Call for tenders' details

Title: Implementation of a Multi-OMICs and Inter-species Workflow to Derive Human Reference Points and Health-based Guidance Values (HBGVs) from Quantitative in Vitro Data
Start date: 28/03/2022
Time limit for receipt of tenders: 15/06/2022
Contracting authority: European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)
Status: Closed

Call for tenders question list

#	Submission date	Publication date	Question subject	Question	Answer
1	15/04/2022 15:05	21/04/2022 17:03	Implementation of a multi-OMICs and inter-species workflow to derive human reference points and health-based guidance values (HBGVs) from quantitative in vitro data. Reference: D01.01-ENV21-DATA-Y2	1. In 1.3 TASKS, DELIVERABLES, TIMELINE AND PAYMENTS/LOT1: Implementation of a multi-OMICs and inter-species workflow, Tasks 4&7), Organ-on-Chip (OoC) is not mentioned to be included for generation of data. Only transcriptomics, metabolomics and epigenetics are mentioned. However, OoC is mentioned under 1.2 OBJECTIVES AND DIVISION IN LOTS/ Objective 1, 2.4 SELECTION CRITERIA/ B) Professional and Technical professional capacity/ 1. Professional capacity: overall at organisational level/Lot1 and 2. Professional capacity: Ability to provide a team of experts compliant with these specific expertise requirements/Lot 1 Please clarify the use of OoC in this project. Will the experimental system be based only on OoC systems? Would zebrafish embryos (120hpf-considered an in vitro system) be an acceptable test system for this tender? 2. Could you provide more information on the selection of substances? It is not clear if it will be performed by EFSA or the contractor (or in co-operation). 3. Could you provide more information on the specific expertise	**21/04/2022** 1. As specified in section 1.2/objective.1 of the tender specifications, transcriptomics, metabolomics and epigenomics are the "omics" techniques, whereas OoC is an in-vitro model to which these techniques are applied. The use of OoC with human cells is mandatory but additional fit-for-purpose in-vitro models can be used, such as for example zebrafish embryos. 2. 2. As stated in section 1.3 of the tender specifications, the selection of the substances will be done through internal EFSA surveys, interviews or literature: therefore, it will be performed in co-operation, by the contractor with the support from EFSA. 3. As stated in section 1.2/objective.1 of the tender specifications, cheminformatics expertise should relate to the process of inferring health-based guidance values from in-vitro data, using IVIVE (in vitro in vivo extrapolation) and PBK (Physiologically based modelling). 4. As outlined in section 1.2/objective.1 of the tender specifications and section 2.4 of the tender specifications (Technical capacity), there is not a “specific” test system requirement, and some examples could be those developed in EU ToxRisk (see footnote 6 of the tender

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				information on the specific expertise requirements of the Cheminformatics expert for this project? 4.On page 18 – Technical capacity: overall at organisational level it is stated that “Laboratory capacity to perform exposure assays with chemicals or other substances (i.e. perform a dose-response experiment)”. Please clarify which will be the experimental/test system to perform exposure assays. 5. Are there any priority endpoints (AOPs/MoAs etc) for EFSA?	ToxRisk (see footnote 6 of the tender specifications). Any equipment allowing to perform exposure assays of OoC, or zebrafish, with chemicals, or other substances, and finally obtain NGS libraries and metabolomics samples is allowed. 5. As specified in section “1.3 - selection of substances” of the tender specifications, the priority endpoints are open to discussion and can be defined when substances for phase one and two are selected.
2	25/04/2022 09:10	25/04/2022 13:36	Participation of UK institutions 1.3 TASKS, DELIVERABLES, TIMELINE AND PAYMENTS Column 3: Can be subcontracted?	Hello EFSA Procurement: UK institutions are no longer qualified to take part because of Brexit. The only other point of entry from the UK is via a subcontract to a EU institution. I noticed that each of the tasks has a specific column "Can be subcontracted?". Can I confirm that these are the only tasks that may involve a UK institution? Thank you.	**25/04/2022** As a consequence of the UK withdrawal from the European Union, as of 01/01/2021 economic operators established in the UK are no longer entitled to participate in EFSA’s procurement procedures as lead tenderers or members of a consortium. However, economic operator established in a third country (non-UE member, such as UK) can participate as subcontractor. The tasks which can be subcontracted are indicated in section 1.3 of the tender specifications (both for Lot1 and Lot2).

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3	26/05/2022 09:36	30/05/2022 15:29	Signatures, qualified certificate.	Dear EFSA Procurement team. We have a question regarding the Advanced electronic signature based on qualified certificates or by hand. Can you confirm that the declaration on Honour is the only document that must be signed using an advanced qualified certificate? If we sign by hand how we can submit our original document? It is mandatory to use the qualified certificate on the e-tendering platform?	**30/05/2022** As stated in Part III of the tender specifications, the declaration on honour must be converted to PDF format and then signed by the authorised representative with advanced electronic signature based on qualified certificates or by hand. In case of signature by hand a scanned copy of the document should be uploaded in e-tendering.

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