NOTIFICATION OF OPEN BUSINESS COMPETITION

1. The Competition Promoter:

	eustream, a.s.
Registered Office:	Votrubova 11/A, 821 09 Bratislava a joint-stock company incorporated in the Commercial Register of the City Court Bratislava III., section: Sa, entry no.: 3480/B
Company ID:	35 910 712

(hereinafter referred to as "**Promoter**")

2. Promoter's Contact Persons:

Contact person 1:	Martin Mikula, procurement expert
Phone 1:	Tel.: +421 (0)2 6250 7161; Mobile: +421905962107
E-mail 1:	martin.mikula@eustream.sk
Contact person 2:	Ján Repa, strategický nákupca
Phone 2:	+421 (0)2 6250 7167
E-mail 2:	jan.repa@eustream.sk

3. Subject-Matter of the Open Business Competition:

Name of the Open Business Competition (hereinafter referred to as "**Competition**"): Laboratory tests of DN 1200 gas pipeline material specimens in Hydrogen for the project Slovak Hydrogen Backbone – Study Phase

Competition ref. no.: 26-0101-OVS

The subject-matter of this Competition comprises of material tests of steel specimens from a gas-pipeline in high-pressure hydrogen environment for the purposes of repurposing the existing natural gas transmission infrastructure to hydrogen (H_2), as an input for a Fitness-For-Service (FFS) analysis to be elaborated within the Repurposing plan.

The subject-matter of this Competition includes the following activities that will be performed on steel specimens taken from the existing DN 1200 gas-pipeline of Line I:

1) Fracture toughness testing in accordance with ASTM E1820 in high-pressure hydrogen, using specimens taken from the 5 worst-performing segments selected upon standard tests that comprise metallographic analysis (including hardness mapping according to EN ISO 15156 and determining chemical composition) and mechanical property testing (tensile testing and Charpy impact tests) and were performed under a separate contract (hereinafter referred to as "**Standard tests**"). Prior to the fracture toughness testing, the specimens from selected segments will be exposed to high-pressure hydrogen. Comparative tests on unexposed specimens will also be performed;
2) Measurement of the fatigue crack growth rate (da/dN) in accordance with ASTM E647 in high-pressure hydrogen, using specimens taken from the 5 worst-performing segments selected upon the Standard tests. Prior to the fatigue crack growth rate measurements, the specimens from selected segments will be exposed to high-pressure hydrogen. Comparative tests on unexposed specimens will also be performed;
3) Determination of the stress intensity factor threshold for hydrogen-induced cracking in accordance with ASTM E1681 – The objective of testing as per the ASTM E1681 standard is to determine the threshold stress intensity factor for the initiation of environment-assisted cracks in high-pressure gaseous hydrogen under specified test conditions. Testing will be conducted using the bracketing method in batch-type autoclaves exposed to high-pressure hydrogen; specimens will be subjected to varying stress intensity levels in accordance with procedures recommended by ASME B31.12, ASME BPVC, and ASTM E1681. Tests will be performed on specimens taken from the three (3) "worst-case" segments identified upon results of the fracture toughness testing as per item 1) and fatigue crack growth rate measurements as per item 2) hereof.

The resulting threshold parameter, along with data on fracture toughness and fatigue crack growth rates, will be used to assess the resistance of the pipeline material to environment-assisted cracking in a hydrogen environment, and to support the evaluation of suitability thereof for repurposing from natural gas to hydrogen transmission.

4) Chain-of-custody and traceability: The Contractor shall maintain chain-of-custody records for all pipeline segments handed over by the Promoter, as well as for any samples manufactured therefrom; the Contractor shall archive these records along with the unused pipeline segments and samples (including all samples used during the performance of tests).
5) Assessment and comprehensive final report on the performed tests that have to be elaborated using the SI system of units and must include:
   - The results of all tests that shall be evaluated and documented separately for each individual specimen in accordance with requirements of EN ISO 17025;
   - A comparison of the measured results against the limits and requirements of the ASME B31.12, ASME B31.8 and EN 1594 standards;
   - Results and evaluation of the Standard tests that will be provided by the Promoter;
6) Manufacturing and preparation of test specimens, preparation for testing, consumables, testing gases, documentation and all other activities necessary for conducting the tests are included in the scope of work and the price.
7) Contractor's cooperation in developing the Repurposing plan, to the extent actually required (estimated at 35 hours), in clarifying technical questions regarding the test results being the Subject-Matter of this Competition.

The detailed specification of the Subject-Matter of the Competition is provided for in the Tender Specifications.

4. Type Of Contract To Be Signed And Other Commercial Terms:

A contract for provision of services (hereinafter referred to as "**Contract**")

The commercial and contractual terms and conditions related to the Subject-Matter of the Competition, including the specification thereof, are specified in the Tender Specifications.

5. Method Of Requesting For Tender Specifications:

This Competition is being carried out in an electronic way through the e-auction portal PROebiz.

The Tender Specifications, including all information related to this Competition, shall be provided for upon relevant request of an applicant, delivered to the e-mail addresses of the Promoter's contact persons listed in paragraph 2 hereof.

In the request for provision of the Tender Specifications, this competition has to be clearly and unambiguously identified upon specifying its name and reference number as per paragraph 3 hereof, and also the economic operator requesting for provision of the Tender Specifications has to be identified therein along with its identification data used in business dealings (min. to the extent: business name, address of registered office or place of business, name and position of a contact person, his/her phone number and e-mail address).

Upon an applicant's request, the Promoter shall provide the applicant with access to the Tender Specifications no later than on the second business day after such request delivery, and this in form of an electronic invitation for participation sent from PROebiz system. The access to the Tender Specification is free of any charge.

The Tender Specifications shall be provided for till the expiration of the Period For Submission Of Bids specified in paragraph 8 hereof.

6. Method Of Bid Submission:

Bids may be submitted only electronically through the e-auction portal PROebiz. Details on bid submission are specified in the Tender Specifications.

Only the applicants who will request for the Tender Specifications are allowed to submit their bids into this Competition.

7. Conditions Of Participation In The Competition:

The conditions of participation in the Competition are specified in the Tender Specifications. Bidders are obliged to submit all documents required in the Tender Specifications for demonstrating the compliance with the participation conditions.

The Promoter reserves right to disqualify a bidder from the Competition who has committed a breach of its contractual obligation under a preceding contract signed with the Promoter.

8. Period For Submission Of Bids:

Bids must be submitted into the Competition no later than by expiry of the period for bid submission which shall expiry on: **December 03, 2026 at 14:00 hour CET**.

9. Period For Announcing The Accepted Bid:

The Promoter will announce the accepted bid no later than on March 31, 2027.
The Promoter reserves right to prolong the aforementioned period for announcing the accepted bid.

10. Bid Bond:

The Promoter requires no bid bond.

11. Method Of Bid Selection:

The Promoter will sign the Contract with the bidder who will meet all Promoter's requirements specified in the Tender Specifications and whose bid will be assessed as the most advantageous upon the prescribed criteria.

The Promoter reserves right to negotiate with bidders on their bids within several subsequent phases with an option to invite bidders for submitting their updated bids after each phase of negotiation. The Promoter also reserves right to invite the bidders for updating their bids by means of an electronic auction.

The Promoter reserves right to limit the number of bidders after the bids have been submitted, and invite so selected bidders to individual negotiations on terms of the contract or to participating in the electronic auction.

In accordance with Article 283 of the Commercial Code, the Promoter reserves right to change the published terms and conditions of this Competition, or to cancel this Competition, even without giving any reason.

The Promoter reserves right to reject all submitted bids.

Further terms and conditions of this Competition, including criteria and method of the most advantageous bid selection, are provided for in detail in the Tender Specifications.

12. Reimbursement Of Costs Related To Bid Preparation:

The Promoter does not reimburse any costs to bidders, related to their participation in this Competition. Bidders bear in full their costs related to their participation in this Competition.