

Request for proposals ARIEL-IA

Hosting 7 NVLink Vera Rubin et 2 servers DELL high performance

ARIEL-IA
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Request for proposals for server colocation in Switzerland

Equipment supplied by ARIEL-IA

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Proposal submission deadline: 20 December 2026
Question response period: 2–30 November 2026 inclusive
Target commissioning date: to be agreed with ARIEL-IA

ARIEL-IA seeks a provider in Switzerland to accommodate, install and connect seven NVIDIA Vera Rubin NVL72 racks and two Dell PowerEdge R7725 servers supplied by the association. This infrastructure will support two technologies developed by ARIEL-IA, covering request processing, application management and data hosting.

We require an itemised proposal covering colocation, electricity, cooling, network connections, access protection, installation and maintenance services. Pricing must allow comparison of one-off, monthly and annual costs, together with service commitments.

Equipment and functions

Equipment supplied by ARIEL-IA	Quantity	Function
Complete NVIDIA Vera Rubin NVL72 racks	7	Processing requests for the two technologies.
Dell PowerEdge R7725 servers	2	Databases and application management following processing by the NVL72 systems.

The seven complete racks comprise 504 Rubin GPUs and 252 Vera CPUs [1]. The two Dell servers are additional to the CPUs integrated into the racks. ARIEL-IA supplies all nine systems under its own purchase or lease arrangements. Their procurement, financing and equipment rental payments are outside the scope of this RFP.

Scope and responsibilities

ARIEL-IA and its integrator define hardware configurations, operating systems, software, replication and recovery mechanisms. ARIEL-IA will provide exact product references, warranties, and electrical and thermal specifications before the final quotation is agreed.

The provider supplies data centre space and services. It must identify the required supporting infrastructure: power distribution, liquid connections, coolant distribution units (CDUs), networking, firewalls and cabling. For each item, state whether it is included, supplied by the provider or to be supplied by ARIEL-IA, with the associated costs and responsibilities.

Any additional storage, backup, licence or service must be priced separately. This RFP concerns colocation of equipment supplied by ARIEL-IA and does not constitute a commitment to place an order.

Information to be agreed

Data volumes, sensitivity, storage performance and recovery objectives will be clarified with ARIEL-IA. Any proposal prepared before these details are agreed must identify its assumptions, outstanding information and potential additional charges.

1 Equipment accommodation and installation

Site capacity

The bidder must provide the Swiss site address, available capacity and earliest commissioning date. It must demonstrate that the building, power supply and cooling can support all seven racks at their simultaneous maximum power, together with the two Dell servers and supporting equipment.

- Rack locations, dimensions, permitted weight, floor loading, maintenance access and physical separation of equipment supplied by ARIEL-IA.
- Delivery route, loading bay, handling, rack access and temporary storage. Specify responsibilities and insurance during receipt, movement and installation.
- A and B power feeds, voltage, phases, connectors, protection, reserved capacity, operation under failure conditions, UPS systems, generators and backup autonomy.
- Liquid cooling compatible with the supplied equipment: temperature, flow, pressure, fluid quality, CDUs, heat exchangers, redundancy and leak detection; supplementary cooling for Dell servers and other components.

Reference configuration for the two Dell servers

ARIEL-IA will supply two PowerEdge R7725 servers, a 2U platform with two AMD EPYC 9005 processors [3]. The following configuration is the baseline envisaged by ARIEL-IA and will be finalised with its integrator to meet database and application management requirements. The provider must not quote for purchasing these servers.

Component	Baseline per server
Processors	Two AMD EPYC 9005 processors with 32–64 cores each; exact models selected by ARIEL-IA and its integrator.
Memory	1 TB DDR5 ECC; expansion to 2 TB subject to requirements.
Local storage	Two mirrored boot SSDs; four 3.84 TB enterprise NVMe SSDs in mirrored pairs, approximately 7.68 TB usable before formatting.
Network and management	Two 25 GbE ports; a 100 GbE variant subject to validation. iDRAC management on an isolated network.
Power supply	Redundant power supplies connected to A and B feeds. Document maximum consumption for the selected configuration.

ARIEL-IA and its integrator define database and application continuity. The provider describes infrastructure availability and prices any additional services supporting continuity. The local storage baseline alone does not determine the total storage required by the two technologies.

Installation pricing

Itemise receipt, inspection, positioning, electrical and liquid connections, cabling, colocation service configuration and acceptance testing. Identify tasks performed by the provider, ARIEL-IA, the integrator and the manufacturer.

2 Electricity and cooling

The proposal must show operating costs with all hosted equipment continuously drawing its maximum power. This establishes site capacity and the maximum consumption budget; actual consumption will depend on use of the two technologies, request volumes and periods of activity.

Reference power and maximum to be confirmed

GIGABYTE publishes power consumption of 240 kW per rack for its Vera Rubin NVL72 PAC3 integration [4]. For seven racks, this reference totals 1,680 kW, or 1.68 MW, excluding Dell servers and auxiliary equipment. It is a preliminary sizing reference and does not certify the maximum for every NVL72 integration.

ARIEL-IA and its integrator will supply the maximum power draw for the selected configuration of each rack and Dell server. The provider must add the equipment it supplies and document the overall total, required margins and transient loads. Power supply nameplate ratings are not a measurement of actual consumption.

Published baseline for seven racks	Excluding Dell servers and auxiliaries
Reference power	7 × 240 kW = 1,680 kW
Energy at this power for 730 hours	1,226,400 kWh per average month
Energy at this power for 8,760 hours	14,716,800 kWh per year

These calculations exclude additional cooling energy. They must be recalculated using the validated maximum draw of the equipment actually supplied. Bidders must disclose any inability to reserve the necessary capacity.

Required financial information

- Reserved power in kW, reservation charges, connection fees and contractual minimums.
- Electricity tariff in CHF per kWh, taxes and surcharges, metering method, energy billing and price adjustment formula.
- Monthly and annual electricity costs at continuous maximum power for racks, Dell servers and supporting equipment, stating all calculation parameters.
- Cooling costs: installation, service, pump or CDU consumption and any applied multiplier. Identify inclusions to avoid double billing.

If power usage effectiveness (PUE) is used for billing, state its value and allocation method. PUE is the ratio of total facility energy to IT energy: distinguish measured values, targets and contractual billing multipliers.

Calculation method and actual consumption

Monthly IT energy = total IT power in kW × 730 hours; annual IT energy = total IT power × 8,760 hours for a non-leap year. Where the contract applies PUE, billed energy = IT energy × contractual PUE. Variable cost equals this energy multiplied by the kWh tariff; fixed charges must be shown separately.

Reserved capacity charges must be distinguished from metered energy consumption. Disclose any flat-rate charge or minimum billing amount. Also provide scenarios at 25%, 50% and 75% application load, with a justified consumption model; do not assume a linear relationship between GPU utilisation and power consumption.

3 Networking and security

The provider must describe connectivity for equipment supplied by ARIEL-IA, service access and the proposed network protection system. The architecture must separate Internet access, the demilitarised zone (DMZ), applications, databases, inter-rack computing and administration.

Connections and throughput

Segment	Services to be priced
External connectivity	Guaranteed symmetrical 10 Gb/s option and 100 Gb/s option; carriers, transit, included traffic, contention and overage charges.
DMZ	Redundant firewalls and useful throughput with security controls enabled; capacity following failure of one device.
Dell servers	Redundant 25 GbE connections; 100 GbE option. Latency and throughput to racks and storage.
Inter-rack computing	Dedicated fabric compatible with the supplied integration: technology, topology, ports and cabling.
Administration	Isolated out-of-band network, secure access and fallback arrangements.

ARIEL-IA and its integrator define application communication requirements. The provider must state network limitations and price the switches, optics, ports and cables it supplies. NVLink within a rack does not automatically provide NVLink connectivity between all seven racks.

Protection and access

- Describe firewalls, segmentation, DDoS protection, intrusion prevention, monitoring, logs and updates. Price a web application firewall (WAF) where required for web services.
- Databases and BMC or iDRAC interfaces must remain in private zones. Describe administrative access through a VPN or bastion host, with multifactor authentication and limited privileges.
- Disclose provider and support personnel access, emergency access, required approvals and audit records available to ARIEL-IA.
- State carrier and physical route redundancy, IPv4 and IPv6 arrangements, private connections and proposed IP addresses.

Useful throughput through the DMZ

Provide an estimated useful end-to-end throughput, then an acceptance-test commitment, in Gb/s and GB/s with the planned security functions enabled. Describe the TLS termination point and any proposed TLS inspection. Nominal port speed alone must not be used as the transfer-rate estimate.

Acceptance testing includes representative transfers, large files and small objects, single and multiple flows, latency, packet loss and firewall failover. Measurement endpoints, protocols and criteria will be agreed with ARIEL-IA. For conversion only, 10 Gb/s equals 1.25 GB/s and 100 Gb/s equals 12.5 GB/s before overhead; these are not guarantees of useful throughput.

Data location

Production data, backups and logs containing client data must remain in Switzerland. Disclose sites, subcontractors, support access from abroad and metadata transfers; price a service without foreign access. ARIEL-IA retains control of its encryption keys.

4 Maintenance and continuity

Maintenance of equipment supplied by ARIEL-IA

The proposal must distinguish manufacturer warranties and support contracts arranged by ARIEL-IA from provider interventions. No parts replacement is presumed included: specify parts, labour, diagnostics and the conditions for invoking warranties.

- Price diagnosis and replacement of GPUs, trays, drives, power supplies and network components, following manufacturer procedures. Describe skills, authorisations and integrator involvement; do not assume hot replacement is supported.
- State parts availability and location, procurement lead times, manufacturer return handling and secure retention of media containing data.
- Provide hourly rates, fixed fees, minimum billable time, on-call charges, night or weekend surcharges and travel charges for remote hands or on-site assistance.

ARIEL-IA manages the software for its technologies with its integrator. The provider describes maintenance of its own equipment and services. Any administration of ARIEL-IA systems, driver or firmware updates and software interventions must be offered separately, with scope and authorisations.

Physical access

Requested baseline: access 24 hours a day, seven days a week for people authorised by ARIEL-IA. Specify notice requirements, escort arrangements, authorisations, charges and emergency procedures. If this access is unavailable, state access hours and alternative on-call services.

Describe access controls, surveillance, equipment separation, fire protection, visitor procedures and intervention records. Supply available certifications and reports, identifying the site and scope covered.

Availability commitments

Propose a monthly availability SLA of at least 99.95% for the agreed infrastructure services: power, cooling and connectivity. Specify measurement, exclusions, planned maintenance, service credits and limits. These commitments are separate from availability of ARIEL-IA applications.

For critical incidents, propose 24/7 acknowledgement within 15 minutes and on-site intervention within two hours, or disclose alternative commitments. Distinguish acknowledgement, intervention, repair and service restoration; attach escalation and communication procedures.

Optional backups and recovery

ARIEL-IA and its integrator define application replication and recovery objectives: RPO, the maximum acceptable data loss, and RTO, the maximum acceptable recovery time. The provider must separately price proposed backups: capacity, retention, encryption, tamper-resistant copies, restoration tests and an option at a second Swiss site.

Describe services and limitations following failure of a Dell server, a rack or the site. Identify dependencies and single points of failure. Any storage or recovery capacity supplied by the provider must be explicit; replication does not replace backup.

5 Pricing schedule and proposal submission

Quote in CHF excluding VAT for the seven racks and two Dell servers supplied by ARIEL-IA. State quantities, unit prices, VAT and VAT-inclusive totals separately. Mark each item as included, separately priced, optional or excluded; leave no blank fields. Do not include purchase or equipment rental payments for these nine systems.

Item	One off CHF	Monthly CHF	Annual CHF
Colocation and reserved space	Complete	Complete	Complete
Power reservation and connection	Complete	Complete	Complete
Electricity at continuous maximum power	—	Complete	Complete
Cooling without double billing	Complete	Complete	Complete
Receipt and installation	Complete	—	—
Network connections and services	Complete	Complete	Complete
DMZ and network protection	Complete	Complete	Complete
Maintenance and remote hands	Complete	Complete	Complete
Additional parts and support	Complete	Complete	Complete
Physical access and on-call services	Complete	Complete	Complete
Auxiliary equipment supplied by provider	Complete	Complete	Complete
Storage and backup options	Complete	Complete	Complete
Administration and licence options	Complete	Complete	Complete
Other charges and exclusions	Complete	Complete	Complete
Total for the baseline service	Complete	Complete	Complete

Total cost and commercial terms

Show monthly pricing and annual pricing with a twelve-month commitment, then total costs over 12 and 36 months: installation, colocation, services, energy under the stated scenario and relevant auxiliaries. Isolate options and exit charges. Procurement or lease costs for equipment supplied by ARIEL-IA remain outside these totals.

Specify advance payments, deposits, minimum term, renewal, indexation, energy or power minimums, termination and proposal validity. Price 12-, 24- and 36-month commitments and phased commissioning from one to seven racks.

Submission requirements and timetable

Attach the contracting entity details, proposed site, high-density references, compliance matrix, electrical and network diagrams, thermal capacity, schedule, SLAs, responsibilities and contractual terms. Explain the impact and cost of every qualification.

Submit proposals to infrastructure@ariel-ia.ch by 20 December 2026. Questions must be sent to the same address; the question response period is 2–30 November 2026 inclusive. The target commissioning date will be agreed with ARIEL-IA.

6 Acceptance and service exit

Checks before commissioning

The acceptance protocol will be agreed by ARIEL-IA, its integrator and the provider before installation. It must verify the colocation services and their compatibility with the supplied equipment.

- Equipment inventory, connection compliance, physical access and administrative access.
- Simultaneous load test of seven racks, Dell servers and auxiliaries, for a duration and within limits approved by the manufacturer; power, temperature, alarm and any performance-throttling measurements.
- Useful throughput through the DMZ, latency and network separation; verification of the inter-rack computing network.
- Safe power, network and cooling failover tests; verification of monitoring and alert escalation.
- Application tests led by ARIEL-IA; a restoration test where backup services are included in the order.

Results must be recorded. Deviations require correction or explicit acceptance by ARIEL-IA before sign-off. The provider must state when billing and service commitments begin.

Equipment return and exit arrangements

The racks and Dell servers are supplied under ARIEL-IA's own purchase or lease arrangements. Describe service exit procedures: electrical and liquid disconnection, preparation for transport, collection access, timeframes, responsibilities and costs. ARIEL-IA retains control of its data and application configurations.

For provider services, specify return of data, configurations and logs, export formats, deadlines, transfer throughput and verifiable deletion of retained copies. Identify external dependencies, subcontractors and portability restrictions.

Describe insurance and responsibilities for damage, downtime and equipment interventions. Replaced media containing data must be handled in accordance with ARIEL-IA instructions and the agreed warranty conditions.

Proposal comparison

Proposed criterion	Weight
Technical compatibility and proven available capacity	30%
Comparable total cost over 36 months	25%
Security and data residency	20%
Availability and support commitments	15%
Delivery times and exit conditions	10%

Hosting in Switzerland and electrical and thermal capacity compatible with the supplied equipment are eligibility requirements. The proposed scoring framework does not create an obligation to award a contract.

References consulted on 13 October 2026

[1] NVIDIA, Vera Rubin NVL72 configuration.
https://www.nvidia.com/en-us/data-center/vera-rubin-nvl72/
[2] NVIDIA, DGX Vera Rubin NVL72 Datasheet, cooling.
https://resources.nvidia.com/en-us-dgx-systems/dgx-vera-rubin-nvl72-datasheet
[3] Dell, PowerEdge R7725 specifications.
https://www.delltechnologies.com/asset/no-no/products/servers/technical-support/poweredge-r7725-spec-sheet.pdf
[4] GIGABYTE, AI Factory Solutions, PAC3 power consumption.
https://www.gigabyte.com/topics/nvidia-ai-factory