

Call for tenders' details

Title: DNA Extraction and Whole Genome Sequencing Services for Pathogenic Micro-organisms

Start date: 13/06/2019

Time limit for receipt of tenders: 12/07/2019

Contracting authority: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)

Status: Closed

Call for tenders question list

#	Submission date	Publication date	Question subject	Question	Answer
1	19/06/2019 10:38	19/06/2019 17:20	Award criteria 4.2 : Interpretation of "good laboratory practice";	In the Tender Specifications document, point 4.2, the Award Criteria tables (lots 1-3) mention "good laboratory practice". Does this expression refer to formal accreditation in a quality system (GLP) or, in a more generic sense, to the conduct of sensible laboratory procedures?	19/06/2019 This refers to the level of any measures the tenderer has in place to ensure reliable, high-quality results, which can include accreditation and other documentation showing the adequacy of the followed laboratory procedures.

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2	19/06/2019 10:48	19/06/2019 17:27	1.4 consortium -Informal grouping	The Tender Specifications document, point 1.4, states that "a grouping..." can be "constituted informally for a specific tender procedure". Does such grouping entail specific documentation or is it just established by submitting a joint tender and listing the entities participating in the grouping?	19/06/2019 Indeed, a grouping can also be informally constituted in which case as indicated in the section 1.4 of the tender specifications, a document authorising the Leader to submit the tender on behalf of the other consortium members is needed. Please notice that each member of the consortium needs to have access to the ECDC's procurement procedure as indicated in the section 1.3 of the Tender specifications. Please see the relevant part again here below: "A consortium may be a permanent, legally-established grouping or a grouping which has been constituted informally for a specific tender procedure. Such grouping (or consortium) must specify the company or person heading the project (the leader) and must also submit a copy of the document authorising this company or person to submit a tender. All members of a consortium (i.e., the leader and all other members) are jointly and severally liable to ECDC. In addition, each member of the consortium must have access to ECDC's procurement procedures as stated in section 1.3, and provide the required evidence for the exclusion and selection criteria (see section 3). "

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3	19/06/2019 19:15	25/06/2019 11:19	3.2.2 Economic and financial capacity for consortium	This requirement states that “The tenderer must have for each of the past three financial years... an average annual turnover of at least € 350,000 for lot 1 and € 500,000 for each of lots 2 and 3”. In the cases of consortia and groupings, does this refer to the tenderer as a whole or to each of the members?	25/06/2019 The indicated requirement for financial capacity applies to the tenderer as a whole. Please see section 1.4 Participation of consortia of the tender specifications. “...Concerning the selection criteria, the evidence provided by each member of the consortium will be checked to ensure that the consortium as a whole fulfils the criteria.”

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4	26/06/2019 13:47	28/06/2019 14:10	Lot1: DNA Extraction:	<p>1. When do we need to ship the DNA on dried ice and when ambient temperature? 2. In your financial evaluation scenario you have 2 % of the samples included that will be shipped on ambient temperature. Is this referring to your assumed fraction of samples that need to be shipped ambient? 3. What are your experiences from the previous years in terms of batch sizes per shipment for DNA extraction? What is the assumed batch size per shipment? 4. Is there an advantage when we offer the high priority DNA extraction as well with shorter TAT?</p>	<p>28/06/2019</p> <p>1. The need for transportation on dry ice will be indicated in the order forms under the framework contract. It is likely that most of the samples will need to be sent on dry ice. 2. Lot 1 (DNA extraction) is mainly foreseen to be used for large multi-year WGS studies where sample numbers per shipment are large (see reply to question 3), and the samples need to be sent on dry ice. However, a small fraction of samples (estimated 2%) can be related to outbreak investigations where only a smaller number of samples need to be shipped, and these could be sent in ambient temperature. Please note that the reference scenario from the financial evaluation (Annex II) will be used for the financial evaluation – The discrepancy in the section 4.1.1.4. point 1 will be corrected shortly. 3. Starting from 2015, ECDC has had in place a framework contract for DNA extraction and WGS of four different foodborne pathogenic bacteria (ECDC/2015/022). However, the new framework contracts will include a wider variety of pathogens, and will also be used for larger WGS studies. The sample numbers per shipment for DNA extraction in the ECDC/2015/022 have been fairly small (median around 15 samples),</p>

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					small (median around 15 samples), whereas in the new framework contract an average shipment will likely contain more (hundreds of) samples, but still varying from less than 10 to hundreds. 4. This cannot be taken into account since it is not included in the award criteria.
5	26/06/2019 13:50	28/06/2019 14:28	Lot 3 sample numbers and batch size:	Lot 3: 1. As there is no commitment on sample numbers, what is the expected overall sample numbers referring to the previous years? 2. What are your experiences from the previous years in terms of batch sizes per shipment for Normal Priority WGS?	28/06/2019 1. The most likely overall sample numbers for normal priority WGS are included in the financial evaluation (Annex II). 2. The new framework contract for normal priority WGS will include a wider variety of pathogens than what has been ordered before and will also be used for larger WGS studies. Therefore the previous experience is not comparable. The sample numbers for an average shipment for normal priority WGS will likely contain more (hundreds of) samples, but still varying from less than 10 to hundreds.

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6	27/06/2019 16:14	01/07/2019 11:29	Lot 1 Questions regarding DNA extraction	<p>1) Would you be able to specify the specific species names described by "carbapenem-/colistin-resistant Enterobacteriaceae"? 2) Approximately how many cells will be sent per sample. In order to calculate a minimum estimated yield we need some information on the minimum expected sample input. 3) How will bacterial samples be shipped for DNA extraction? Will this be done exclusively in 96 well format? 4) How will you assess in instances with poor quality DNA whether this is due to poor sample input or poor extraction itself? What is the quantifiable definition of acceptable DNA quality?</p>	<p>01/07/2019</p> <p>1) Escherichia coli and Klebsiella pneumonia 2) As described in section 4.1.1.1, in their technical proposal, the tenderer must describe how the samples need to be sent to them so that they can extract DNA meeting the requirements mentioned in section 4.1.1.2 point 4. These requirements will be evaluated by ECDC as part of award criteria for lot 1 no. 2 "Quality of the proposed process for DNA extraction" ("Requirements for the provision of material by the sending laboratory: packaging, how much and what material to be provided, balanced with the feasibility of obtaining good-quality DNA"). 3) See previous reply. 4) As mentioned in section 2.2.1.1, upon receipt of the sample(s) the contractor verifies if the material was sent appropriately and meets the requirements as specified in their technical proposal. If not, the contractor notifies ECDC/EFSA and the sending organisation, and the sample is not processed and not charged for (or, if requested by ECDC/EFSA, the sample(s) can still be processed without guarantee on the quality of results). If the received sample(s) were verified by the contractor to comply with their requirements but the DNA extraction process gives poor results, the issues</p>

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					process gives poor results, the issues are assumed to relate to the extraction process performed by the contractor. The extracted DNA must comply with the requirements as stated in section 4.1.1.2 point 4 (min. extracted amount of double-stranded DNA (ng): 500, min. double-stranded DNA concentration (ng/μl): 20), and be suitable to be used as template for whole genome sequencing.

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7	26/06/2019 13:48	01/07/2019 11:41	Lot 2: Sample numbers and batch sizes	Lot 2: 1. Where is the DNA coming from for high priority samples as there is no LOT for high priority DNA extraction in this tender? 2. As there is no commitment on sample numbers, what is the expected overall sample numbers referring to the previous years? 3. What are your experiences from the previous years in terms of batch sizes per shipment for High Priority WGS?	01/07/2019 1. The DNA for high priority WGS samples will in most cases be extracted by national public health or food safety laboratories that are involved in multi-country outbreak investigations coordinated at the EU-level. There is a possibility to use also lot 1 for this, knowing that this might be time-consuming in the absence of specific lot for high priority DNA extraction. 2. Starting from 2015, ECDC has had in place a framework contract for DNA extraction and WGS (normal and high priority) of four different foodborne pathogenic bacteria (ECDC/2015/022). However, the new framework contracts will include a wider variety of pathogens, so the contracts are not comparable. The most likely overall sample numbers are included in the financial evaluation (Annex II) based on experiences from ECDC/2015/022 and estimations for additional pathogens. 3. For ECDC/2015/022, the median sample number per shipment for high priority samples has been around 10. However, the new framework contracts will include a wider variety of pathogens, so the contracts are not comparable.

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8	26/06/2019 16:25	01/07/2019 12:25	2.6 Place of Performance of contract	Is it Okay if assignment takes place also in the US?	01/07/2019 Please see section 2.6 of the Tender Specifications: All the tasks must be performed in EU/EEA.
9	03/07/2019 13:53	05/07/2019 13:19	Subcontractor location	As a provider located in within EU, is it possible to be the main contractor, but send the samples to a subcontractor outside EU for the actual services to be performed?	05/07/2019 No. Please see section 2.5 of the Tender Specifications: “ All tasks will be performed within EU/EEA”.

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