

Call for tenders' details

Title: In vitro protein digestibility.

Start date: 26/07/2017

Time limit for receipt of tenders: 12/10/2017

Contracting authority: European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)

Status: Closed

Call for tenders question list

Call for tenders questions summary

#	Submission date	Publication date	Question subject	Question	Answer
1	03/08/2017 14:33	07/08/2017 17:11	Methodology	<p>The document “Guidance on allergenicity assessment of genetically modified plants” specifies the gastrointestinal conditions criteria (obtained from in vivo and in vitro data) to be considered as a starting point for the in vitro gastrointestinal digestion protocol to be elaborated by tenderers. The text stresses the need for a protocol that mimicks as much as possible the human gastrointestinal digestion process, in order to obtain more relevant results. Gastric emptying is mentioned once.</p> <p>Should the in vitro digestion protocol be based on static experiments, or would a dynamic digestion system fit more to the call? In other words, is EFSA asking for a protocol that can be performed with basic equipment, or is the representativity of the experiment (in terms of reproducing the human digestion) more important?</p> <p>Should the protocol be validated through ring-tests?</p>	<p>07/08/2017 As described in the EFSA guidance document, the in vitro digestion protocol should be based on in vitro batch models. A minimum of two gastrointestinal digestion test conditions should be considered. An example of the gastrointestinal conditions to be taken into account can be found on figure B.1 of the EFSA guidance document. In relation to your second question, the tenderer is not requested to validate the protocol through a ring-test”</p>

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2	17/08/2017 12:05	17/08/2017 16:41	Submission - forms, templates, attachment	Is there a template for the technical tender or should it be drawn up by the tenderer, in line with the criteria established in the tender specifications?	17/08/2017 No template is provided for the technical tender. The tenderer is expected to elaborate in their offer on all aspects of the quality award criteria.
3	17/08/2017 12:05	17/08/2017 16:43	Submission - forms, templates, attachment	Annex 6 is an administrative data form having two links in it leading to different types of legal entity forms and a financial identification form (these linked documents depend on the nationality of the tenderer too). Does the tenderer have to fill in all these forms and attach them to the tender (also partners subcontractors in a given case)? If yes, where to upload these documents (which attachment field to be used in e-Submission)?	17/08/2017 The Legal entity form should be filled in by all members of a joint tender including subcontractors. The Financial identification form should be filled in only by the leader in a joint tender. Please upload the documents in the attachments section for Legal and regulatory capacity in E-Submission.
4	17/08/2017 12:05	17/08/2017 16:45	Submission - forms, templates, attachment	As we understand, the financial tender consists of the financial offer (according to the template in ANNEX 1) and the breakdown of costs (this is non-compulsory and there's no template for it). Is that correct?	17/08/2017 Yes it is.

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5	28/08/2017 12:35	29/08/2017 14:09	Part 2.4- selection criteria- minimum technical capacity of tenderer	With regard to point Bc (selection criteria section-minimum technical capacity) of the call, we would like to know if is mandatory for the tenderer to have access to a laboratory with ISO 17025 certification. Moreover, does the experimental phase have to be carried out in an ISO 17025 laboratory certified?	29/08/2017 According to the tender specifications, the laboratory where the experimental phase will be undertaken should hold an ISO 17025 certification as a minimum requirement. Also the experimental phase have to be carried out in an ISO 17025 laboratory certified.
6	28/08/2017 12:35	29/08/2017 14:11	Part 2.4- selection criteria- minimum technical capacity of tenderer	In a case of group of economic operators and/or in case of subcontracting, should each partner have an ISO 17025 laboratory certified?	29/08/2017 In the case of a group of economic operators and/or in case of subcontracting, it is not mandatory that each partner has an ISO 17025 laboratory certified.
7	28/08/2017 21:07	29/08/2017 14:14	ISO 17025 vs GLP Toxicology	According to the tender documentation the tenderer must demonstrate laboratory access and ISO 17025 certification. Is it acceptable, if the tenderer has a laboratory with Good Laboratory Practice Toxicology or only ISO 17025 is acceptable?	29/08/2017 Only ISO 17025 is acceptable. Question5

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#	Submission date	Publication date	Question subject	Question	Answer
8	31/08/2017 16:00	01/09/2017 10:22	Financial information and selection criteria	Regarding the financial offer, is it possible the co-financing from a source other than the Union budget? If yes, are the contributions from the private sector permitted?	01/09/2017 This call for tender is a procurement and not a grant. Therefore the terminology co-financing is not relevant. Organisations from the private sector can participate, as long as they are located within the European Union.
9	31/08/2017 16:00	01/09/2017 10:24	Financial information and selection criteria	If applying to the call as joint tender, is there a maximum number of partner that could participate to the group?	01/09/2017 There is no maximum number.
10	31/08/2017 16:00	01/09/2017 10:28	Financial information and selection criteria	Could the private companies be included in the tenderer group of economic operators (not as subcontractor)?	01/09/2017 As indicated in General guidance on EFSA procurements (http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/assets/EFSAguidancefortenderers.pdf) under the section "Participation", Participation in EFSA's public procurement procedures is open on equal terms to all natural and legal persons coming within the scope of the EU Treaties. Please also refer to the section on "Submitting tenders as a group of companies and/or using subcontracting".

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#	Submission date	Publication date	Question subject	Question	Answer
11	31/08/2017 16:00	01/09/2017 15:39	Financial information and selection criteria	According to the tender specifications, project leader should have experience in the coordination of international scientific projects in the field. On this regard, should the project leader have experience as coordinator of the whole international scientific projects or is it enough to have been the scientific coordinator of the international project for her/his Institute? In addition, should the tenderer have experience in the study and/or digestibility of GMO proteins?	01/09/2017 The senior research-scientist (Project Leader) should have experience in the coordination of international scientific projects in the field. This is a general statement and therefore it is acceptable that the coordination of the international project was for a specific Institute as described your question. In addition, please note that the experience required is on in vitro digestion of proteins in general terms. Experience on GMO proteins is not mandatory.
12	31/08/2017 16:00	01/09/2017 15:40	Financial information and selection criteria	With regard to the minimum technical capacity of tenderer (point Bc), the participation in proficiency test or to method validation procedure could be considered as quality assurance system for the laboratory?	01/09/2017 Please note that a corrigendum will be published where the minimum capacity of the tender has been broaden to accept other quality assurance systems than just ISO 17025. It is now stated that the tenderer must demonstrate laboratory access and ISO 17025 certification or any other quality assurance system in place.

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#	Submission date	Publication date	Question subject	Question	Answer
13	04/09/2017 17:16	05/09/2017 10:22	Application from Switzerland	Is it possible for an Institution from Switzerland to apply for this call?	05/09/2017 No, as stated in the General guidance on EFSA procurements the tender procedures of EFSA are not covered by the WTO Multilateral Government Procurement Agreement (GPA). Tenderers established in third countries (non-EU countries) do not have the right to participate in procurement procedures unless international agreements in the field of public procurement grant them the right to do so. In the present case there is no such agreement. Consequently, tenderers from Switzerland are not entitled to participate.
14	05/09/2017 11:18	05/09/2017 11:20	Subcontractor	Is it possible for an institution in Switzerland to act as a subcontractor?	05/09/2017 Yes, it is.
15	05/09/2017 11:42	06/09/2017 11:47	ISO 17025 or other Quality Insurance System	Does the contractor need am ISO 17025 certification, in case the laboratory work is done by a subcontractor that has this certification?	06/09/2017 No, assessment is done on a consolidated basis. Please refer to the previous Q&A.Question7
16	05/09/2017 12:42	07/09/2017 09:33	Tender OC/EFSA/GMO/2017/01	It is possible to apply for a tender as leader without the ISO 17025 certification if the subcontractor laboratory has such certification?. The subcontractor laboratory is from Switzerland	07/09/2017 Please refer to the previous answerQuestion15

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#	Submission date	Publication date	Question subject	Question	Answer
17	11/09/2017 18:14	14/09/2017 14:50	Selection Criteria	Would you evaluate a list of publications as relevant and related to the subject of the assignment? Will we meet the criteria with this list as evidence for minimum technical capacities mentioned in points Ba and Bb?	14/09/2017 Please note that EFSA cannot confirm a priori whether or not the minimum technical capacity criteria are met.
18	29/09/2017 11:10	03/10/2017 13:51	Eligible institutions to submit a tender for the "In vitro protein digestibility" EFSA call	Are only institutions listed in the document based on Art. 36 of Regulation EC 178/2002 and Art. 1 of Regulation EC 2230/2004 entitled "List of competent organizations designated by member states which may assist EFSA with its mission" eligible to submit a tender, are other specific registrations for the submitting organization required or is submission of a tender possible without a previous EFSA registration?	03/10/2017 This is an open call for tender, not a call for proposal (grant). Therefore the Art. 36 list is not applicable. As indicated in the EFSA Guidance for tenderers (referred to in point 2.3 of the tender specifications), participation in EFSA's public procurement procedures is open on equal terms to all natural and legal persons coming within the scope of the EU Treaties. Currently, tenderers from the following third countries are also considered eligible based on signed and ratified international agreements in the field of public procurement: FYROM, Albania, Montenegro, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein.

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19	04/10/2017 14:00	04/10/2017 17:03	Submission of disclaimer for Universities possible?	Is submission of a modified contract based on our University's terms and conditions possible for the tenderer? The legal check has revealed that for our institution several details in the draft contract are not acceptable due to the legal situation as a university. Is it possible to submit the contract with modifications based on the institutional terms and conditions along with the tender?	04/10/2017 Exceptionally, some modifications to the contract may be acceptable. Please submit your offer, including the draft contract, with the modifications you would require. In case of award of the contract, EFSA will evaluate whether the modifications can be accommodated.

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