

Call for tenders' details

Title: Collection of soil data in SOTER format from 14 Danube strategy countries, at scale 1:250 000.

Start date: 17/10/2017

Time limit for receipt of tenders: 04/01/2018

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

Status: Closed

Call for tenders question list

#	Submission date	Publication date	Question subject	Question	Answer
1	31/10/2017 20:54	02/11/2017 11:28	Choice of database platform	The technical specifications document states that the database must be in Microsoft Access 2010 format. Would you take into consideration an alternative RDBMS cross platform system such as FileMaker?	02/11/2017 Only Microsoft Access 2010 will be considered as database management system for the provision of the database deliverables under Task-A and Task-B
2	15/11/2017 12:07	22/11/2017 11:47	project duration	The deliverables are ambitious within the proposed project timeframe. Is there any possibility to increase the duration of the project?	22/11/2017 The timing and structure of all deliverables as described in the Technical Specifications is fixed and must be respected.

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3	15/11/2017 12:08	22/11/2017 11:48	deliverable structure	Is it possible to propose a different structure for project deliverables? For example a phased delivery structure that would correspond to the level of data accessibility and availability in each of the countries?	22/11/2017 The timing and structure of all deliverables as described in the Technical Specifications is fixed, and allows the contractor a maximum flexibility concerning organization and preparation of the deliverables before they are finally sent to the European Commission. So the contractor can set-up for his own sake any internal deliverable structure and can communicate about this to the European Commission when reporting monthly progress, allowing the Commission to stay informed in detail about the project status. However final delivery shall respect the timing put forward in the Call.
4	15/11/2017 12:08	22/11/2017 11:48	liability and risk	Liability rests with the main contractor or joint contractors. This means there is risk to these partners should the data providers be unable to deliver. Could this risk be minimised (e.g. as additional clauses in the contract) to account for the potential scenario where data partners are unable to deliver within the project timeframe?	22/11/2017 Such a risk is real and must be borne by the Contractor. No additional clauses will be inserted in the contract to alleviate this risk.

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5	15/11/2017 12:09	22/11/2017 11:50	sub contracts	Does the project allow subcontracts and payments to be set up for each data provider?	22/11/2017 Subcontracting is allowed as defined in the Administrative Annex of the Call. Payments are according to point 1.5 of the draft contract. No change of the payment conditions is possible

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6	15/11/2017 12:10	22/11/2017 11:50	sub contract frameworks	Are there any existing arrangements or frameworks in place with the 14 countries that can be utilised to assist with sub-contracting under this project?	<p>22/11/2017</p> <p>There are no existing arrangements or frameworks in place with the 14 countries that can be utilised to assist with sub-contracting under this project; however, on the web page https://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/projects/esoter-danube (referred to in the Technical Specifications of the Call for Tender (https://etendering.ted.europa.eu/cft/cft-display.html?cftId=2134) with the mentioning: “For background information on work that the JRC has already been doing in preparation of the development of a SOTER Database for the Danube Basin, see https://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/projects/esoter-danube”), one can read:</p> <p>“(September 2017) Following this meeting, the JRC investigated through the contacts of this workshop for the 14 countries that are officially part of the Danube Strategy (8 EU countries: Germany, Austria, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Bulgaria and Romania; and 6 non-EU countries: Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Ukraine and Moldova) which organizations could deliver data in the process of the development of a Danube Database, and who are the contact</p>

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					<p>Database, and who are the contact points. The result of this investigation is compiled in this SOTER-Danube-contacts-for-soil-data document.”</p> <p>The latter document may assist in identifying suitable data providers.</p>
7	15/11/2017 23:11	22/11/2017 11:51	Soil data availability	It is unclear, whether the JRC confirms that required data from all the concerned countries are available and if there is a willingness to provide them; or, if the JRC has these data already available or could provide appropriate contacts ?	<p>22/11/2017</p> <p>The JRC has not confirmed that the required data from all concerned countries exist or that there is willingness from national organizations to provide them. However, based on interactions with key organizations in the concerned countries (as documented on the page https://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/projects/esoter-danube), it is highly probable that these data exist and that competent organizations are available to share them. See also above answer to question 6.</p>

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8	15/11/2017 23:20	22/11/2017 11:51	Soil data format	Is there a consolidated information on the format of the data, currently available in the concerned countries ?	22/11/2017 On the format of the data that are currently available in the concerned countries there is no consolidated information available to JRC, however in some of the presentations that were held by key organizations in the countries, during a meeting organized by JRC in February 2015, and documented on https://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/projects/esoter-danube , one may find useful information concerning the various formats in various countries.
9	15/11/2017 23:20	22/11/2017 11:52	Lack of required data	Case of serious lack of any kind of the required data (soil data, SOTER data), how this is expected to be arranged in the tender processing and in the appropriate deliverables?	22/11/2017 Please see above answers to questions 6 and 7.
10	15/11/2017 23:21	22/11/2017 11:53	Data conversion, quality of data in the concerned countries	We anticipate considerable difficulties when soil data from 14 Danube Strategy countries will be converted from national structures into World Reference Base (WRB) classification and into SOTER format. It mainly concerns soil properties (data quality, availability) and the scale. How these possible obstacles are intended to be disposed ?	22/11/2017 The conversion from any soil type classification to WRB is indeed a challenge, but may have been tackled already by various soil data providers. Concerning soil properties, it should be noted that, at the Horizon level there are a few mandatory attributes but many more are optional and are not required to be provided by the Contractor.

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11	15/11/2017 23:21	22/11/2017 11:53	Treatment of soil data close to country borders	It is not clear whether treatment of soil data close to country borders should be taken into account when preparing soil layers and database, since there most probably will be profound inaccuracies and data / scales incompatibilities.	22/11/2017 The Technical Specifications specify that "Cross-border terrain unit polygons (between countries and/or between country and Danube Basin outline) shall be split so that each sub-polygon falls within the Danube and country boundary." In such cases, the sub-polygon is to be considered as a Terrain Unit for the country it is covering, and needs to be associated to soil data for that country. It is understood that this will lead to undesirable border effects, but this problem is beyond the scope of this data collection exercise and will be tolerated.
12	15/11/2017 23:21	22/11/2017 11:54	Conditions for approval of the individual deliverables	What are the exact and detailed conditions for acceptance and approval of the individual deliverables ?	22/11/2017 The conditions for acceptance and approval for each deliverable are clear: if the deliverable is full-filling the requirements of the technical specifications, it will be approved.

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13	28/11/2017 11:46	28/11/2017 14:04	Financial offer	In what document we could find the composition/structure of the "Financial offer"? Should it include a detailed budget of the tenderer' project proposal?	28/11/2017 According to point 3.4 from the Administrative Annex: Structure of the Financial Offer: "The financial offer must be all-inclusive (covering all requirements of the Tender Specifications and including all possible renewals, options)". No detailed budget is requested.
14	28/11/2017 16:24	30/11/2017 12:22	Financial offer	Should the prepared / filled contract be included in the package of tender documents "Financial offer"?	30/11/2017 The draft contract shall be included in the financial offer.
15	30/11/2017 11:57	30/11/2017 12:47	Financial offer	Should the prepared / filled contract be included in the package of tender documents "Financial offer"? (This question was asked 28-11-2017. But the answer is not received yet.)	30/11/2017 Please see the answer to question 14.
16	05/12/2017 13:19	12/12/2017 15:06	Soil data.	Are the soil data from the LUCAS Soil Data Framework (Structured Land Use Survey / Land Survey) part of the structured SOTER database?	12/12/2017 LUCAS soil data are not suitable for use in SOTER database as these soil data only contain a soil properties for the topsoil located at the LUCAS sampling points, while for the SOTER database, soil profile and soil horizon data are expected to be included and associated to the SOTER terrain units and soil components.

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