Call for tenders' details

Title: Support to R&I Strategy and Feedback to Policy in the Field of Smart Energy Systems

Start date: 20/03/2020

Time limit for receipt of tenders: 11/05/2020

Contracting authority: European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA)

Status: Closed

Call for tenders question list

#	Submission date	Publication date	Question subject	Question	Answer
		08/04/2020 18:57		specifications at Criterion T7 is written: "At least 5 years' experience in project management,	08/04/2020 In the context of this call for tenders, INEA defines 'projects with mediumsize project teams' as projects that involve at least four people contributing on a regular basis.

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2		08/04/2020 19:23		6 we cannot find any form. Thank you!	O8/04/2020 Annex 6 in the tender specifications should be understood as a placeholder for a detailed budget breakdown. Applicants must submit a budget breakdown along with their tenders. The budget breakdown should at least contain a breakdown of efforts per main task or work package and the average monthly or daily rate for this task. It should also show the budgeted expenses per task.

:	#	Submission date	Publication date	Question subject	Question	Answer
3		02/04/2020	17/04/2020	Guidance on the two in-depth policy reports (Task 2).	Can you please provide some guidance on what are the pratical Contracting authority's expectations with reference to the, at least, two in-depth policy reports to be defined with the ETIP SNET governing board and approved by INEA for Task 2?	The policy reports should be suited to support Member State and European policy makers with priority setting in research and innovation in the smart energy networks domain. They must address policy needs in this domain as identified by the European Commission. The subjects of these publications shall be defined with the ETIP SNET Governing Board and must be approved by INEA. The publications must be approved by the ETIP SNET Governing Board. As an example, applicants may refer to the report "Synergies and Complementarities of European and International Initiatives Towards Energy Transition" available from the ETIP SNET website at https://www.etip-snet.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/European-And-International-Initiatives-Towards-Energy-Transition.pdf. Applicants should however be aware that the number of pages and specific topic may differ significantly from this example.

#	Submission date	Publication date	Question subject	Question	Answer
4	02/04/2020 11:35	17/04/2020 14:43	Guidance on the hosting of the Integrated knowledge management and sharing platform (Task 7)	Can you provide some guidance on where shall the integrated knowledge management and sharing platform on smart grids and energy systems be hosted? At ETIP SNET's or BRIDGE's webpage?	17/04/2020 The knowledge management and sharing platform will be hosted on server(s) running within the European Commission's IT infrastructure.
5	02/04/2020 14:21	17/04/2020 14:44		expected to interact with Implementation	As indicated in the tender specifications, the technical and support office is expected to "support the meetings of the NSCG, in cooperation with the chair of the NSCG." The way of interaction between the NSCG and the Implementation Working Group SET PLAN Action 4 or the new Clean Energy Transition Partnership is not a subject of this call for tender.

#	Submission date	Publication date	Question subject	Question	Answer
6	09/04/2020 10:59	22/04/2020 12:49	References related to public funded projects for criterion T2	With regard to the selection criterion T2: do you also consider references related to public funded projects where the tenderer is officially a project partner? In such a case, we would consider the grant amount for the tenderer partner as indicated in the Grant Agreement signed with the grantor body.	Yes, references related to projects financed partly or completely through public funding and where the tenderer is contractually involved can be considered if this experience contributes to the requested capacity level of the tenderer. For such a reference, unlike suggested in the question, the tenderers' budget that was eligible for funding should be considered and not just the fraction covered by the grant.
7	09/04/2020 10:59	22/04/2020 12:51	Deliverables from public funded projects for criterion T5	T5: do you also consider as "reports published" the project deliverables prepared and authored	Yes, deliverables from projects with public funding may be considered if they are publicly accessible and if they contribute to the requested capacity level as specified for criterion T5. The role of the tenderer organisation in the preparation of these deliverables must be clearly indicated.

	#	Submission date	Publication date	Question subject	Question	Answer
8	3	09/04/2020 10:59			With regard to the criterion T10: in order to prove excellent English writing skills, could you clarify what is included/excluded within the term 'publications'? For example a project deliverable within a public funded project (e.g. by Horizon2020, LIFE, etc) is included? A patent or scientific paper co-authored by a tenderer person is included? A report realized and delivered to a client (but confidential) can be considered?	22/04/2020 As the term 'publication' implies, the pieces of evidence on the publication list must be publicly available. For example, scientific papers or project deliverables that have been published are acceptable. The role of the tenderer organisation in preparation of these publications must be clearly indicated. Unpublished reports delivered under confidentiality are not acceptable. Patents and patent applications are acceptable and tenderers must clarify which is their own contribution and in which role they contributed (inventor, applicant, patent attorney).
S)	09/04/2020 10:59		several selection criteria	If we consider more than a criterion, some provided evidences could be in common to satisfy the criteria considered. For examples, evidences provided for criterion T5 and T10 could be shared. Is it accepted in case one evidence satisfies more than one criterion?	22/04/2020 Yes, tenderers may use one piece of evidence to prove compliance with several criteria.

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1	0	09/04/2020 10:59	22/04/2020 12:56	Eligibility of ETIP SNET members and BRIDGE projects	Considering all involved entities of one tenderer, are organizations member/partner of the ETIP SNET and/or BRIDGES projects eligible to be involved within a tenderer team?	Yes, such organisations are eligible. Organisations that are a beneficiary of a BRIDGE project can at the same time be part of a tenderer. Also organisations with representatives that have been contributing to the ETIP SNET can be part of a tenderer. In order to ensure independence between the Technical and Support Office and the ETIP SNET, INEA requests that no representatives from the Contractor involved in the execution of the contract will hold any office in the governance of the ETIP SNET from the starting date of the performance of the contract.
1		14/04/2020 10:45	22/04/2020 13:01	Request for templates of documents to be submitted in Word	We would kindly ask you to provide us with the templates of the documents to be submitted, i.e. the Annexes from the tender specifications, in an editable format (Word), since PDF can not be edited.	22/04/2020 The relevant Annexes to the tender specifications in editable format will be made available for download on TED eTendering.

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	14/04/2020 11:12	22/04/2020 13:02		following approach of signing and submitting the Power of attorney is acceptable and compliant with the tendering procedure? Signing the Power of attorney in counterparts, each of which shall be deemed to be an original, but all of which, taken together, shall constitute one and the same document.	22/04/2020 Yes. The power of attorney is a document through which each Group member is giving powers to the Group leader and assuming obligations. Each Group member signs one individual power of attorney and sends it to the Group leader. The Group leader collects the individual powers of attorney from all Group members and submits them with the tender in e-Submission.

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1:	14/04/2020	22/04/2020 13:04	Volume dedicated to BRIDGE	According to section 1.4.3 of the tender specifications, tasks 1 to 4 are dedicated to ETIP SNET, tasks 5 and 6 to BRIDGE, and tasks 7 to 9 are transversal to ETIP SNET and BRIDGE. However, according to section 1.7 of the tender specifications related to the volume of the contract, task 7 is presented as being part of BRIDGE only: "INEA estimates that tenderers should dedicate 15 to 20% of the contract value to works serving the BRIDGE initiative (Task 5, Task 6, Task 7 and BRIDGE-related activities in Task 8 and Task 9) and the remaining share to works serving the ETIP SNET". Can you please clarify whether 100% of Task 7 budget should be taken into account in the 15-20% share of the total budget dedicated to BRIDGE, or whether only a share of Task 7 budget (corresponding to BRIDGE-related activities in Task 7) should be taken into account?	Only the share of the Task 7 budget that corresponds to BRIDGE-related activities should be taken into account for the 15-20% share of the total budget dedicated to BRIDGE.

#	Submission date	Publication date	Question subject	Question	Answer
14	14/04/2020	24/04/2020 15:58	Submission deadline	Considering the on-going Coronavirus outbreak in Europe, which is affecting our everyday work, and also considering that our teams, following the instructions by the local government, are operating on a reduced pace, and with home office options, we kindly ask you the possibility to extend the current deadline for a few weeks. Thank you in advance for your understanding and co-operation.	24/04/2020 The current situation is challenging in many ways and INEA has reflected carefully on whether or not to extend the deadline due to the difficulties that potential tenderers may be facing. In so doing, it has taken into account several factors. These include: the fact that different tenderers may be affected at different moments as the situation evolves in different regions; the fact that the preparatory work for such a tender can be done when working out of the office; the need to ensure that economic activity can accelerate quickly again once the current situation has improved; and the desirability of ensuring continuity of service with the existing INTENSYS4EU grant once it concludes at the end of September 2020. As a result, INEA has decided, on balance, to keep the published deadline.
15	14/04/2020 15:49	24/04/2020 16:03	Request for deadline extension	Due to the current restrictions, which many firms are facing due to the COVID-19 situation, we note that many other EC tenders have been given a deadline extension. Please confirm whether INEA is also considering an extension to the deadline for this specific tender.	24/04/2020 Please refer to Question 14 (Question14).

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16	16/04/2020 19:29	24/04/2020 16:09	Task 8 - "BRIDGE Exploitation monitoring"	Task 8, at the end of its description mentions the activity "BRIDGE Exploitation monitoring": could you please specify what is the purpose of this activity not listed in task 5 or 6?	24/04/2020 As described in the tender specifications (p.7) "BRIDGE fosters continuous knowledge sharing among projects. This should allow them to synthesize conclusions and recommendations for efficient exploitation of the project results in specific areas." The purpose of BRIDGE Exploitation monitoring in Task 8 is to track the activities and achievements of the BRIDGE projects in view of exploitation.
17	16/04/2020 19:34	24/04/2020 16:12	BRIDGE activities - Task "Edited reports with recommendations for EU policy makers"	Under BRIDGE activities, task 6, "Edited reports with recommendations for EU policy makers" are supposed to be published in May each year. According to the planning with General Assemblies (where priorities for reports with recommendations are defined) programmed in March each year, the time dedicated to the production of the "Edited reports with recommendations for EU policy makers" by WG/TF would only be of 2 months, wouldn't it be better with December of each year for the publication of these reports?"	24/04/2020 The subjects of these reports will be set by INEA in collaboration with DG ENER. The reports must be delivered in May each year as specified in the tender specifications.

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18	20/04/2020 10:40	24/04/2020 16:16	Rely on the capacities of affiliated companies for the technical and professional selection criteria	In case a mother company A submits the tender as leader of the consortium (group leader), and relies on the capacities (for the technical and professional selection criteria) of a company B owned by of the same mother company A, and where the company B will perform the works or services for which these capacities are required, is company B considered as "personnel" (in accordance with letter A of the paragraph 2.4.2. Subcontracting) or is considered as subcontractor?	24/04/2020 If company A will use workers posted by company B (owned by the same group and established in an EU Member State) these workers will be considered personnel. However, if the personnel of company B will contribute to the contract under the management of company B, then company B must be involved as a subcontractor or as Group member. In any case, company B must sign the commitment letter according to Annex 5.2. Please also carefully read the tender specifications, Section 2.4.
19	20/04/2020 12:35	24/04/2020 16:18	Criterion T8_Experience of the lead editor - Minimum level of capacity for the Basis for assessment	In accordance with the Criterion T8 of the tender specifications on the Experience of the lead editor for the Basis for assessment is written: "This criterion applies to a staff member of the tenderer appointed as project manager" is this correct? or the Minimum level of capacity for this criterion applies to a staff member of the tenderer appointed as Lead editor?	24/04/2020 This is indeed a clerical error. The basis for assessment under Criterion T8 must read "This criterion applies to a staff member of the tenderer appointed as lead editor."

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20	22/04/2020	24/04/2020		Could you please confirm that there is no need to send any original document by letter (tender report and Declaration on Honour) after the submission of the tenders? Please take into account that due to COVID-19 tenderers may have difficulties to print documents and send them by courier.	Unfortunately, we cannot confirm this. As indicated in the contract notice, section I.3, tenders or requests to participate must be submitted electronically via https://etendering.ted.europa.eu/cft/cft-display.html?cftId=6137 However, the invitation to tender indeed specifies, "When the Declaration(s) on Honour and/or the submission report are signed by hand, a scanned copy must be attached to the tender in e-Submission. The hand-signed originals must be sent by letter to the contracting authority's postal address specified under Heading I.1 of the contract notice at the latest on the first working day following the electronic submission of the tender. [] Only the originals of the Declaration(s) on Honour and the submission report are to be sent by letter, not other documents." 24/04/2020 Addendum to the previous answer: This requirement of sending hard copies cannot be waived. But if a tenderer is not able to send the documents in time due to the outbreak of COVID-19, INEA will be flexible and accept that the documents will be sent later.

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21	22/04/2020 11:36	24/04/2020 16:29	BRIDGE Exploitation monitoring activities definition	For task 8 at the end of its description mentions the following activity "BRIDGE Exploitation monitoring": could you please specify what is the purpose of this activity not listed in task 5 or 6?	24/04/2020 Please refer to Question16.
22	28/04/2020 14:19	04/05/2020 23:26	Deadline extension	Because the current situation regarding the outbreak of the COVID-19, some European countries are facing severe problems with mobility, restriction in the use of premises and possibility of holding meetings (among others). In consideration of the above exceptional circumstances and for the sake of equal opportunities to all participants, we kindly ask INEA to postpone the deadline for the delivery of the response for this Open Call for Tenders.	04/05/2020 Please refer to Question Question14.
23	28/04/2020 14:24	04/05/2020 23:28	Costs of the Governing Board meetings	Can you please explain if the costs related to the Governing Board meetings should be covered by the budget foreseen by the tenderer (venue and catering, etc.) or will be covered by the European Commission also in the event that they cannot be hosted by the EC?	O4/05/2020 Costs related to meetings of the Governing Board of the ETIP SNET should be covered by the budget foreseen by the tenderer. The European Commission does not intend to host these meetings.

# S	Submission date	Publication date	Question subject	Question	Answer
		04/05/2020 23:34	Definition of under the management and implications for company A and B	Can you please specify what you mean by the following sentence: "However, if the personnel of company B will contribute to the contract under the management of company B, then company B must be involved as a subcontractor or as Group member" as written in the answer of Question 18 published the 24/04/2020. Can you please also explain what "under the management" implies for company B and for company A? And, on the other side, can you also explain which are, in practical terms, the cases in which "If company A will use workers posted by company B (owned by the same group and established in an EU Member State) these workers will be considered personnel"?	

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					company B, then company B must be involved as a subcontractor or as Group member" describes a situation, where the personnel of company B contributes on behalf of company B. This is the normal situation of a service contract between two entities. In this situation, company B must be involved as a subcontractor or as Group member. "Under the management of company B" implies that the person in question receives day to day work orders from company B, in contrast to a seconded person that would receive work orders from company A.

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25		04/05/2020 23:36		specify what does "later" mean? Due to COVID-19 outbreak, some of the countries in Europe have implemented several mobility restrictions, having their offices closed with no expected date to open them again. This means printing declarations on Honour and sending them by post can be really difficult in some European countries. Therefore, we'd like to ask INEA to (1) disregard the obligation of sending the original documents by post INEA or (2) only	must be understood as "once the exceptional situation due to COVID-19 that prevents the tenderer from sending the signed original documents is over." The evaluation committee will check the exclusion criteria on the basis of the scanned documents as submitted via eSubmission. However, ultimately, the contract can only be awarded to a tenderer from which INEA will have

# 5	Submission date	Publication date	Question subject	Question	Answer
		04/05/2020 23:37	Secured section of ETIP SNET and BRIDGE websites (Task 8, pg 14)	Task 8 states that the website should provide "a secured section reserved for ETIP SNET members". Can you specify the purpose and functionalities of the current secured	The secured section of the ETIP SNET website serves to exchange information that should only be available to members of ETIP SNET. For the current ETIP SNET website, it contains a download section for documents (e.g., meeting minutes, presentations), a user profile section and a user manual accessible to all ETIP members; a content management section accessible to working group leaders; and an administration section for the site administrator. For the BRIDGE website such a secured section is not explicitly requested but tenderers may offer it if they consider it useful as a collaboration tool. The restricted area of the current BRIDGE website serves to exchange information that should be available to members of BRIDGE. It contains a download section for documents (e.g., working group papers), a user profile section and a content management section.

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2				collaboration among members of BRIDGE and ETIP SNET (Task 8, pg 15	communication and collaboration among members of BRIDGE and ETIP SNET (web conferencing system, file sharing, etc.), can you describe the current set of used tools? We understand that a proposal to improve collaboration is needed, but we also want that these changes to be as little disruptive as possible and ensure a smooth transition to the proposed systems.	O4/05/2020 INEA is not aware of which tools are currently used for internal communication and collaboration among the members of BRIDGE and ETIP SNET. Tenderers are free to propose the tools they consider fit for the purposes requested in the tender specifications. Please also note that the tender specifications emphasize the importance of good collaboration and this refers to collaboration at large rather than to the tools. However, although suggested by the question, the specifications do not explicitly mention a need to improve collaboration.

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2	3 29/04/2020 12:46	04/05/2020 23:39	Usage of 3rd party resources based on Europa Web Guide (Task 8 - pg 13, 14,16,17)	an internal IT Project or an existing	INEA is looking to implement the new websites for ETIP SNET and BRIDGE with similar functionality as the current ones. Moreover, content from the existing websites should be transferred, where this is possible legally and without unreasonable effort. Here INEA is mainly looking at reports, papers and presentations. At the same time, the new websites must fully comply with the requirements from the Europa Web Guide and, therefore, the tenderer may need to use different tools and refrain from using non-compliant third party resources. As emphasized in the tender specifications, the IT developments foreseen under this contract must be approved by the EC IT &Cybersecurity board before any development can start. INEA will iterate with the Contractor on the detailed specifications to seek clearance from this board during the first months of the contract. Therefore, tenderers are advised not to 'overspecify' these developments in their tenders and foresee a budget for the efforts these iterations may require.

#	Submission date	Publication date	Question subject	Question	Answer
29	29/04/2020 12:50	04/05/2020 23:40	Integrated Knowledge Management and Sharing platform (Task 7	Is the Knowledge Management and Sharing platform expected to be used internally by the working group members and task forces for knowledge sharing?	O4/05/2020 The knowledge management and sharing platform is targeted to all stakeholders in the field of smart energy systems in Europe. Hence, it is expected to be used by the workgroup members and task forces of ETIP SNET and BRIDGE but it should not be misunderstood as an internal collaboration tool.
30	29/04/2020 12:51	04/05/2020 23:43	Integrated Knowledge Management and Sharing platform (Task 7	Is it expected that the platform also exposes information to the public or a selected public (there is a reference in Task 8 "a download section for publications and the integrated knowledge management and sharing platform described under Task 7, or a link to this platform" suggesting that some sections of the platform will be publicly available)?	O4/05/2020 Yes, the knowledge management and sharing platform is targeted to all stakeholders in the field of smart energy systems in Europe. It should not be misunderstood as an internal collaboration tool for ETIP SNET and/or BRIDGE. O4/05/2020 This mentioning of the knowledge management and sharing platform is a clerical error. Tenderers are asked to disregard the phrase "and the integrated knowledge management and sharing platform described under Task 7, or a link to this platform" under Task 8 in Section 1.4.3.3.

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31		04/05/2020 23:45	Integrated Knowledge Management and Sharing platform (Task 7	Is it expected that the public information/sections of the Knowledge Management and Sharing Platform be visitor interactive (e.g. visitors outside working groups can create accounts and comment on resources, propose edits, request clarifications, etc.)?	O4/05/2020 The degree of interactivity, which the knowledge management and sharing platform should offer to visitors has not yet been specified. During the first months of the contract, INEA will iterate with the Contractor and the other European Commission services involved on the detailed specifications. Tenderers are advised to foresee a budget for these iterations.
32		04/05/2020 23:46	Integrated Knowledge Management and Sharing platform (Task 7)	Are these programs currently using any Knowledge Management and Sharing platform for current ETIP SNET/BRIDGE Activities or is this a completely new initiative?	O4/05/2020 ETIP SNET or BRIDGE are currently not using any knowledge management and sharing platform of the kind that INEA is looking to have developed under this contract. Nevertheless, the initiative is not entirely new as it must consolidate, integrate and link the knowledge created within previous and ongoing initiatives, databases and projects as listed under Task 7 in Section 1.4.3.3 of the tender specifications.

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33	29/04/2020 12:53	04/05/2020 23:47	Hosting of the ETIP SNET and BRIDGE websites and take-over (Task 9)	During the transition of the contract in September 2020, are the websites expected to be moved to a new hosting service/facility (as arranged by the EC)?	No, the current websites of ETIP SNET and BRIDGE are owned by members of the INTENSYS for EU consortium and will not be moved to a new hosting facility. INEA expects the Contractor to prepare new websites as specified under Task 8 and will iterate with the Contractor on the detailed specifications.
34	29/04/2020 12:53	04/05/2020 23:48	Hosting of the ETIP SNET and BRIDGE websites and take-over (Task 9	Does the Contractor need to provide hosting services until full transition to the Europa domain (M6)?	04/05/2020 No, the Contractor does not need to provide hosting services.
35	29/04/2020 12:54	04/05/2020 23:49	Hosting of the ETIP SNET and BRIDGE websites and take-over (Task 9)	If arranged by the EC, does the tenderer need to include any expenses with the hosting and support services in the offer?	O4/05/2020 Tenderers do not need to foresee expenses for hosting and support services for the hosting, but they should foresee an appropriate budget for minor service interventions on the websites.

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3			04/05/2020 23:52	Value and scope of past projects (in Evidences)	When reporting on the value of a project in relation to the various evidences where this is required, we understand that the EC requires the "total contract value for the tenderer". So two questions please: (1) if there is a Xm€ project and one consortium party delivered a portion of it, say y%, do we state the "total contract value for the tenderer" as Xm€ or as y%X? We understand you want Xm€ - please confirm. (2) if two consortium parties both delivered on the project, do we report the aggregate delivery scope of the parties or must we report them separately? We understand we can report the aggregate scope - please confirm. (3) and in case the two consortium parties can report in aggregate, and in case your answer to (1) above is y%X, then does that mean that they also report the aggregate percentage of the value of the work delivered by the two parties? We believe yes - please confirm.	On part (1) of this question, the answer is no. In this example, the total contract value for the tenderer that counts for the required experience would be y% of Xm€. On part (2) of this question, the answer depends on the scope of the work done by the two parties in the reference project. Tenderers must report the requested experience per selection criterion. If several consortium parties can contribute experience in the scope as addressed under Minimum level of capacity for a given criterion, tenderers may report this as an "aggregate scope." If, however, the work, which each of the parties has contributed to the reference project, would not satisfy the same selection criterion, the experience must not be aggregated as otherwise it cannot be allocated to the individual criteria. For example, if in a reference project one party has managed priority setting and roadmapping for fundamental research and the other party has managed priority setting and roadmapping for market-oriented innovation, these two scopes may be aggregated for selection criterion T1. If, however, the second party has not gained project management experience but organised

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					experience but organised dissemination workshops for the project, this scope may contribute to criterion T4 but not to T1 and the two scopes cannot be aggregated. On part (3) of the question, the answer is yes. If the scope covered individually by each of the parties can contribute to the level of capacity as requested for the same selection criterion, tenderers may report the aggregate value of the individual contract values for both contributors.

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