE NEEDS OF THE CENTRAL BANK OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

ABOUT THE CLARIFICATION OF THE INVITATION Nr. 2

This text of the announcement is published in accordance with Article 29 of the RA Law "On Procurements".

The Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia (the CBA) presents below the questions and clarifications dated 29.12.2025 regarding the invitation to the procurement procedure with the code "CBA-2025-062" organized for the purpose of acquiring “THE MESSAGING SERVICE” for the needs of the Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia.

1. QUESTION FOR CLARIFICATION

Request to provide a list of vendors that will require integration (e.g., Payment initiation, Trade platforms, ERPs, Compliance, Fraud, Core Banking, etc.).

CLARIFICATION

As stated in the RFP, the CBA is undergoing a multi-year financial infrastructure transformation, with the new Messaging Service playing a cornerstone role. The expectation is that this technological platform will be leveraged to upgrade existing services and integrate future ones. Examples include Core Banking, RTGS, MPI, Securities Settlement Systems and future platforms such as next-generation RTGS or asset tokenization solutions. Providing a complete list of systems to be integrated is not feasible at this stage. Instead, the solution provider must demonstrate the capability to deliver out-of-the-box or toolkit-based connectors for integration. The connectors should be:

- Customizable;
- Designed for upgrade-safe deployment;



- Capable of handling minimal operational disruption.

2. QUESTION FOR CLARIFICATION

Is the understanding right, that the Financial Messaging Project and the RTGS Payment Solution are intended to be implemented in a phased approach. Is it possible to propose bundling these two initiatives under a single contractual framework to enable more favorable terms and an amortized billing structure. Confirmation is requested whether the Central Bank of Armenia is open to considering these projects as a bundled engagement.

CLARIFICATION

The Central Bank of Armenia confirms that the Financial Messaging Service and the RTGS Payment Solution are subject to separate procurement procedures, each governed by its own Request for Proposal, contractual framework, and evaluation process.

The Financial Messaging Service tender has been announced, while the RTGS Payment Solution tender is planned to be announced separately. Each tender will be evaluated independently, and proposals will be assessed solely against the requirements, evaluation criteria, and commercial terms defined in the respective RFPs.

Accordingly, bundling the Financial Messaging Service and the RTGS Payment Solution under a single contractual framework is not envisaged, and proposals combining both procurements into one contract or a single pricing structure will not be considered.

At the same time, bidders responding to the Financial Messaging Service tender may describe technical and implementation synergies in accordance with the Synergies scenario outlined in Chapter 9 of the Terms of Reference, provided that such synergies do not alter the contractual, commercial, or evaluation separation between the two tenders.

In this context, proposals for the Financial Messaging Service that demonstrate pre-integration, proven interoperability, or established interfaces with recognized RTGS solutions may be considered favorably during the technical evaluation, to the extent that they reduce implementation risk, enhance interoperability, or support smoother integration. Such considerations will be assessed solely within the scope of the Financial Messaging Service tender and will not imply any commitment or preference with respect to the forthcoming RTGS procurement.



3. QUESTION FOR CLARIFICATION

Request to provide expected transaction volumes for Day-1 and projected growth for 3–5 years:

- Daily average and peak transactions;
- TPS (transactions per second) during peak hours;
- Breakdown by network (SWIFT, CBANet, PSPs, CNAPS, SFMS, SPFS);
- Breakdown by rail.

CLARIFICATION

As stated in the chapter 6.1 of the RFP, it is expected from the system to process at least 60 000 msg / hour. An annual 50% growth can be assumed. The peak flow being 10 000 msg / min. It is further assumed that the system will be used for the local market and the CBANet will be main connectivity network.

4. QUESTION FOR CLARIFICATION

Request to provide details on CBANet connectivity, including protocols, security requirements, and throughput limits.

CLARIFICATION

The CBA operates a global communication network CBANet designed for financial institutions functioning within Armenia. Financial information traffic is transmitted between subscriber endpoint devices and the central node devices. All equipment, including subscriber endpoint devices and central nodes, is managed by the CBA.

Subscriber endpoint devices are installed at the premises of the respective institutions and are connected to their local area networks. The central nodes are located at CBA sites and aggregate information flows from all subscribers.

The subscriber endpoint devices are connected to the central nodes via fiber-optic lines using Ethernet technology. As a result, the entire network functions as a large Layer 3 (L3) infrastructure.



The Messaging Hub component under Lot 1 serves as a replacement for the current system (Application Layer). It will receive messages from the participants (using for instance SOAP protocol) and deliver those messages to respective receiving parties. In this context, the Central Bank also acts as a participant, sending and receiving messages through the Messaging Hub, which operates over CBANet.

5. QUESTION FOR CLARIFICATION

Request to clarify whether APIs are required for PSPs or fintechs, and if so, which protocols (REST, MQ, SFTP) are applicable.

CLARIFICATION

For the Messaging Hub, vendors are expected to propose a solution and describe how their approach addresses the stated business requirements. A wide range of protocols and technologies is acceptable; for example, SOAP may be used for message exchange, REST APIs for web-based connectivity, and message queues (MQ) where appropriate. As part of the evaluation process, the overall solution will be assessed and compared across vendors, including an evaluation of the proposed technological approaches.

6. QUESTION FOR CLARIFICATION

Request to confirm the overall project timeline, including key milestones and target go-live date.

CLARIFICATION

There is no fixed timeline for the initiative. The timeline proposed by the vendor will be assessed for its realism and feasibility. Nevertheless, Q1 2027 is considered the deadline for system implementation.

7. QUESTION FOR CLARIFICATION

Request for confirmation of which external networks must be supported on Day-1 (e.g., SWIFT, CNAPS, SFMS, SPFS, others).



CLARIFICATION

For implementation stage the SWIFT network is considered the first option.

8. QUESTION FOR CLARIFICATION

Request for clarification on whether CNAPS, SFMS, and SPFS represent actual integration targets or future-proofing requirements.

CLARIFICATION

These can be considered as future-proofing requirements.

9. QUESTION FOR CLARIFICATION

Request for confirmation on whether any regional payment systems (e.g., EEU, CIS) or SEPA/TARGET2 equivalents are in scope.

CLARIFICATION

No. It is not in scope of the initiative.

10. QUESTION FOR CLARIFICATION

Request for confirmation on whether cross-border interoperability requires SWIFT Tracker or other tracking services.

CLARIFICATION

Support of Swift Tracker functionality is required.

11. QUESTION FOR CLARIFICATION

Request for confirmation on whether the Central Bank would consider using a SWIFT Service Bureau (SaaS) for connectivity, or whether full on-premises hosting and management of all network connections are mandatory.



CLARIFICATION

The Central Bank manages its own on-premises SWIFT Alliance Entry instance. SWIFT Alliance connectivity serves as a contingency for the HUB and CBANet components.

12. QUESTION FOR CLARIFICATION

Request to define and describe in detail the processing steps to be performed by the Orchestration Component.

CLARIFICATION

The main goal is to get an engine that supports rules, conditional jumps, parallel execution, formatting and integration.

13. QUESTION FOR CLARIFICATION

Request to clarify who the 'users' accessing the Gateway Component will be. Will the 'users' be CBA only, or will participants also be accessing the Gateway and Orchestration Components?

CLARIFICATION

The CBA users will have access to the Gateway and Orchestration Components.

14. QUESTION FOR CLARIFICATION

During orchestration/pre-processing, are there requirements to perform the following steps: Debit party/account derivation/authentication, Credit party/account derivation/authentication, balance verification, fraud & compliance screening FX conversion, settlement & posting entries/activities? If not, are these managed as part of the RTGS solution to which an RFP will be issued at a later date?

CLARIFICATION

Orchestration / Pre-processing Layer usually focuses on routing and workflow (deciding which payment rail to use), basic validation (format checks, mandatory fields), enrichment (adding missing data like BIC codes or reference numbers).

It generally does not handle debit/credit account authentication, balance verification, FX



conversion, settlement and posting. These are considered in the RTGS solution.

However, it should have an opportunity to call external APIs. for example, can communicate with Fraud and compliance screening system.

15. QUESTION FOR CLARIFICATION

Request for confirmation of which ISO 20022 message families are mandatory (e.g., pacs, pain, camt).

CLARIFICATION

The mandatory ISO 20022 message families are pacs, pain, camt, and admi.

16. QUESTION FOR CLARIFICATION

Request for clarification as to whether the solution is expected to support multiple ISO variants in parallel or enforce a single canonical format.

CLARIFICATION

System should have a proper version management; In case of connectivity to alternate market infrastructures there could be a need for different renditions of the same ISO message type.

17. QUESTION FOR CLARIFICATION

Request for clarification on how frequently standards updates are expected and who governs version control.

CLARIFICATION

We expect the vendor to take full responsibility for the product's evolution and standards compliance. Preference will be given to vendors who already have a similar product in production and actively manage updates, including monitoring and implementing changes to ISO standards.

Regarding version control, the solution must provide the capability to:

- Import new XSD schemas for each message type as standards evolve.



- Define and update business validation rules, for example through a rule's engine or Schematron. Updates will occur at least once a year, but can be more frequent if the market dictates.

18. QUESTION FOR CLARIFICATION

Request to provide details on variant-specific requirements for CNAPS, SFMS, and SPFS (field usage, validation rules).

CLARIFICATION

Since these future-proofing requirements, no specific requirement can be provided.

19. QUESTION FOR CLARIFICATION

Request to describe definition of orchestration and pre-processing. What are the key steps in the pre-processing workflow that must be met prior to the messages being sent.

CLARIFICATION

Orchestration should have visual Flow Builder with these key elements:

- All messages from different channels should have same start point.
- Logical phases should be executed in sequential order.
- Each flow can run in sequence or/and in parallel.
- In the flow we need to evaluate specific conditions and route the message.

20. QUESTION FOR CLARIFICATION

Is the expectation that the Gateway connect with CBA systems? If yes, what role will the integrations play with the Gateway. E.g., What processing is required between the Gateway and Core Banking?

CLARIFICATION

Yes, the expectation is that the Gateway will connect with the Core Banking and other CBA systems. The integration should enable seamless exchange of data and messages. Gateway should have an integration layer with connectors or adaptors.



21. QUESTION FOR CLARIFICATION

Is it permissible for a bidder to submit a proposal as the prime bidder while intending to engage a telecommunications provider as a subcontractor? Confirmation is required whether this approach complies with the tender requirements.

CLARIFICATION

At the tendering stage, proposals must be submitted **either** by a **single bidder** or by a **joint venture (consortium)**, in full compliance with the requirements set out in the Invitation and Article 30 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On Procurements”.

The use of **subcontractors is not assessed or formalized at the tendering stage** and therefore falls outside **the scope of the procurement phase**. For the purposes of proposal submission and evaluation, the Bidder must independently demonstrate compliance with **all eligibility, qualification, experience, and capacity requirements** defined in the RFP and the Terms of Reference.

Accordingly:

- If a proposal is submitted by **a sole bidder**, the proposal will be evaluated **exclusively** against on the bidder’s own qualifications, experience, and capacities, as documented in the submission.
- Any intention to engage subcontractors may be addressed **only after contract award**, subject to the conditions of the contract and the Central Bank of Armenia’s prior approval, in accordance with the applicable contractual provisions.

If a bidder intends to rely on another entity’s qualifications, experience, or capacity **at the tendering stage**, this would require participation in the form of a **joint venture (consortium)**, including a joint venture agreement and joint and several liability, as specified in the Invitation.

The Secretary of the Tender Committee of the Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia:

Siran Yeganyan

Purchaser: The Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia