

Call for tenders' details

Title: Laboratory analyses of soil samples collected in the context of the LUCAS 2015 survey.

Start date: 09/03/2016

Time limit for receipt of tenders: 14/04/2016

Contracting authority: European Commission, Joint Research Centre (JRC)

Status: Closed

Call for tenders question list

Call for tenders questions summary

#	Submission date	Publication date	Question subject	Question	Answer
1	10/03/2016 15:23	16/03/2016 17:05	Clarifications in the context of participation to the tender	Referring to the Contract Notice in question we would like to know the site for collection of samples	16/03/2016 In accordance with the provisions of the Technical Specifications (Ares(2016)1102630 - 03/03/2016), part 2 of the Tender Specifications: "The tasks to be performed by the Contractor under stage 1 (maximum 20 months) will cover: 1. Transportation of soil samples from the premises of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) in Ispra (Varese, Italy) to the Contractor's facilities and reception of samples in the laboratory" (page 4, section 1.2. Content / Description of the tasks). So we confirm that the samples will be available for collection from the site of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre, which has the following address: Via Fermi 2749, 21027 Ispra (VA), Italy
2	10/03/2016 15:23	16/03/2016 17:07	Clarifications in the context of participation to the tender	Referring to the Contract Notice in question we would like to know if the samples could be collected all together	16/03/2016 All the samples will be available to be collected at the same time.

Call for tenders questions summary

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3	10/03/2016 15:23	16/03/2016 17:15	Clarifications in the context of participation to the tender	Referring to the Contract Notice in question, as an alternative to the system of management EN 17025 required could be accepted a geotechnical laboratory accredited by the Ministry, having the characteristics according to the circular 7618/STC sector A (Lands)?	16/03/2016 The contracting authority cannot assess at this stage an equivalence proposed by a tenderer, only the Evaluation Committee will assess the offers after the tender submission deadline. In accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Annex (Ares(2016)1161597 - 07/03/2016), part 1 of the Tender Specifications: " For requirements, standards, brand names, processes or formats named in the Technical Specifications fully equivalent objects shall be accepted unless otherwise specified. It shall be for the tenderer to justify this full equivalence in the tender "(page 10, section 2.3.).
4	17/03/2016 10:51	24/03/2016 17:34	Documentation in Italian language	Referring to the procurement procedure we kindly ask you if we could find the relevant documentation in Italian .	24/03/2016 The tender documents in Italian have been published.
5	24/03/2016 14:15	30/03/2016 15:25	Clarifications to assess the participation to the procurement	2) Should the return of the soil samples be done in a refrigerate environment?	30/03/2016 As the samples have to be dried prior to analysis, refrigerated transport is not necessary for the return transport.

Call for tenders questions summary

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6	24/03/2016 14:15	30/03/2016 15:34	Clarifications to assess the participation to the procurement	3) Is it possible to indicate approximately what is the volume of one piece of 500 g soil sample, respectively what is the volume occupied by it?	30/03/2016 The approximate volume of a standard sample is 0.003375m ³ (i.e. 15cm x 15cm x 15cm). However, it is possible that some surveyors may have collected more than the 0.5 kg of soil requested. Excess soil from large samples (i.e. where more than 0.5 kg was collected) may be discarded once the 500 g required for the analysis has been secured. In order to estimate the volume for the return transport it is expected that the remaining material of each air-dried soil sample after analyses should be between 200-300 g.

Call for tenders questions summary

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7	24/03/2016 14:15	30/03/2016 16:26	Clarifications to assess the participation to the procurement	1) Why, as a prerequisite, the transport of the soil samples should be done in refrigerate environment if the samples have to be conserved at the room temperature?	30/03/2016 In accordance with the provisions of the section 1.2.3. Task 3 - Storage of the soil samples before the analyses are carried out (page 7 of the Technical Specifications) "the soil samples shall be kept without preservative under normal room conditions with minimal temperature and humidity fluctuations, shielded from incident light". The refrigerated transport is not a mandatory requirement but desired (see Administrative Annex section 2.4.1. Technical Quality). The refrigerated transport is designed to protect samples of organic soils and organic-rich mineral soils from potentially high temperatures during the journey from the JRC to the contractor's laboratory, especially when the truck carrying the samples is parked, or is travelling, in full sun. The schedule of analysis, as described in section 1.3.2 of the Technical Specifications, is established in order to give a priority to these samples ensuring the minimisation of the effects of temperature and humidity fluctuations on the results.

Call for tenders questions summary

#	Submission date	Publication date	Question subject	Question	Answer
8	30/03/2016 17:41	31/03/2016 14:49	Request for clarifications	Referring to the procedure we would to ask if the containers are packed and sorted subject to the structure mentioned in the specifications: Group 1, Group 2 and Group 3	31/03/2016 The samples are not ordered by the groups indicated in the schedule of analysis. The samples are held in labelled plastic bags and stored in cardboard boxes or wooden crates that are labelled with the country name. However, the majority of countries have provided the JRC with documentation that indicate which samples are contained in individual boxes which will facilitate the identification of samples in relation to the schedule of analysis. Please consult also section 5.3. Data and support provided by JRC-LRM Unit in respect to the identification of samples per groups by JRC.

Call for tenders questions summary

#	Submission date	Publication date	Question subject	Question	Answer
9	30/03/2016 17:43	31/03/2016 15:00	Request for clarifications	Referring to the procedure we would to ask if the containers for the soil samples to be collected are in large packages (meaning in other boxes that contain more soil samples). If yes, which are the estimated dimension of a single package and its weight and which is the modality for loading on the transport means (given by contractor).	31/03/2016 Individual soil samples are held in labelled plastic bags that are stored in groups in cardboard boxes (ranging in weight from 5 - 40 kg) or wooden crates (> 100 kg) which are labelled with the country name. Both boxes and crates are stored on Europallets (800 mm × 1200 mm) to ease loading and unloading. As the current storage containers were provided by individual survey teams, there is a large variability in both the size and weight of a single box. We roughly estimate that the outgoing shipment from the JRC to the laboratory for analysis will be in the order of 15-20 tonnes with an approximate volume of 70-90 m3. Please note that it is the contractor responsibility to manage all organizational aspects as needed (see section 1.2.1 of the Technical Specifications)

Call for tenders questions summary

#	Submission date	Publication date	Question subject	Question	Answer
10	30/03/2016 17:40	31/03/2016 15:07	Request for clarifications	Referring to the procedure we would to ask if the containers for the soil samples to be collected are of plastic material or of glass.	31/03/2016 Please see answers for the question 8 and for the question 9. The containers for the residual soil sample (i.e. that remains after the conclusion of the analysis and will be returned to the JRC) will be of plastic material. See section 5.3 of the Technical Specifications (The JRC-LRM Unit will provide plastic containers for packing, storing and transporting samples after six months of the start of the contract.")
11	06/04/2016 10:35	06/04/2016 15:56	Questions submitted on 23 March	We ask you if the content of the questions submitted on 23 March can be considered relevant and can be answered	06/04/2016 No questions have been received on 23 March 2016. Please resend the questions.
12	06/04/2016 10:31	06/04/2016 16:06	Collection of the soil samples within Phase 1	We ask you if the collection of soil samples, within 1 month from the signature date, can be done in more instalments.	06/04/2016 Yes, the collection may be done in more instalments within 1 month.

Call for tenders questions summary

#	Submission date	Publication date	Question subject	Question	Answer
13	04/04/2016 12:58	06/04/2016 16:13	Request for clarifications	Is it possible to know if the analytical results need to be express in mg/k or mg/k/ss.	06/04/2016 Units for reporting the analysis are listed in the Table 1 of the Technical Specifications ("Core chemical and physical soil parameters"). However, we are unclear as to the meaning of mg/k/ss. Please could you explain to which attribute it refers or clarify whether the 'k' refers to , for example, kilogramme, kelvin or thousand, and whether the 'ss' refers to seconds
14	06/04/2016 10:33	07/04/2016 13:57	Start of the activity	In case of awarding the contract, which is the date of starting the activity	07/04/2016 As foreseen at the article I.3.3. of the contract – "Performance of the contract starts from the date of entry into force of the contract". "The contract is expected to be signed between July-September 2016.
15	06/04/2016 17:35	07/04/2016 14:01	Request for clarifications (specification)	It is asked to know if the analytical results have to be express in mg/kg o mg/kg s.s. where s.s. is "dry matter	07/04/2016 Results are for dry matter

Call for tenders questions summary

#	Submission date	Publication date	Question subject	Question	Answer
16	06/04/2016 10:51	07/04/2016 14:08	Site visit	Referring to the procedure in question, as we have not found in the tender documents, we would like to verify if it possible to organize a meeting to have a view on the Ispra site.	07/04/2016 A site visit during the tendering period has not been foreseen for this tender. After the contract signature, a visit to the European Commission's Ispra site to inspect the samples can be arranged, at no cost to the JRC. Prior notice will have to be given of the date of the visit as entrance permits to the JRC Ispra site will have to be prepared (See Annex IV to the contract - Rules relating to access and presence of external staff on the JRC Ispra site)

Call for tenders questions summary

#	Submission date	Publication date	Question subject	Question	Answer
17	06/04/2016 10:46	07/04/2016 14:15	Providing the services in stages	Referring to the procedure in question we would to verify if the estimated value of € 692.000,00 is reported as sum of the services included in Phase 1 and Phase 2. This in is requested in respect to the content of the Tender specifications, part 2 Technical Specification paragraph 1.1 Objective " Upon signature of this Contract, the Contractor shall undertake only the work concerning Stage 1" since the start of the stage 2 takes place only following the notification of the contracting authority. The question is if in this procedure the phase 2 is optional, if it should be we would like to verify which are the terms and which is the timing the contracting authority will proceed to collect the residual soil sample from contractor	07/04/2016 The stage 2 is not optional, is mandatory. The releasing moment of the stage 2 depends on certain conditions mentioned at the article I.3.4 of the contract
18	05/04/2016 16:07	07/04/2016 14:21	Request for clarifications	We want to collect the soil sample from JRC ISPRA (Varese) with a TIR having the following dimensions 13,5 length x 2,45 width x 2,60 h and we want to know if logistically is possible to have access with easy operations on-site and to load the Euro pallets with fork-lift trucks.	07/04/2016 There are no access problems for trucks with the dimensions indicated in the question. Prior notice of at least 5 days will have to be given of the date of collection as entrance permits to the JRC Ispra site will have to be prepared.

Call for tenders questions summary

#	Submission date	Publication date	Question subject	Question	Answer
19	06/04/2016 10:50	07/04/2016 14:45	Transport of the soil sample, stage 1 and stage 2	Referring to the procedure in question – we would like to rely on third parties for the transport of the soil sample, both in phase 1 and in phase 2- and in this context we would like to verify if such reliance the third party must be identified in the tender and if that party is required to produce documents. In particular, the document "Declaration on honour on exclusion criteria and selection criteria" as well as the declaration on the commitment to put at the disposal of the tender the necessary resources for the execution of the transport assigned.	07/04/2016 In accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Annex "Declaration on Honour on Exclusion and Selection criteria", signed and dated by an authorised representative must be submitted by subcontractors whose individual share of the contract is above 10% and by all entities whose capacity is necessary to fulfil the selection criteria. If the subcontractor is not required to fulfil the selection criteria then it shall be verified if the individual share of the contract is above or below 10%. Evidence proving the commitment of subcontractors to provide the services or the supplies presented in the tender is required for the identified subcontractor whose individual share of the contract is above 10% and for those on whose capacity the tenderer relies for fulfilling the selection criteria.

Call for tenders questions summary

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20	06/04/2016 10:49	07/04/2016 14:58	Guarantee related to information	Referring to the procedure in question (even having considered the content indicated in the Tender Specifications, part 2 - Technical Specifications, section 4) we would like to ask you to provide more details about "Guarantee on information" which must be provided in phase 2 for 24 months, from the date of receipt of the residual soil sample at JRC	07/04/2016 As indicated in Section 4 of the Technical Specifications, a guarantee of two years is required on the accuracy of information, starting from the day of receipt of all residual soil samples by JRC. This guarantee is required if seemingly anomalous values (i.e. data outliers), that become apparent during subsequent processing of the LUCAS soil dataset, may be the result of variations in the analytical processes rather than environmental conditions (which will be checked before any request is made under the guarantee clause). In which case, the JRC may request the contractor to check if any issue can be detected from the analytical logs. Should it be shown that logistical or analytical processes undertaken by the contractor have led to erroneous values, the JRC will request the contractor to reanalyse the sample(s) in question.

Call for tenders questions summary

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21	05/04/2016 13:16	07/04/2016 17:09	Request for clarifications	As regards the criterion T5 "at least one member of the team shall be able to communicate at least at B2 level in English" we ask if a person having a certificate "intermediary" grade B (very good) and subsequent a course in management and international managerial competencies reporting an excellent level, meets the requested criterion.	07/04/2016 At this stage the contracting authority cannot make assessment of one tender, it is the responsibility of the tenderer to assess the fulfilment of the criteria. Please note that in the Administrative Annex it is mentioned that as sufficient document that will be requested to justify the fulfilment of the criterion T5 is the CV.
22	06/04/2016 10:50	07/04/2016 17:27	Price quotation (PA)	Referring to the procedure in question – if the tender does not propose to execute the multispectral analysis neither the mineralogical analysis – is it possible not to mention, in the economic offer, the percentages related to the PA (price per analysis).	07/04/2016 Yes, in this case there is no need to mention percentages related to the PA (price of the analysis).
23	06/04/2016 10:46	07/04/2016 17:37	Technical and professional capacity	Referring to the procedure in question, in relation to the assessment of the technical and professional capacity indicated at criterion T1, we would like to ask you if similar contracts (up to 3 similar contracts/projects with the combined value above 300000 Euro) need to be executed between 10.04.2013 – 10.04.2016, as we thus interpret the provision "in the last three years preceding the tender deadline."	07/04/2016 The reference period is 10.04.2013-14.04.2016. Please note that in accordance with the Administrative Annex section 2.2.3. Technical and professional capacity " In case of contracts/projects still on-going only the portion completed during the reference period will be taken into consideration"

Call for tenders questions summary

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24	07/04/2016 13:22	07/04/2016 17:42	Request for site visit	Is it possible to organize a site visit? If yes, which is the modality?	07/04/2016 Please see the answer to the question 16

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