IT Cluster Vienna | Cloud Computing Group

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Overview of issues for the SaaS contract

vienna business agency

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Overview of issues for negotiation preparations

Before you start talks with the potential contractual partner, it is sensible to define your own expectations based on the following points. Even if the required service does not offer any flexibility in the formation of the contract, it will be possible to gain a better assessment of existing risks by comparing your own expectations with the terms and conditions. And where clarity is not achieved due to a lack of precise information from the supplier, you should try to assess the possible consequences particularly carefully.

What application software and which infrastructure functions are required?	
Which software properties are essential?	
How are they provided (availability and your measurement period)?	
How are problems with the service reported and how are they resolved?	
How are faults reported and remedied?	
Anti-virus and malware protection (who, how and update period)?	
What is the data backup like?	
How is data protection guaranteed?	
What are the requirements (which and how many people have been prepared for this contract and are actively involved)? What hard- ware and what software is available for the connection to the supplier? Which of the requirements listed above and below are covered as part of the service package?	
How will service changes and updates be reported and handled by myself and the contractual partner?	
What is the documentation for the software like and what requirements are placed on the training level of your own personnel?	
What training is required and how will this be given?	
For what usage period will the SaaS service be required and available?	
What notice periods will you apply or hope to establish? What notice periods will the contractual partner consider necessary and acceptable?	
What requirements, timeframes and penalties are specified under the confidentiality obligations?	
Is a "Non-disclosure agreement" required, has it been prepared and is it acceptable for the contractual partner?	
Are there any particular rights and obligations in place for the contractual partner and myself? (Notification obligations, service provision, legal matters and services, operational services)	
How are new developments carried out and put into operation?	
Who creates data processing register reports and how? (Fulfilment of the Austrian DSG 2000 and potentially EU Directive 95/46/EC and EU Directive 2002/58/EC)	
What is the warranty like?	
What compensation regulations are necessary and feasible?	
What exemptions will be considered in the case of force majeure?	
How are disputes resolved?	
How will the company's own interests be safeguarded if the contractual partner goes bankrupt?	

If you have clarified your own expectations for each point then you are ready for preparatory contract negotiations.