

Call for tenders' details

Title: Laboratory analyses of topsoil samples collected in the context of the LUCAS 2018

Start date: 31/05/2018

Time limit for receipt of tenders: 02/07/2018

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

Status: Closed

Call for tenders question list

#	Submission date	Publication date	Question subject	Question	Answer
1	01/06/2018 10:32	01/06/2018 11:01	Laboratory analyses of topsoil samples collected in the context of the LUCAS 2018 2018/S 102-232130	The tender documents are in English only. We kindly ask you to have the tender documents in Italian too.	01/06/2018 It is possible to have the tender documents in Italian. Can you tell us for which lot?
2	01/06/2018 13:30	01/06/2018 16:01	JRC/IPR/2018/D.3/0004/OC Laboratory analyses of topsoil samples collected in the context of the LUCAS 2018	We kindly ask you to provide the Italian version of the tender documents for the 3 Lots.	01/06/2018 We inform you that that the Italian translation of the tender documents will provided in the coming days.
3	06/06/2018 15:01	06/06/2018 15:16	Lot 1	Is the lot 1 a full package? (so the same lab has to do all the parameters?) Or one lab can submit a proposal only for heavy metal analyses?	06/06/2018 Lot 1 is a full package. As explained in § 1.2 of the Administrative Annex offers can be submitted by a group (joint tenders).

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#	Submission date	Publication date	Question subject	Question	Answer
4	07/06/2018 09:42	07/06/2018 10:27	All lots 1, 2 and 3 - language forms	<p>Is it possible to submit all documentation in French language relative to the Tender ?</p> <p>Can you confirm that tenderers are allowed to bid in French ?</p> <p>Thank you</p>	<p>07/06/2018 We confirm that offers can be submitted in French, as in any other EU official language.</p>
5	01/06/2018 15:03	07/06/2018 21:16	ANALISI DI LABORATORIO DEI CAMPIONI DELLO STRATO SUPERIORE DEL SUOLO RACCOLTI NEL CONTESTO DELL'INDAGINE LUCAS 2018 2018/S 102-232130	SIAMO INTERESSATI AL LOTTO 1 E LOTTO 3	<p>07/06/2018 Da oggi 7 giugno 2018 la documentazione di gara è disponibile anche in italiano.</p>

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6	07/06/2018 17:10	11/06/2018 15:24	Lot 1 - transportation of sample from JRC center to lab facilities	<p>In the Technical Specification, it is mentioned that all 26000 soil samples will be prepared and ready to leave from the JRC site for pick up. As we are talking about pre-conditionment on pallets, can you give more details about number and dimension of pallets that we have to consider ?</p> <p>Thank you</p>	<p>11/06/2018 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 (and not by the JRC), there is a large variability in both the size and weight of boxes and, therefore, the total number of pallets. 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 on about 50-60 pallets.</p>

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7	07/06/2018 13:21	11/06/2018 15:25	LOQ for LOT1	We kindly ask you to inform us about the LOQ for LOT1 especially for heavy metals but also for basic soil parameters	11/06/2018 Please find here after the limit of quantification (LOQ) in mg/kg for each heavy metal: As 2.84 Cd 0.07 Co 0.15 Cr 0.32 Cu 0.26 Hg 0.00005 Ni 0.27 Pb 1.16 Sb 0.81 V 0.66 Zn 2.12
8	12/06/2018 12:06	12/06/2018 16:57	Tender documentation in French	We kindly ask you to provide a full set of Tender documentation in French for the whole 3 lots. Is to possible ? Thank you	12/06/2018 Yes, it is possible. It will take some time. Once the French documents will be available, you will be informed. 20/06/2018 The French tender documents are online from today, 20 June 2018.
9	12/06/2018 17:16	13/06/2018 09:05	LOT 3 start of the project	What is expected time from opening offers, when contract will be signed and project started?	13/06/2018 After the opening of offers, the evaluation process will take place. This full process up to contract signature may take around 2 months depending on the period of year and on the amount of clarifications on the offers that may be needed.

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#	Submission date	Publication date	Question subject	Question	Answer
10	12/06/2018 15:21	13/06/2018 10:12	Clarification Question	Lot 1 - Heavy metals specifies that the solutions resulting from aqua regia digestion should be analysed by ICP-OES. Is that a requirement or can the solutions be measured by ICP-MS, which is a suitable alternative technique?	13/06/2018 As indicated in the Technical Specifications, the use of an ICP-MS would be acceptable provided that the tenderer can prove that the results would be equivalent to analysis by ICP-OES.
11	12/06/2018 17:14	13/06/2018 10:20	LOT 3	Regarding Criterion T1: The tenderer must prove experience in the field of analysing plant protection products (PPPs) and antibiotics in food and environmental samples. The tenderer must show that they regularly analyse PPPs and antibiotics listed in Table 2 of the Technical Specifications. A yearly analysis ratio of at least 500 food and/or environmental samples during the last three years for each group of PPPs and antibiotics in Table 2 in Part 1- Administrative Annex LOT 3? As type of samples have to be also specified can also analyses of water samples be reported to fulfill the criterion T1?	13/06/2018 The tenderer has to prove analysis of each group of PPPs and antibiotics in Table 2 of the Technical Specifications. Water samples can be considered as environmental samples.

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#	Submission date	Publication date	Question subject	Question	Answer
12	12/06/2018 09:22	13/06/2018 11:06	LOQ LOT 1	<p>You mentioned some LOQ for heavy metals that are exceptionally low for some compounds. Are they mandatory or can we suggest our best available LOQ ?</p> <p>In particular, can you check and confront the following ones:</p> <p>Hg : 0.00005 mg/kg - we can do only 0.025 mg/kg Copper : 0.26 mg/kg - we can do 0.5 mg/kg Ni : 0.27 mg/kg - we can do 0.5 mg/kg</p> <p>Do you accept our LOQ for these 3 compounds ?</p> <p>Thank you for your quick answer</p>	<p>13/06/2018 For the indicated substances, we can accept LOQ in the following ranges:</p> <p>Mercury: 0.00005 - 0.025 mg/kg Copper: 0.26 - 0.5 mg/kg Nickal: 0.27 - 0.5 mg/kg</p>

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#	Submission date	Publication date	Question subject	Question	Answer
13	12/06/2018 15:19	13/06/2018 12:50	Clarification Question	<p>In respect of the 24-month guarantee period applying to Lots 2 and 3; can the customer confirm its expectation for the number of re-tests required as a % of the number of tests to be performed by the contracting parties?</p> <p>Thanks in advance</p>	<p>13/06/2018 A guarantee of two years is required on the accuracy of information if seemingly anomalous values become apparent during subsequent processing of the data which can be shown to be the result of erroneous logistical or analytical processes undertaken by the contractor. In which case, the JRC will request the contractor to reanalyse the sample(s) in question. Ordinarily, we would expect that any systematic errors would be discovered during the monthly reporting (before guarantee applies), in which case, the guarantee would apply to data outliers, which nominally one would expect to account for no more than 5% of the dataset for the parameter in question.</p>
14	13/06/2018 12:43	13/06/2018 18:14	Annex X to Directive 2014/24/EU compliance	<p>How compliance with the applicable environmental, social and labour law obligations established by Union law, national legislation, collective agreements or the international environmental, social and labour conventions listed in Annex X to Directive 2014/24/EU should be proven in documentation? Should documents describing internal OHS procedures be listed in Annex 2: Key technical compliance grid? Or is there any other prove required?</p>	<p>13/06/2018 At this stage tenderers do not need to prove this compliance in their offer. The Contracting Authority may before or after contract signature ask relevant evidence.</p>

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#	Submission date	Publication date	Question subject	Question	Answer
15	19/06/2018 17:04	20/06/2018 17:32	Technical Specifications to LOT 3	On the 6th page there is the sentence: "For brand names indicated in the Technical Specifications, fully equivalent objects are accepted only if the contractor provides evidence of the equivalence (as per its offer)." What does the brand names mean? Thank you in advance!	20/06/2018 Brands refer to trademarks, standards or producers names.

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#	Submission date	Publication date	Question subject	Question	Answer
16	18/06/2018 17:16	20/06/2018 17:57	Lot 1 Clarifications request	<p>1. With regard to paragraph 2.2.5 of the document "Technical specifications lot 1", see if it is possible to use alternative test methods and equivalent to those required.</p> <p>2. With regard to par. 2.2.5 "Heavy metals" of the document "Technical specifications lot 1, we ask:</p> <p>a) in which document it is possible to consult the requested quantification limits - LOQ (excluded in question LOQ LOT 1 of 06/12/2018 09:22).</p> <p>b) It should also be noted that the evaluation criteria (inductively coupled plasma optical emission spectrometry - ICP-OES) are not met because they are low and above the performance limit of this instrumentation. The clarifications to this effect are clearly requested.</p> <p>3. With regard to paragraph 2.2.1 of the document "Specifications - part 2 - technical specifications of lot 1", please note that, if the offer is legal and operational in Italy, there will be no customs clearance charges for shipping samples to their premises.</p>	<p>20/06/2018</p> <p>1. As indicated in the Technical Specifications, the use of alternative methods would be acceptable provided that the tenderer can prove that the results would be equivalent to analysis by ICP-OES.</p> <p>2a. LOQs were provided in the Q&A n. 7 and further integrated with the Q&A n. 12.</p> <p>2b. The LOQs proposed were successfully used for analysing heavy metals in previous surveys (i.e. LUCAS 2009) through the same methodology (ICP-OES). This means that those LOQs can be detected by standard ICP-OES application. Therefore, we confirm those values. For more details on the methodology used in 2009, please refer to the publication "Validation of a horizontal method for trace elements in soil, sludge and biowaste" (free download available here: https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/publication/eur-scientific-and-technical-research-reports/validation-horizontal-method-trace-elements-soil-sludge-and-biowaste)</p> <p>3. As indicated in the Technical Specifications, the contractor is responsible for verifying all aspects related to the costs of sample</p>

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					related to the costs of sample transportation, including any customs clearance charges.

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17	19/06/2018 16:45	20/06/2018 17:57	Lot 1 Clarification requests on the Tender specifications, Part 1 Administrative Annex	<p>1) Tender specifications, Part 1 Administrative Annex (Lot 1) – Selection criterion T1 - Please clarify whether the monthly ratio of analysis in the last three years refer to last three solar years 2015/2016/2017 or to the period 31.05.2015 – 31.05.2018 being the three years before the publication of the contract notice.</p> <p>2) Tender specifications, Part 1 Administrative Annex (Lot 1)- in case we use a dedicated operator for the transport of the samples both in phase 1 and 2, would this be subcontracting and has it to be clarified in the offer? Does the subcontractor have to fill in the "Declaration on honour on the Exclusion and Selection Criteria" and the declaration proving its commitment and confirming that the tenderer will have at its disposal their resources necessary for the performance of the transport?</p> <p>3) Tender specifications, Part 1 Administrative Annex (Lot 1), point 2.1 – it is stated that where the value of the awarded contract is equal to or above EUR 144,000€ the successful tenderer shall be required to provide before contract signature and within a deadline given by the</p>	<p>20/06/2018</p> <p>1) Please consider the 3 years before the deadline for submitting the offers.</p> <p>2) We confirm that it is subcontracting. If the subcontractor is already identified, please include in your offer its declaration on honour and its declaration proving its commitment and confirming that the tenderer will have at its disposal their resources necessary for the performance of the transports.</p> <p>3) We confirm that the evidence F1, T1, T2, T3 and T4 shall be included in the offer.</p>

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				and within a deadline given by the Contracting Authority the some documentary evidence. However, in point 2.3.2 (economic and financial capacity) and 2.3.3 (technical and professional capacity) for the Evidence F1, T1, T2, T3 and T4 it is highlighted that the evidence shall be provided with the offer. Please confirm that we have to provide this evidence with the offer.	

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#	Submission date	Publication date	Question subject	Question	Answer
18	20/06/2018 17:15	21/06/2018 09:58	LOT2: ITS sequencing	Can tender participants offer improved primers to sequence fungal ITS1 and ITS2 region or are the requested primers completely mandatory? Is it allowed to propose sequencing fungal ITS as a single piece for improved taxonomic annotation purposes using any alternative high-throughput sequencing platform?	<p>21/06/2018 The aim of the offer is not to propose alternative primer sets, rather the overall service of DNA analysis from extraction to sequencing. The choice of primers does not affect the offer. The point to consider here is that two primer sets will be used for ITS. In addition, as reported in the Technical Specifications (see section 2.2.4.1), during the performance of the analysis, the contractor and the JRC can discuss any potential issues related to any step (included primer pair choice) of the analysis. Therefore, the possible change of primer sets will be discussed at the relevant time.</p> <p>21/06/2018 The use of an alternative high-throughput sequencing platform is not allowed. Tenderer shall use a single high-throughput sequencing platform, since it will allow a more accurate comparison of our data with other continental data sets.</p>

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#	Submission date	Publication date	Question subject	Question	Answer
19	20/06/2018 17:21	21/06/2018 10:00	LOT2: indexing	In the tender, ligation of Illumina indexes is requested for each PCR-amplified sample separately. Do you allow alternative method by using barcode-tagged primers and adding indexes to the equimolarly normalized and mixed pool of samples?	21/06/2018 As indicated in the Technical Specifications, the use of alternative methods would be acceptable provided that the tenderer can prove that the results would be equivalent to proposed methodology. In principle, we may accept the use of barcode-tagged primers provided that the method does not affect the overall performance of the sequencing, namely the number of obtained reads per sample is still significant to characterize the soil-living communities. The tenderers have to prove this in its offer.
20	20/06/2018 17:08	21/06/2018 10:01	LOT2:qPCR	Since the proposed requirements for quantification of antibiotic resistance genes are extremely specific, could the high-throughput qPCR of >100,000 reactions be replaced by somewhat more expensive Illumina HiSeq whole-metagenome sequencing given its lower vulnerability to inhibitors, lower detection limit, ability to detect variants with qPCR primer bias, and overall better coverage of all known antibiotic resistance genes?	21/06/2018 As indicated in the Technical Specifications, the use of alternative methods would be acceptable provided that the tenderer can prove that the results would be equivalent to analysis by high-throughput qPCR.

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#	Submission date	Publication date	Question subject	Question	Answer
21	23/06/2018 14:35	25/06/2018 10:30	subcontractor	Is it possible to join the tender as subcontractor in Lot.2 call? Our company provides only a service for the antibiotic resistance gene analysis using the SmartChip system-qPCR array method as mentioned in Muurinen et al. (2017). We can arrange the transport of DNA samples from the tender which will do the microbial community analysis to our Lab service in Helsinki, Finland.	25/06/2018 Yes, subcontracting is allowed. Please see § 1.2.2 and 1.2.3 of the Administrative Annex.
22	27/06/2018 18:52	28/06/2018 10:02	Submission of tender	In the Invitation letter it is written: " either by post or by courier not later than the time-limit specified under Heading IV.2.2 of the contract notice, in which case the evidence of submission shall be constituted by the postmark or the time-stamp of the deposit slip, to the address indicated above." It means that it is acceptable if on 2nd of July we send our tender offer and it is certified by the shipping company or the post? So the dispatch of the tender offer on the 2nd of July is acceptable or the offer has to arrive to Ispra for the deadline date? Thank you for your answer!	28/06/2018 You have to dispatch your offer by 2 July 2018 at the latest. It will arrive at Ispra a few days later.

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#	Submission date	Publication date	Question subject	Question	Answer
23	27/06/2018 12:23	28/06/2018 10:49	Locked documents: Declaration on honour on.... AND Draft service contract	<p>Is it possible to get these documents unlocked? There is not possible to fill them.</p> <p>Declaration on honour on...: locked on pages 4 and 5(Insert as many lines as necessary)</p> <p>Draft service contract: locked whole document</p> <p>Thank you</p>	<p>28/06/2018</p> <p>We've unlocked the Declaration on honour and all tables can be filled in. Please try again.</p> <p>You don't have to fill in the draft service contract.</p>
24	28/06/2018 11:31	28/06/2018 11:59	Modified Declaration of Honour...	<p>A new version of Declaration of Honour was uploded to the site today.</p> <p>Is it means that we will have to fill this form or the first version will be also acceptable?</p> <p>Thank you for your answer!</p>	<p>28/06/2018</p> <p>The previous version is fine. The one uploaded today is the same, we've unlocked the tables on page 4 and 5.</p>

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