Auctio

USER MANUAL

The economic operator

Registering, depositing the encrypted technical bid, attaching the receipt on Sintel: every step, with the screens.

Auctio — encrypted deposit of technical bids beyond Sintel's limits · https://auctio.it · manual version: September 2026 · ThinkDifferent S.r.l.

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1. What Auctio is and why it concerns you

The contracting authority asks you, in the tender rules, to deposit on Auctio a technical bid file too large for Sintel (which accepts at most 600 MB in total per operator and 100 MB per single file). Auctio is an encrypted deposit: the file is **encrypted in your browser**, with the tender's public key, before it travels; the service receives and keeps a closed envelope it cannot open. Only the contracting authority, after the deadline, with its own private key, can read it.

In return you get a **deposit receipt**: a PDF declaring the digest of what you deposited and when, sealed by the operator of the service and timestamped by a third-party authority. The receipt goes with your bid on Sintel: it is your proof of what you deposited before the deadline.

> **The service sees** how large the file is, when you uploaded it and from which account. **It does not see** the content, nor the file name, which travels encrypted too.

2. Before you start

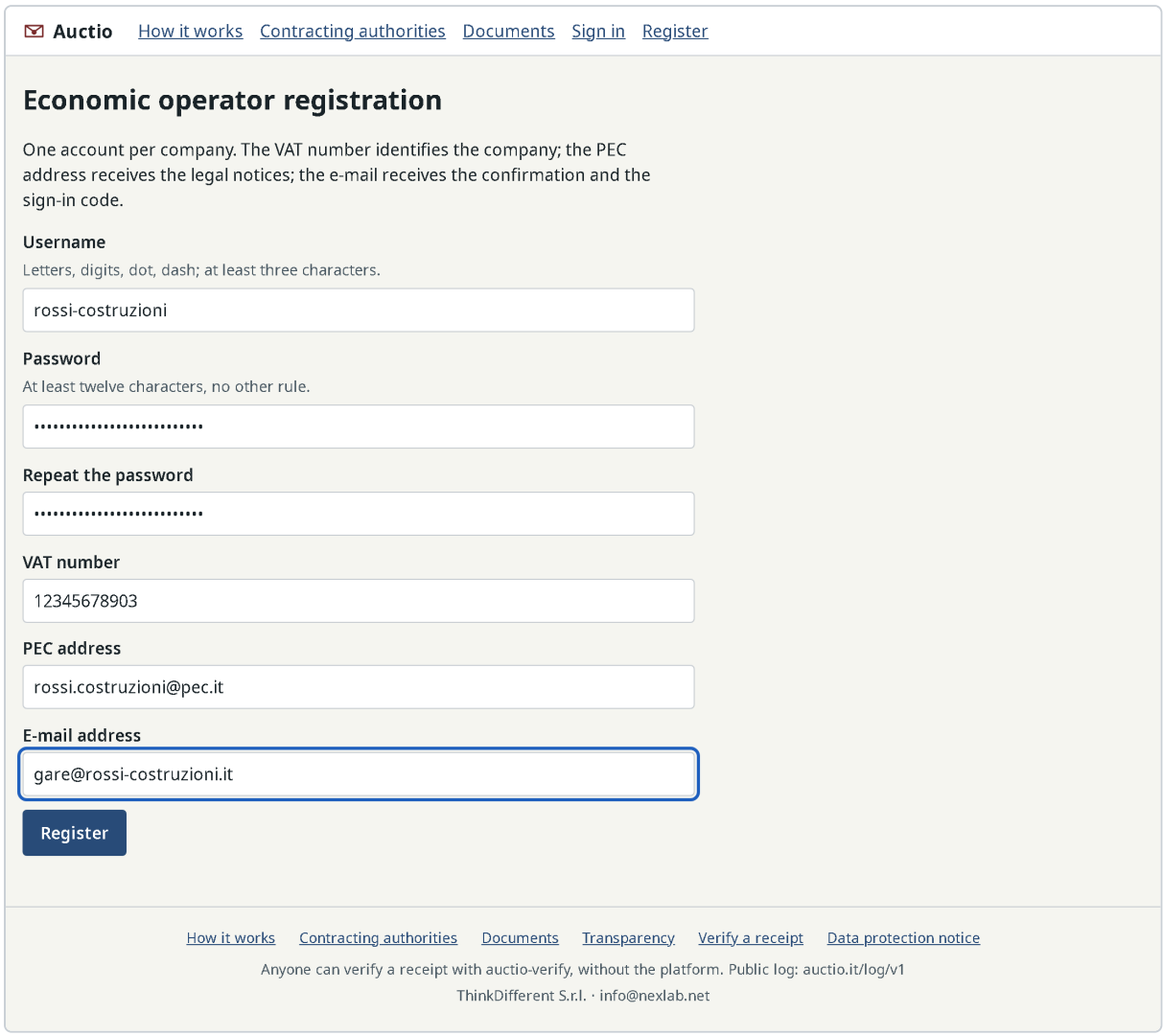
- **An up-to-date browser** (Chrome, Edge, Firefox or Safari of the last two years). Nothing to install.
- **The technical bid file**, one: if there are several documents, put them in an archive (ZIP) first. The file name is what the contracting authority will see at the opening: give it a telling name (`technical-bid-<your company>.zip`).
- **The company's VAT number**, a **PEC** (certified e-mail) address and an **e-mail** address you read: the sign-in codes arrive there.
- **Time.** Uploading a large file over an office connection takes minutes, not seconds (600 MB at 20 Mbit/s: about five minutes). Do not leave it to the last moment: the deposit must be *completed* before the deadline, to the minute.
- **The tender rules**, with the address of the tender's page on Auctio and the public key's fingerprint.

3. Registration

One account = one company. Done once, then valid for every tender.

1 Fill in the form

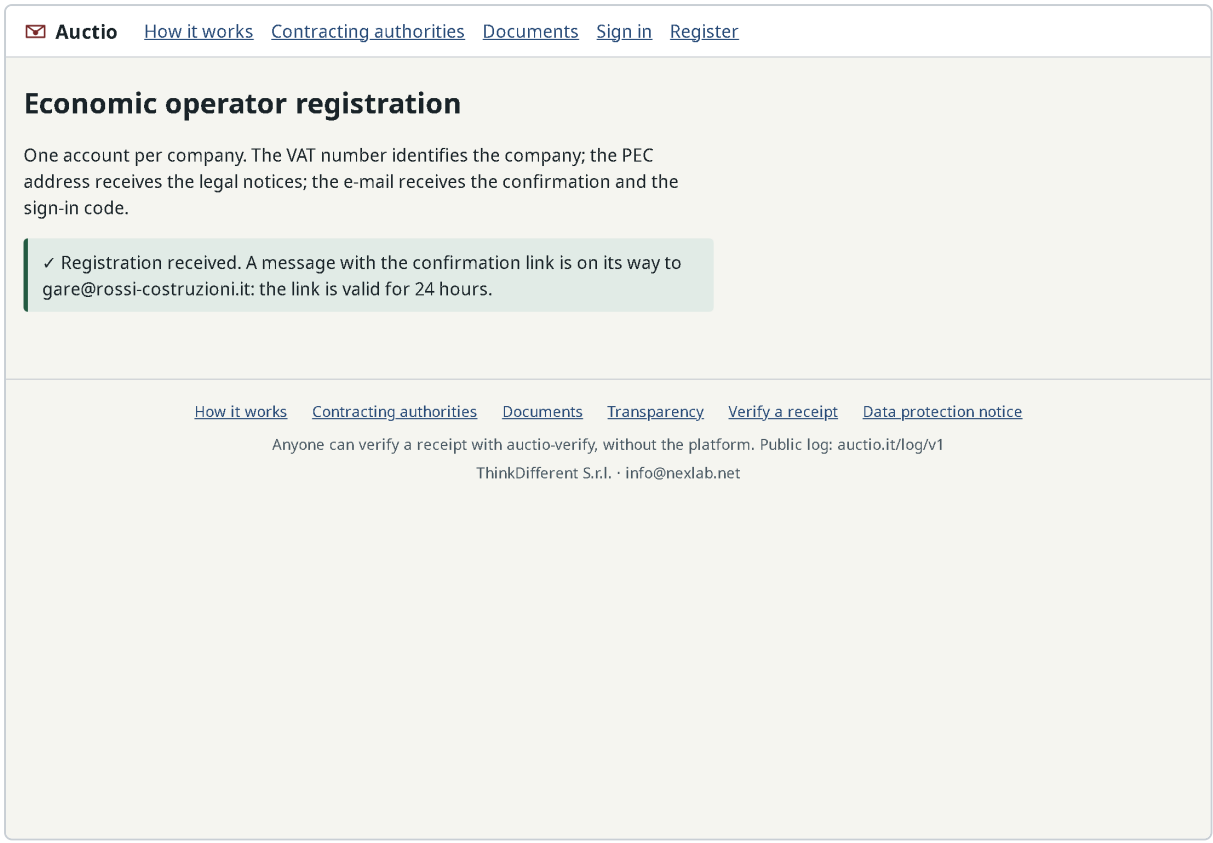
at auctio.it/register: username, password (at least twelve characters), VAT number, PEC, e-mail. The VAT number is checked against the European VIES register: it must be active.



Registration: the company's data and the credentials.

2 Confirm the e-mail address.

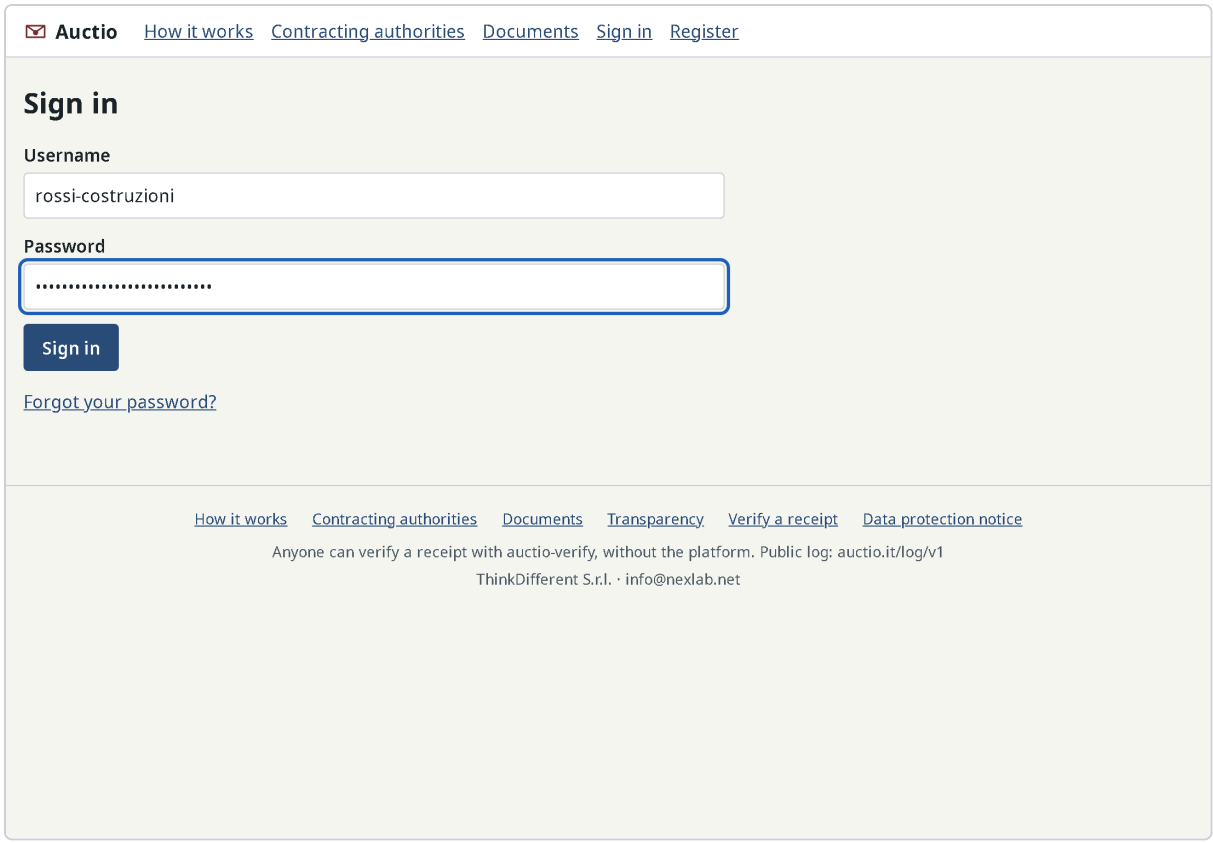
A message arrives with a link: open it. Until you do, the account is not active.



Registration sent: check your mail (the spam folder too).

4. Signing in

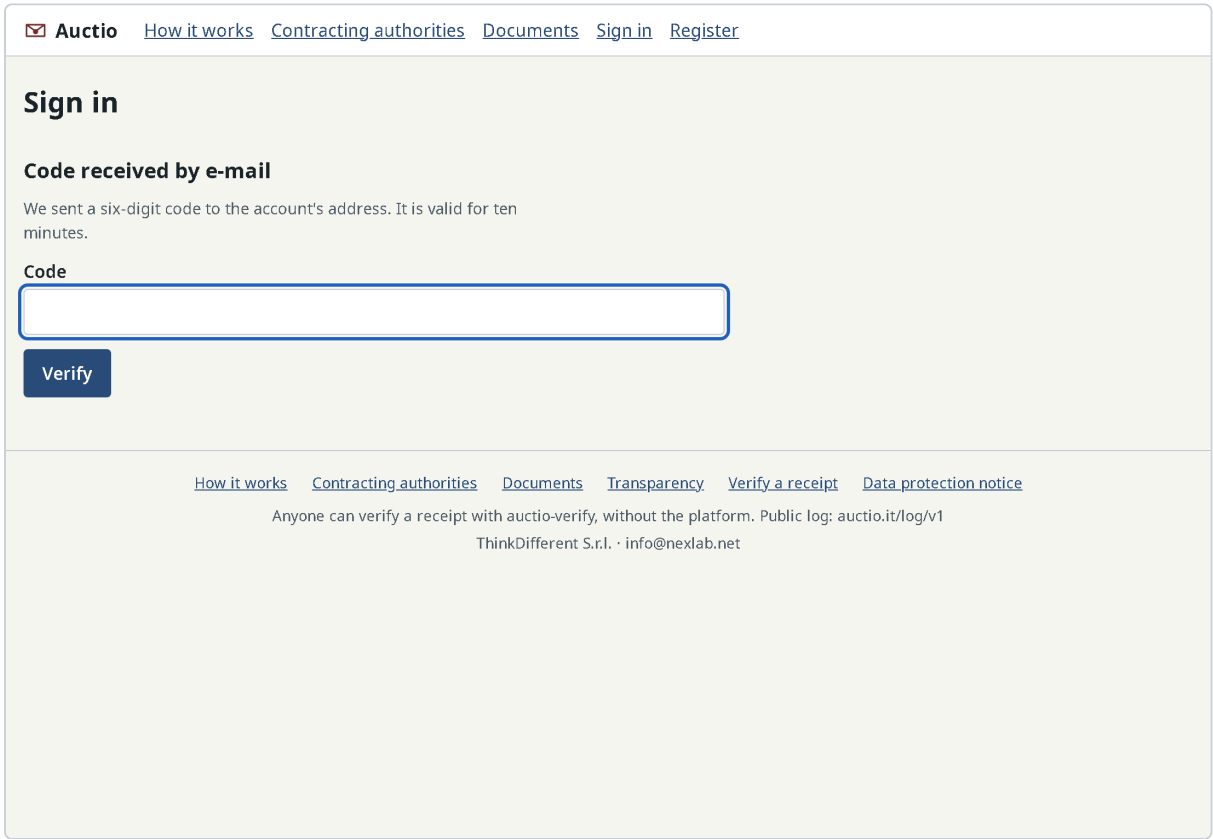
1. **Username and password**
   at auctio.it/login.



Signing in.

2 **The code received by e-mail.**

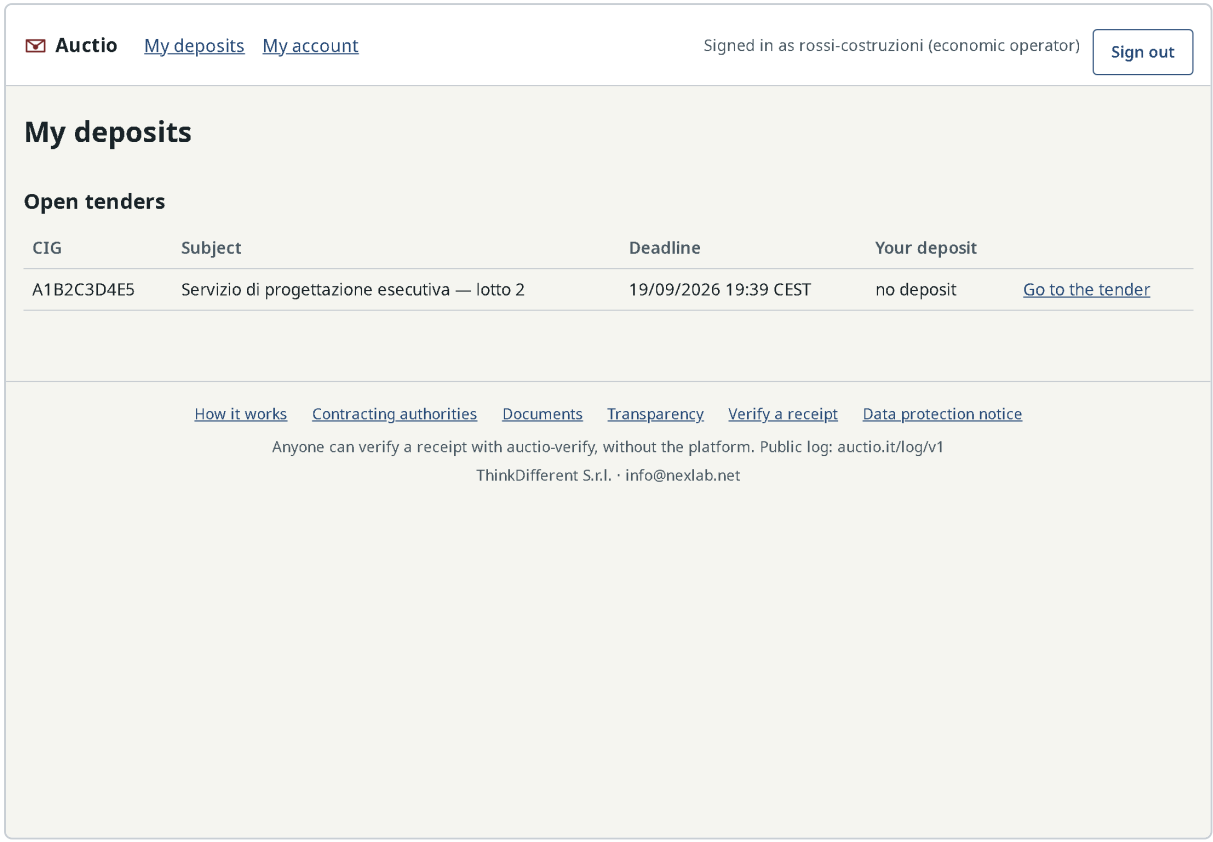
At every sign-in a six-digit code arrives at the account's e-mail address; it is good for ten minutes.



The second step: the code that arrived by mail.

3 **"My deposits"**

lists the tenders open to deposits and, for each, your deposit if there is one.

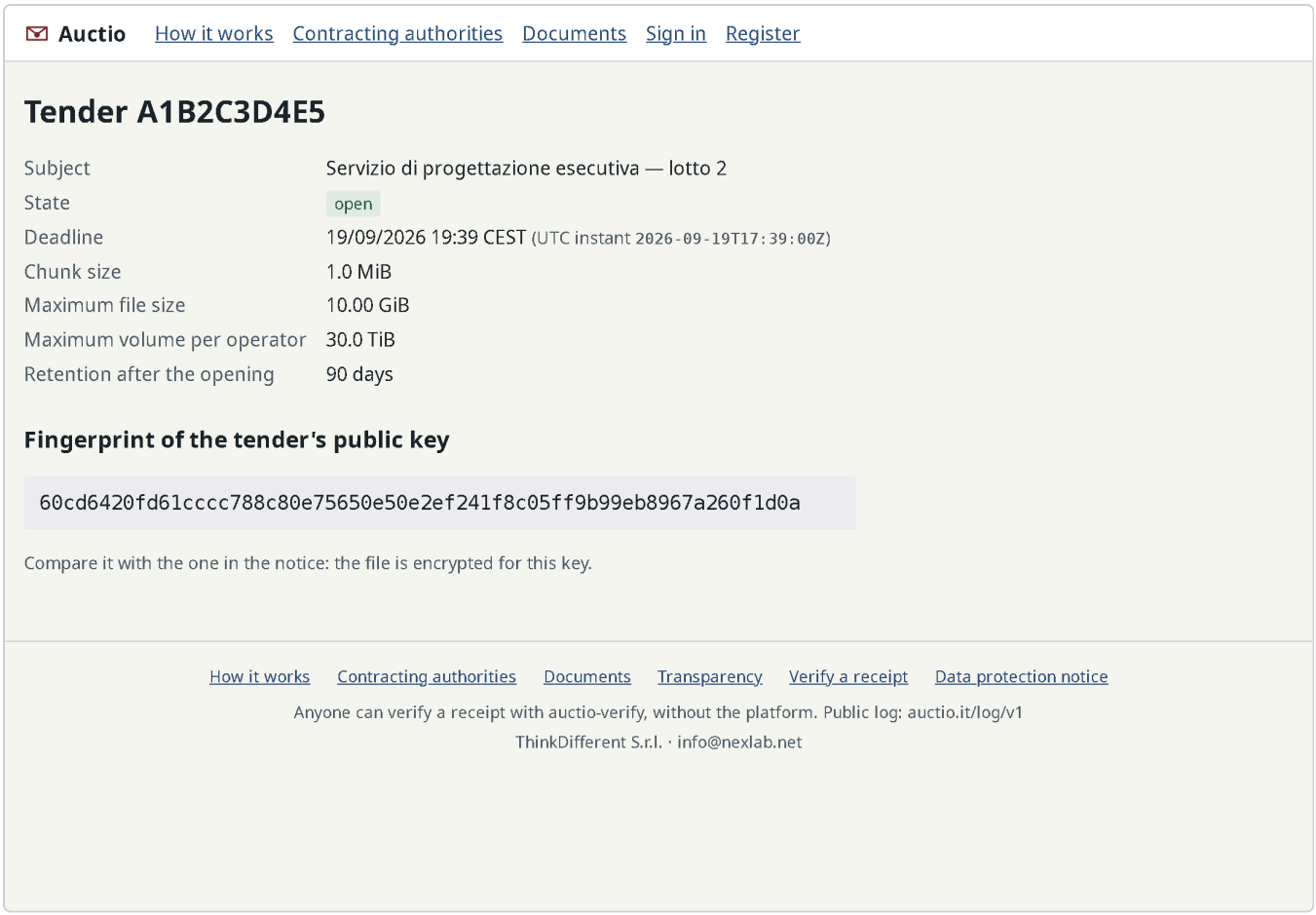


The open tenders and the state of your deposit.

"Forgot your password?" on the sign-in page sends a link to choose a new one. A session lasts at most twelve hours and ends after thirty minutes of inactivity: an upload in progress keeps it alive.

5. Finding the tender and checking the fingerprint

The tender's public page is at the address written in the tender rules (`auctio.it/t/…`), and reachable from "My deposits" → "Go to the tender" too. It shows CIG, subject, deadline (Italian time, with the UTC instant beside), the size limits and the **fingerprint of the tender's public key**.

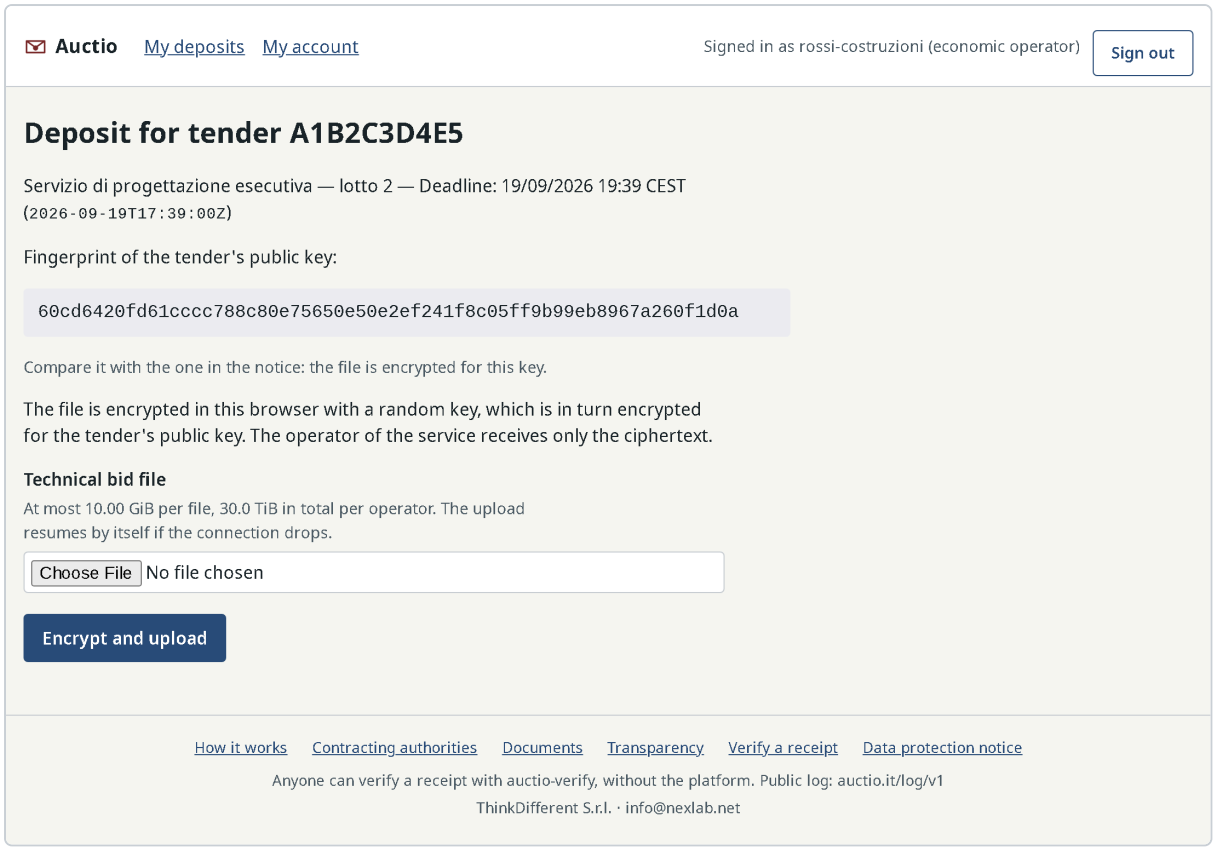


The tender's page: compare the fingerprint with the one in the tender rules.

> **Compare the fingerprint with the notice's.** The file will be encrypted for that key: if the fingerprint on the page differed from the one published in the tender documents, do not deposit and report it to the contracting authority. It is the only check asked of you, and the one that matters.

6. The deposit

1. **From the tender's page, "Deposit for this tender".**
   The deposit page repeats the deadline and the fingerprint, and says how large the file may be.



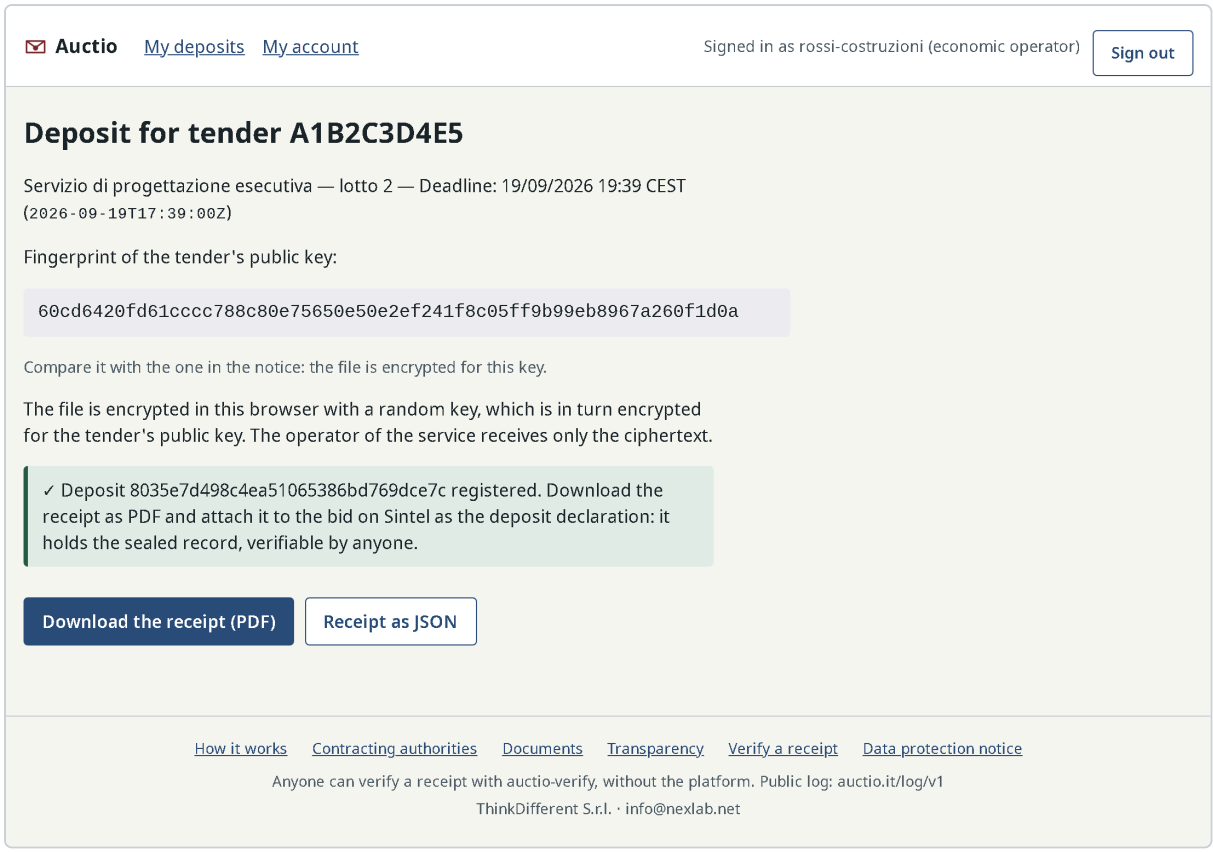
The deposit: choose the file.

2 **Choose the file and press "Encrypt and upload".**

The browser encrypts the file in chunks and sends them; a bar shows progress. **Do not close the page.** If the connection drops, the upload resumes by itself from the point reached; if you close the browser, reopen the page and load the same file again: it restarts from where it was.

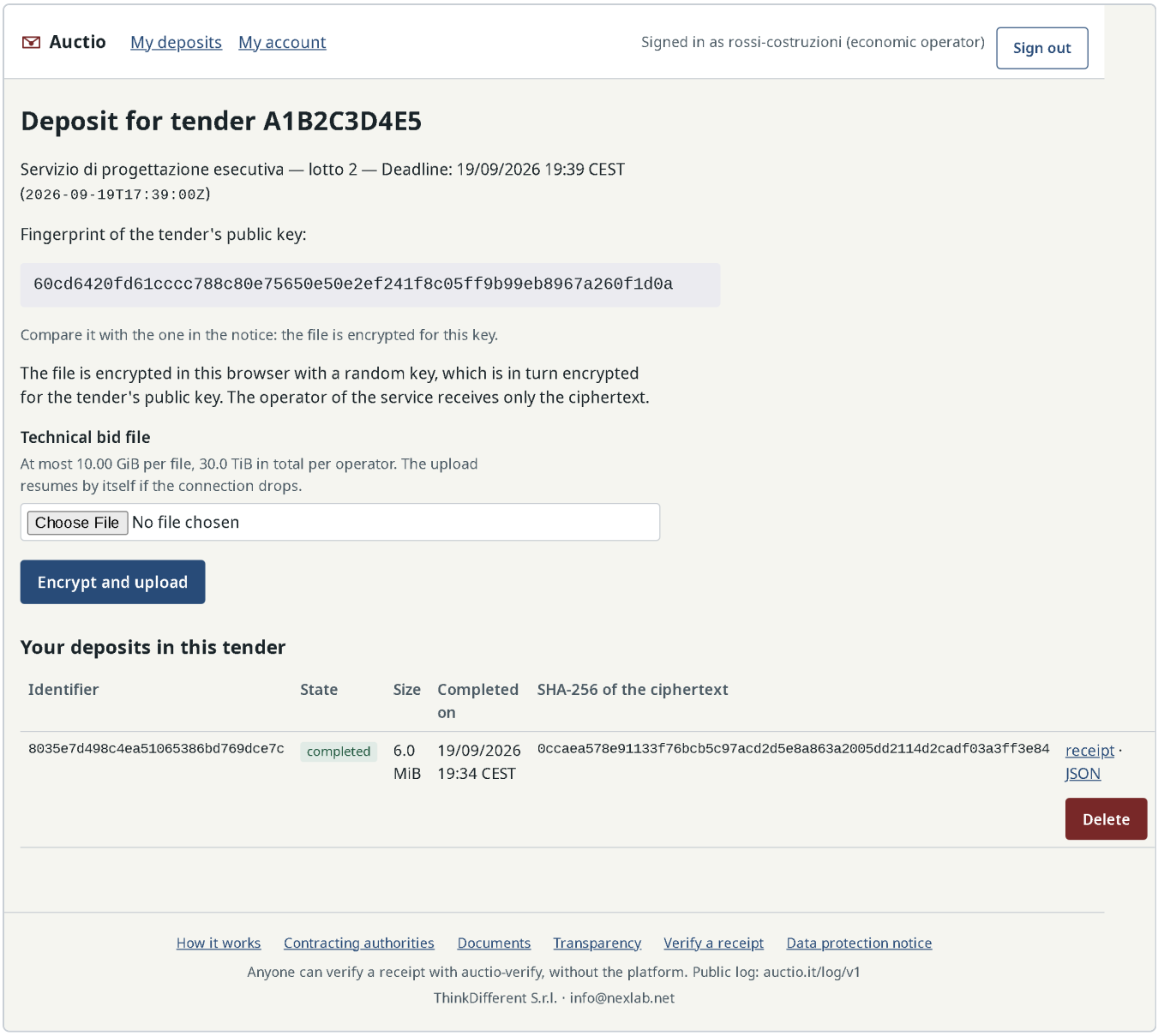
3 **Deposit recorded.**

When the upload completes, the confirmation appears with the deposit's identifier and the receipt buttons.



Deposit recorded: download the receipt right away.

The page lists your deposits in the tender, with state, size, instant and the ciphertext's digest; from here you download the receipt again at any time, after the deadline too.



Your deposits in the tender.

7. The receipt

Two formats of the same document:

- **PDF** (`ricevuta-<identifier>.pdf`, PDF/A): the one to attach on Sintel. It states tender, deposit, the file's digest as your browser declared it, the ciphertext's digest, the completion instant, the seal of the operator of the service and the timestamp; it embeds the record as JSON, so verification is possible from the PDF alone.
- **JSON**: the same record with the log's proofs, for whoever verifies with the command-line tools. Keep it with the PDF.

Keep **the original file** too, exactly as you uploaded it: its digest is in the receipt, and in a dispute it is what proves what you deposited.

8. What to do on Sintel

Auctio does not touch Sintel: you submit the bid on Sintel as always. The tender rules say where the receipt goes; as a rule:

1. in the **technical envelope** attach `ricevuta-<identifier>.pdf`, **digitally signed** like the other documents (CAdES/.p7m or PAdES, as the tender rules require);
2. the **offer document** Sintel generates will list the receipt with its digest: by signing it you declare that deposit part of your bid;
3. complete and send the bid on Sintel **within the deadline**: Auctio's deadline and Sintel's are the same.

> A deposit on Auctio *without* the receipt in the bid on Sintel is not tied to the bid; a receipt on Sintel *without* a completed deposit proves nothing. Both are needed, both before the deadline.

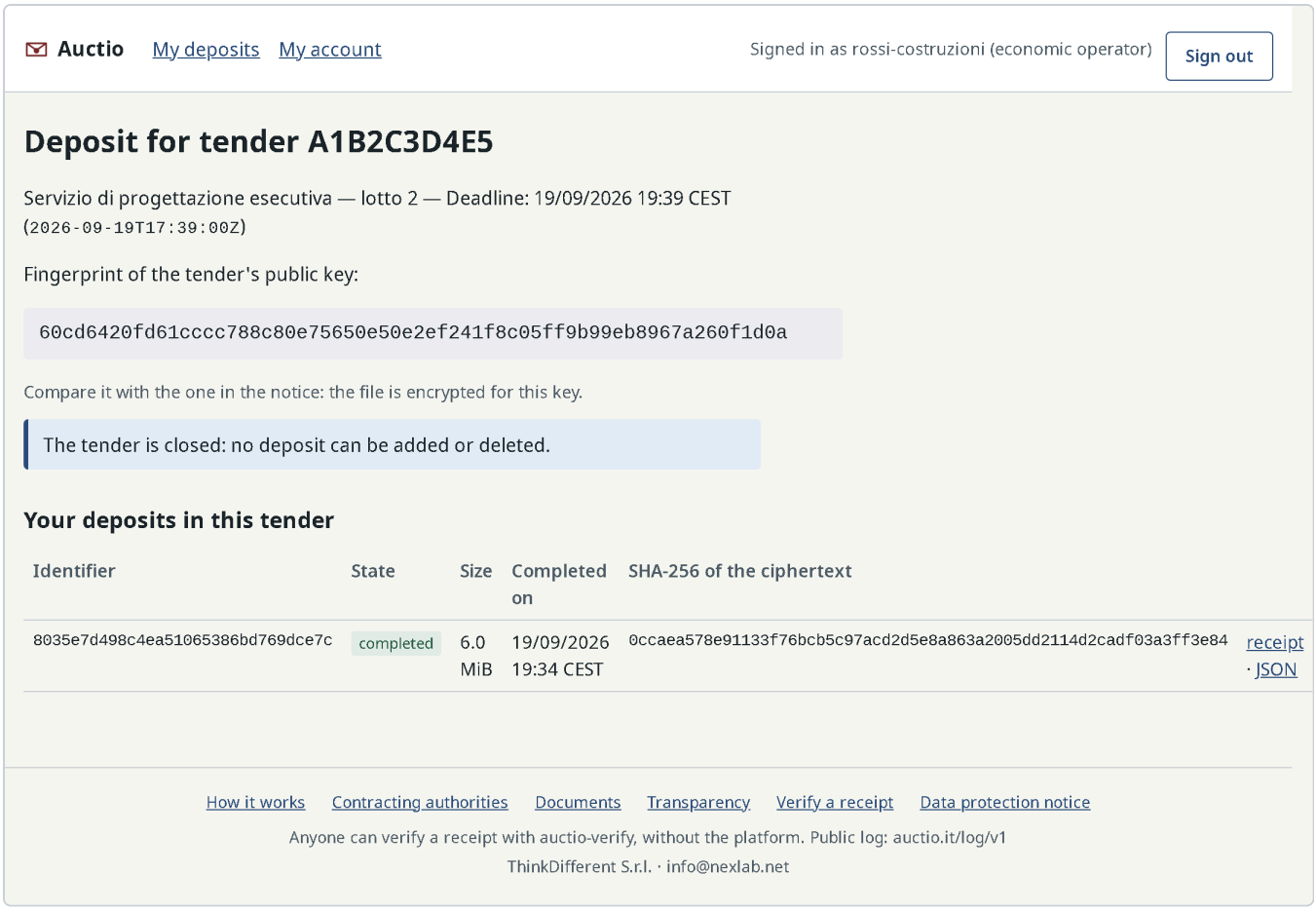
9. Replacing or deleting a deposit

Until the deadline you may **delete** a deposit ("Delete" in the list) and upload another: the deleted deposit's receipt no longer counts — remember to attach the new one on Sintel. After the deadline nothing is added or removed.

An upload left unfinished (connection lost, browser closed) that you do not resume is deleted by itself after three days; a reminder reaches you by e-mail before the deadline.

10. After the deadline

At the deadline the tender closes by itself: the closure record, public, lists the deposits that arrived (identifiers and digests, no names). The deposit page says so:

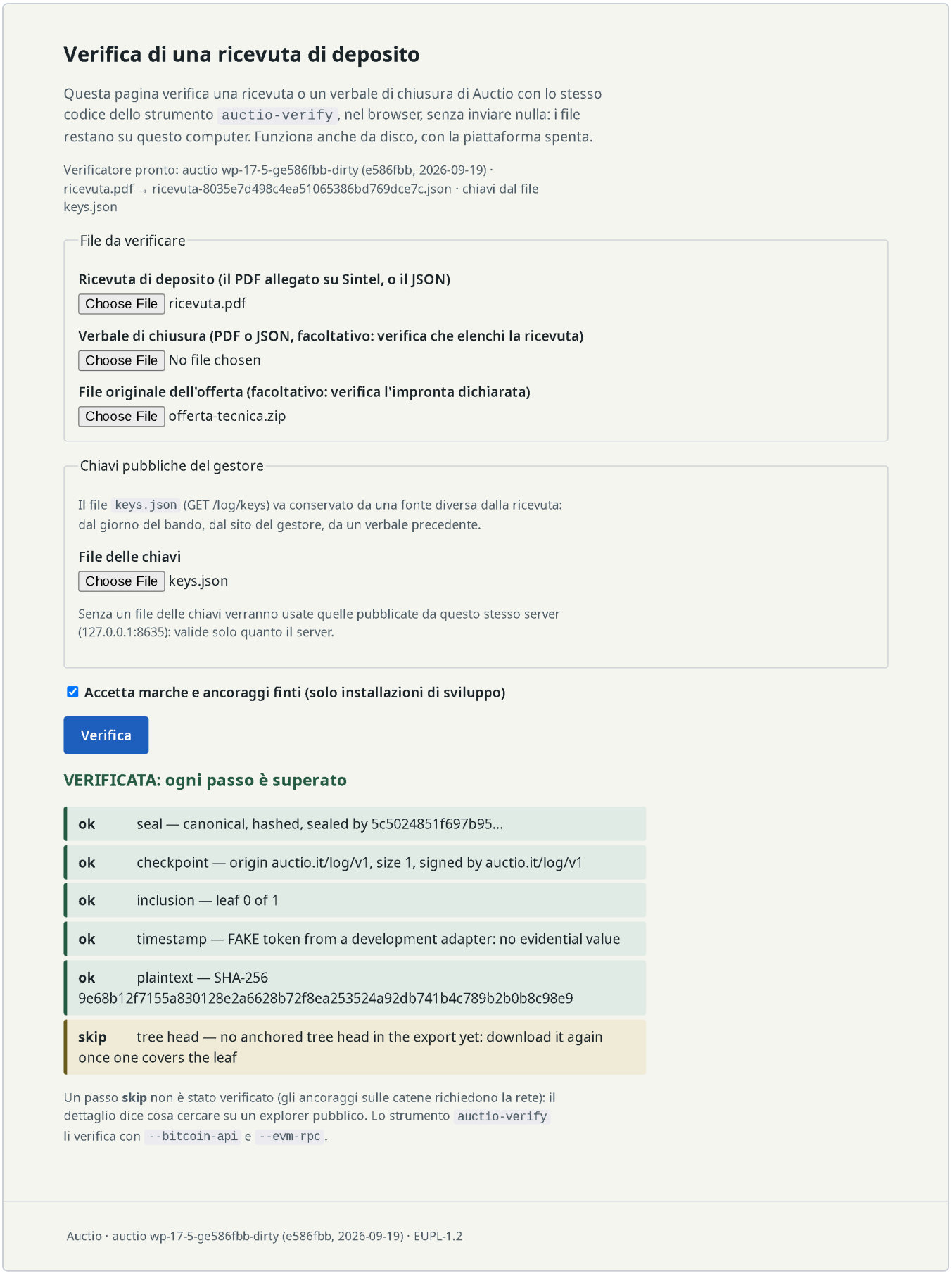


Tender closed: the receipt can still be downloaded.

When the contracting authority downloads and decrypts your file, you get a **notice by e-mail and PEC**, with the instant of the download: you know the bid was opened, and when. At the end of the retention period set for the tender, the encrypted file is destroyed and you are told; receipt and record remain forever.

11. Verifying your receipt

You may check at any time, without the service, that the receipt is genuine and that the file you keep is the one declared: at auctio.it/verify/ (the verifier page is in Italian) load the receipt's PDF, the published keys (`auctio.it/log/keys`) and the original file. Verification happens in the browser; no data leaves the page.



Verifica di una ricevuta di deposito

Questa pagina verifica una ricevuta o un verbale di chiusura di Auctio con lo stesso codice dello strumento `auctio-verify`, nel browser, senza inviare nulla: i file restano su questo computer. Funziona anche da disco, con la piattaforma spenta.

Verificatore pronto: auctio wp-17-5-ge586fbb-dirty (e586fbb, 2026-09-19) · ricevuta.pdf → ricevuta-8035e7d498c4ea51065386bd769dce7c.json · chiavi dal file keys.json

File da verificare

Ricevuta di deposito (il PDF allegato su Sintel, o il JSON)
Choose File ricevuta.pdf

Verbale di chiusura (PDF o JSON, facoltativo: verifica che elenchi la ricevuta)
Choose File No file chosen

File originale dell'offerta (facoltativo: verifica l'impronta dichiarata)
Choose File offerta-tecnica.zip

Chiavi pubbliche del gestore

Il file `keys.json` (GET /log/keys) va conservato da una fonte diversa dalla ricevuta: dal giorno del bando, dal sito del gestore, da un verbale precedente.

File delle chiavi
Choose File keys.json

Senza un file delle chiavi verranno usate quelle pubblicate da questo stesso server (127.0.0.1:8635): valide solo quanto il server.

☑ **Accetta marche e ancoraggi finti (solo installazioni di sviluppo)**

Verifica

VERIFICATA: ogni passo è superato

ok seal — canonical, hashed, sealed by 5c5024851f697b95…

ok checkpoint — origin auctio.it/log/v1, size 1, signed by auctio.it/log/v1

ok inclusion — leaf 0 of 1

ok timestamp — FAKE token from a development adapter: no evidential value

ok plaintext — SHA-256 9e68b12f7155a830128e2a6628b72f8ea253524a92db741b4c789b2b0b8c98e9

skip tree head — no anchored tree head in the export yet: download it again once one covers the leaf

Un passo **skip** non è stato verificato (gli ancoraggi sulle catene richiedono la rete): il dettaglio dice cosa cercare su un explorer pubblico. Lo strumento `auctio-verify` li verifica con `--bitcoin-api` e `--evm-rpc`.

Auctio · auctio wp-17-5-ge586fbb-dirty (e586fbb, 2026-09-19) · EUPL-1.2

Verifying a receipt: seal, timestamp, log, content.

12. When something goes wrong

SITUATION	WHAT TO DO
The e-mail code does not arrive	check the spam folder; the code is good for ten minutes, ask for another from the sign-in page; if the address is wrong, write to the operator of the service
"The VAT number is not active"	the VIES register does not recognise it: check you typed it right (11 digits); if it is newly active, try again the next day; otherwise write to the operator of the service
"The file exceeds the limit"	the contracting authority set a maximum size: compress or split as the tender rules provide
The upload stopped	reopen the deposit page and load *the same* file again: it resumes where it was
I uploaded the wrong file	before the deadline: "Delete", then upload the right one and attach the new receipt on Sintel
The tender is not in "My deposits"	it is not open to deposits yet, or already closed: look at the public page; if the deadline has passed, there is no remedy
The fingerprint on the page is not the tender rules'	do not deposit; report it to the contracting authority
I lost the receipt	it can be downloaded again from the deposit page, after the deadline too

For everything else: the operator of the service, at the contacts at the foot of every page of the site.

13. Glossary

Digest (hash, SHA-256)
A 64-character string that uniquely identifies a file. One different byte changes it. Your browser computes it on the file in clear and declares it in the receipt.

Tender public key
The key your browser encrypts with: only the contracting authority holds the matching private key.

Deposit receipt
The document proving what you deposited and when: sealed by the operator of the service, timestamped by a third party, entered in the public log.

Timestamp
A third-party authority's attestation that a document existed at a given instant.

Public log
The transparency log that receipts and records enter, unchangeable and anchored on Bitcoin. It holds no names.

Closure record
The list of deposits arrived within the deadline, issued at the deadline.