

Commercial in Confidence



National Academic Mailing List Service

Clarification Note 1

This document and the information it contains are provided solely for the purpose of allowing potential suppliers to provide a response to Operational Requirement for the services being procured. It is issued under the Open Procedure of the EC Procurement Services Directive.

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We have issued an Operational Requirement for a National Academic Mailing List Service and potential suppliers have requested clarification via the following questions:

1. What software/documentation/configuration files will be available from the existing service provider?

Answer: The existing service supplier will provide the successful bidder at transition time with all data content to operate the service, such as:
List configuration; List Owner details; List Membership details;
List and Membership password information; Data Archives
List-related documents and images; Survey data.

2. What is the current specification of the hardware and O/S used to run this service?

Answer: Information not available from existing service supplier.

3. What is the existing disk utilisation of the service?

Answer: Information not available from existing service supplier. However the JISCmail website does contain information that should enable bidders to gauge disk utilisation. An example is available at:
http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/files/newsletter/issue3_04/index_files/Page390.htm

4. What was the cost of providing the JISCmail service in 2003/04?

Answer: Commercially confidential.

5. For how long will archived material need to be kept?

Answer: 5 years.

6. Does UKERNA have any guidance as to the message header information that needs to be stored as part of existing RIP legislation?

Answer: UKERNA's general advice on what data to keep is available at:
http://www.ja.net/documents/gn_logfiles.pdf
and any service we provide should be consistent with that. The service shall provide a list archiving facility and shall keep logfiles for a specified number of months, which should satisfy all the legal requirements.

7. Does UKERNA/JISC own IPR on the domain name, branding, system design, and/or other collateral, and would these be available to the new supplier?

Answer: JISC owns the domain name and thus the 'branding'. The current supplier owns the IPR on system design etc.

8. Section 2.1 of the OR states there are currently 5300 separate lists. What is the average number of subscribers per list, or does this vary? What would be the total number of subscribers as a whole?

Answer: The number of subscribers per list varies. The service web page, as in Answer to Q3, indicates the total number of unique subscribers as of September 2004 was 380,580, a number of whom will subscribe to more than one list.