European Commission

Call for tenders JRC/PTT/2021/OP/1455

NL-Petten: Provision of Occupational Health, Safety and Environmental expertise to JRC Petten

Open procedure

TENDER SPECIFICATIONS

Part 1: Administrative specifications

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1. SCOPE AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PROCUREMENT

1.1. Contracting authority: who is the buyer?

This call for tenders is launched and managed by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Joint Research Centre, referred to as the *Contracting authority* for the purposes of this call for tenders.

1.2. Subject: what is this call for tenders about?

The subject of this call for tenders is NL-Petten: Provision of Occupational Health, Safety and Environmental expertise to JRC Petten.

1.3. Lots: is this call for tenders divided into lots?

This call for tenders is not divided into lots.

1.4. Description: what do we want to buy through this call for tenders?

The services that are the subject of this call for tenders, including any minimum requirements, are described in detail in the document *Tender specifications* – part 2: Technical specifications, hereafter referred to as *Technical specifications*.

Variants (alternatives to the model solution described in the tender specifications) are not allowed. The *Contracting authority* will disregard any variants described in a tender.

1.5. Place of performance: where will the contract be performed?

The services will be performed at the following locations:

- the location indicated under Heading II.2.3 of the contract notice
- occasionally and if allowed under the special contract the contractor's premises

1.6. Nature of the contract: how will the contract be implemented?

The procedure will result in the conclusion of a single framework contract.

A framework contract establishes a mechanism for future repetitive purchases by the *Contracting authority* to be awarded in the form of specific contracts. The signature of a framework contract does not impose an obligation on the *Contracting authority* to conclude specific contracts with a framework contractor.

The framework contract will be concluded with one contractor. Specific contracts shall be awarded on the basis of the terms laid down in the framework contract, refined or, in duly justified circumstances, supplemented to reflect the particular circumstances of the specific contract. The details are set out in Article I.4.3 of the draft contract.

Tenderers need to take full account of the provisions of the draft contract as the latter will define and govern the contractual relationship to be established between the *Contracting authority* and the successful tenderer. Special attention is to be paid to the provisions specifying the rights and obligations of the contractor, in particular those on payments, performance of the contract, confidentiality, and checks and audits.

1.7. Volume and value of the contract: how much do we plan to buy?

An indicative estimate of the volumes to be ordered over the whole duration of the framework contract is given in the financial model in *Annex 6*. These volumes are estimates only and there is no commitment as to the exact quantities to be ordered. The actual volumes will depend on the quantities which the *Contracting authority* will order through specific contracts. In any case the *framework contract ceiling*, i.e. the maximum amount to be spent under the framework contract, shall not be exceeded.

The framework contract ceiling is indicated in Heading II.2.6 of the contract notice.

1.8. Duration of the contract: how long do we plan to use the contract?

The contract resulting from the award of this call for tenders will be concluded for at most 48 months. The details of the initial contract duration and possible renewals are set out in Article I.3 of the draft contract.

1.9. Electronic exchange system: can exchanges under the contract be automated?

For all exchanges with the contractor during the implementation of the contract as well as for future possible subsequent proceedings for the purposes of EDES (<u>European Union's Early Detection and Exclusion System</u>) the *Contracting authority* may use an electronic exchange system meeting the requirements of Article 148 of <u>Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the <u>Union</u> ¹. At the request of the *Contracting authority* the use of such a system shall become mandatory for the contractor at no additional cost for the *Contracting authority*. Details on specifications, access, terms and conditions of use will be provided in advance.</u>

2. GENERAL INFORMATION ON TENDERING

2.1. Legal basis: what are the rules?

This call for tenders is governed by the provisions of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (the Financial Regulation)¹.

The *Contracting authority* has chosen to award the contract resulting from this call for tenders through an open procedure pursuant to Article 164(1) (a) of the Financial Regulation. In an open procedure any interested economic operator (any natural or legal person who offers to supply products, provide services or execute works) may submit a tender.

2.2. Rules on access to procurement: who may submit a tender?

Participation in this call for tenders is open on equal terms to all natural and legal persons coming within the scope of the <u>Treaties</u>, as well as to international organisations.

It is also open to all natural and legal persons established in a third country which has a special agreement with the European Union in the field of public procurement on the conditions laid down in that agreement. Where the Agreement on Government Procurement² concluded within the World Trade Organisation applies, the participation to this call for tenders is open to all natural and legal persons established in the countries that have ratified this Agreement, on the conditions laid down therein.

The rules on access to procurement do not apply to subcontractors. Subcontracting may not be used with the intent to circumvent the rules on access to procurement.

To enable *the Contracting authority* to verify the access, each tenderer must indicate its country of establishment (and in case of joint tender – the country of establishment of each group member) and must present the supporting evidence normally acceptable under the law of that country/-ies. The same document(s) could be used to prove country/-ies of establishment and the delegation(s) of the authorisation to sign as described in *Section 4.3*.

¹ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 (OJ L 193 of 30.07.2018, p.1).

² https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_E/gproc_e/gp_gpa_e.htm.

2.3. Registration in the Participant Register: why register?

Any economic operator willing to submit a tender for this call for tenders must be registered in the <u>Participant Register</u> - an online register of organisations and natural persons participating in European Commission's calls for tenders or proposals (participants).

On registering each participant obtains a Participant Identification Code (PIC, 9-digit number) which acts as its unique identifier in the Participant Register. A participant needs to register only once – the information provided can be further updated or re-used by the participant in other European Commission's calls for tenders or calls for proposals.

• Please provide information about the SME status of the participant in the Participant Register by filling in the SME Declaration section in the Participant Register. The section becomes available only when updating/modifying the details of the registered organisation.

At any moment during the procurement procedure the Research Executive Agency Validation Services (hereafter *the EU Validation Services*) may contact the participant and ask for supporting documents on legal existence and status. The requests will be made through the register's messaging system to the e-mail address of the participant's contact person indicated in the register. It is the responsibility of the participant to provide a valid e-mail address and to check it regularly. The documents that may be requested by *the EU Validation Services* are listed in the EU Grants and Tenders Rules on Legal Entity Validation, LEAR appointment and Financial Capacity assessment.

• Please note that a request for supporting documents by the *EU Validation Services* in no way implies that the tenderer has been successful.

2.4. Ways to submit a tender: how can economic operators organise themselves to submit a tender?

Economic operators can submit a tender either as a sole economic operator (sole tenderer) or as a group of economic operators (joint tender). In either case subcontracting is permitted.

In order to fulfil the selection criteria set out in **Section 3.2** the tenderer can rely on the capacities of subcontractors or other entities that are not subcontractors.

The role of each entity involved in a tender (hereafter referred to as "involved entity") must be clearly specified in the eSubmission application: i) sole tenderer, ii) Group leader of a group of tenderers, iii) member of a group of tenderers, or iv) subcontractor. For an entity on whose capacities the tenderer relies to fulfil the selection criteria (that is not a subcontractor), this role is defined in the commitment letter (Annex 5.2). This applies also where the involved entities belong to the same economic group.

2.4.1. Joint tenders

A joint tender is a situation where a tender is submitted by a group (with or without legal form) of economic operators regardless of the link they have between them. The group as a whole is considered a tenderer³.

All members of the group assume joint and several liability towards the *Contracting authority* for the performance of the contract as a whole.

Group members must appoint a *Group leader* and a single point of contact authorised to act on their behalf in connection with the submission of the tender and all relevant questions, clarification requests, notifications, etc., that may be received during the evaluation, award and until the contract signature. The model power of attorney attached in *Annex 3* is to be used.

The joint tender must clearly indicate the role and tasks of each member and of the *Group leader* who will act as the *Contracting authority*'s contact point for the contract's administrative or financial aspects and operational management. The *Group leader* will have full authority to bind the group and each of its members during contract execution. If the joint tender is successful, the *Contracting authority* shall sign the contract with the Group leader, authorised by the other members to sign the contract on their behalf via power of attorney drawn up in the model attached in *Annex 3*.

Changes in the composition of the group during the procurement procedure (after the submission deadline and before contract signature) shall lead to rejection of the tender except in case of a merger or takeover of a member of the group (universal succession), provided that the new entity has access to procurement (see **Section 2.2**) and is not in an exclusion situation, (see **Section 3.1**).

In any case the selection criteria must be still fulfilled by the group and the terms of the originally submitted tender may not be altered substantially, i.e. all the tasks assigned to the former entity must be taken over by the new entity member of the group, the change must not make the tender non-compliant with the tender specifications, and the evaluation of award criteria of the originally submitted tender may not be modified.

2.4.2. Subcontracting

Subcontracting is the situation where the contractor enters into legal commitments with other economic operators which will perform part of the contract on its behalf. The contractor retains full liability towards the *Contracting authority* for performance of the contract as a whole.

The following shall not be considered subcontracting:

a) Use of workers posted to the contractor by another company owned by the same group and established in a Member State ("intra-group posting" as defined by Article 1, 3,

³ References to *tenderer* or *tenderers* in this document shall be understood as covering both sole tenderers and groups of economic operators submitting a joint tender.

- (b) of <u>Directive 96/71/EC concerning the posting of workers in the framework of the provision of services</u>).
- b) Use of workers hired out to the contractor by a temporary employment undertaking or placement agency established in a Member State ("hiring out of workers" as defined by Article 1, 3, (c) of <u>Directive 96/71/EC concerning the posting of workers in the framework of the provision of services</u>).
- c) Use of workers temporarily transferred to the contractor from an undertaking established outside the territory of a Member State and that belongs to the same group ("intra-corporate transfer" as defined by Article 3, (b) of <u>Directive 2014/66/EU on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals in the framework of an intra-corporate transfer)</u>.
- d) Use of staff without employment contract ("self-employed persons working for the contractor"), without the tasks of the self-employed persons being particular well-defined parts of the contract.
- e) Use of suppliers and/or transporters by the contractor, in order to perform the contract at the place of performance, unless the economic activities of the suppliers and/or the transporting services are within the subject of this call for tenders (see *Section 1.4*).
- f) Performance of part of the contract by members of an EEIG (European Economic Interest Grouping), when the EEIG is itself a contractor or a group member.

The persons mentioned in points a), b), c) and d) above will be considered as "personnel" of the contractor as defined in the contract.

All contractual tasks may be subcontracted unless the *Technical specifications* expressly reserve the execution of certain critical tasks to the sole tenderer itself, or in case of a joint tender, to a member of the group.

By filling in the form available in *Annex 4*, tenderers are required to give an indication of the proportion of the contract that they intend to subcontract, as well as to identify and describe briefly the envisaged contractual roles/tasks of subcontractors meeting any of these conditions (hereafter referred to as *identified subcontractors*):

- on whose capacities the tenderer relies upon to fulfil the selection criteria as described under *Section 3.2*;
- whose individual share of the contract, known at the time of submission, is above 20%;

Any such subcontractor must provide the tenderer with a commitment letter drawn up in the model attached in *Annex 5.1* and signed by its authorised representative.

Changes concerning subcontractors identified in the tender (withdrawal/replacement of a subcontractor, additional subcontracting) during the procurement procedure (after the submission deadline and before contract signature) require the prior written approval of the *Contracting authority* subject to the following verifications:

- any new subcontractor is not in an exclusion situation;
- the tenderer still fulfils the selection criteria and the new subcontractor fulfils the selection criteria applicable to it individually, if any;
- the terms of the originally submitted tender are not altered substantially, i.e. all the tasks assigned to the former subcontractor are taken over by another involved entity.

the change does not make the tender non-compliant with the tender specifications, and the evaluation of award criteria of the originally submitted tender is not modified.

Subcontracting to subcontractors identified in a tender that was accepted by the *Contracting authority* and resulted in a signed contract, is considered authorised.

2.4.3. Entities on whose capacities the tenderer relies to fulfil the selection criteria

In order to fulfil the selection criteria a tenderer may also rely on the capacities of other entities, regardless of the legal nature of the links it has with them. It must in that case prove that it will have at its disposal the resources necessary for the performance of the contract by producing a commitment letter in the model attached in *Annex 5.2*, signed by the authorised representative of such an entity, and the supporting evidence that those other entities have the respective resources.

If the contract is awarded to a tenderer intending to rely on another entity to meet the minimum levels of economic and financial capacity, the *Contracting authority* may require the entity to sign the contract or, alternatively, to provide a joint and several first-call financial guarantee for the performance of the contract.

With regard to technical and professional selection criteria, a tenderer may only rely on the capacities of other entities where the latter will perform the works or services for which these capacities are required.

• Relying on the capacities of other entities is only necessary when the capacity of the tenderer is not sufficient to fulfil the required minimum levels of capacity. Abstract commitments that other entities will put resources at the disposal of the tenderer will be disregarded.

3. EVALUATION AND AWARD

The evaluation of the tenders that comply with the submission conditions will consist of the following elements:

- Check if the tenderer has access to procurement (see **Section 2.2**);
- Verification of administrative compliance (if the tender is drawn up in one of the official EU languages and the required documents signed by duly authorised representative(-s) of the tenderer);
- Verification of non-exclusion of tenderers on the basis of the exclusion criteria;
- Selection of tenderers on the basis of selection criteria;
- Verification of compliance with the minimum requirements specified in the procurement documents;
- Evaluation of tenders on the basis of the award criteria.

The *Contracting authority* will evaluate the abovementioned elements in the order that it considers to be the most appropriate. If the evaluation of one or more elements demonstrates that there are grounds for rejection, the tender will be rejected and will not be subjected to further full evaluation. The unsuccessful tenderers will be informed of the ground for rejection without being given feedback on the non-assessed content of their tenders. Only tenderer(s) for whom the verification of all elements did not reveal grounds for rejection can be awarded the contract.

The evaluation will be based on the information and evidence contained in the tenders and, if applicable, on additional information and evidence provided at the request of the *Contracting authority* during the procedure. If any of the declarations or information provided proves to be false, the *Contracting authority* may impose administrative sanctions (exclusion or financial penalties) on the entity providing the false declarations/information.

For the purposes of the evaluation related to exclusion and selection criteria *the Contracting authority* may also refer to publicly available information, in particular evidence that it can access on a national database free of charge.

3.1. Exclusion criteria

The objective of the exclusion criteria is to assess whether the tenderer is in any of the exclusion situations listed in Article 136(1) of the Financial Regulation.

Tenderers found to be in an exclusion situation will be rejected.

As evidence of non-exclusion each tenderer needs to submit with its tender a Declaration on Honour⁴ in the model available in *Annex* 2.⁵ The declaration must be signed by an authorised representative of the entity providing the declaration.

⁴ The European Single Procurement Document (ESPD) may not be used yet in European Commission's calls for tenders.

The initial verification of non-exclusion of tenderers will be done on the basis of the submitted declarations and consultation of the <u>European Union's Early Detection and Exclusion System</u>. The documents mentioned as supporting evidence in the Declaration on Honour need to be provided whenever requested and where this is necessary to ensure the proper conduct of the procedure within a deadline given by the *Contracting authority*⁶.

Annex 1 specifies which of the *involved entities* participating in a tender need to provide the Declaration on Honour and, when requested by *the Contracting authority*, the supporting evidence.

Before the award decision, the contracting authority may request documentary evidence on compliance on the exclusion criteria set out in the present tender specifications. All tenderers are invited to prepare in advance the documents related to the evidence, since they may be requested to provide such evidence within a short deadline. Failure to provide valid documentary evidence within the deadline set by the Contracting Authority shall lead to the rejection of the tender for the award of the contract, unless the tenderer can justify the failure on the grounds of material impossibility.

Please note that a request for evidence in no way implies that the tenderer has been successful.

3.2. Selection criteria

The objective of the selection criteria is to assess whether the tenderer has the legal, regulatory, economic, financial, technical and professional capacity to perform the contract.

The selection criteria for this call for tenders, including the minimum levels of capacity, the basis for assessment and the evidence required, are specified in the following subsections.

Tenders submitted by tenderers not meeting the minimum levels of capacity will be rejected.

When submitting its tender each tenderer shall declare on honour that it fulfils the selection criteria for the call for tenders. The model Declaration on Honour available in *Annex 2* shall be used.

The initial assessment of whether a tenderer fulfils the selection criteria will be done on the basis of the submitted declaration(s).

- if the same documents have already been provided in a previous award procedure of the European Commission, have been issued no more than one year before the date of their request by the *Contracting authority* and are still valid at that date;

⁵ Unless the same declaration has already been submitted for the purposes of another award procedure of the European Commission, the situation has not changed, and the time elapsed since the issuing date of the declaration does not exceed one year.

⁶ The obligation to provide the supporting evidence will be waived in the following situations:

⁻ if such evidence can be accessed by the *Contracting authority* on a national database free of charge, in which case the economic operator shall provide *the Contracting authority* with the internet address of the database and, if needed, the necessary identification data to retrieve the document;

⁻ if there is a material impossibility to provide such evidence.

The subsections below specify which selection criteria evidence must be provided with the tender or may be requested later, at any time during the procurement procedure⁷. In any case, to the extent that there is no ground for a waiver, the evidence must be provided, upon request and within a deadline given by the *Contracting authority*. The evidence must be provided in accordance with the applicable basis for assessment of each criterion: in case of a consolidated assessment – only by the *involved entities* who contribute to the fulfilment of the criterion, and in case of individual assessment – by each *involved entity* to whom the criterion applies individually.

Before the award decision, the contracting authority may request documentary evidence on compliance with the selection criteria set out in the present tender specifications. All tenderers are **invited to prepare in advance the documents related to the evidence**, since they may be requested to provide such evidence in a short deadline. In any event, the tenderer proposed by the evaluation committee for the award of the contract, will be requested to provide such evidence.

Failure to provide valid documentary evidence within the deadline set by the Contracting Authority shall lead to the rejection of the tender for the award of the contract, unless the tenderer can justify the failure on the grounds of material impossibility.

3.2.1. Legal and regulatory capacity

Tenderers must prove that they have legal capacity to perform the contract and the regulatory capacity to pursue the professional activity necessary to carry out the work subject to this call for tenders.

The legal and regulatory capacity shall be proven by the evidence listed below:

- Proof of enrolment in a relevant trade or professional register
- Proof of authorisation that the tenderer is authorised to perform the contract in its country of establishment

All of the above specified evidence of legal and regulatory capacity must be provided with the tender and it applies to each member of the group in case of a joint tender.

⁷ The obligation to provide the supporting evidence will be waived in the following situations:

⁻ if the same documents have already been provided in a previous award procedure of the European Commission and are still up-to-date;

⁻ if such evidence can be accessed by the *Contracting authority* on a national database free of charge, in which case the economic operator shall provide the *Contracting authority* with the internet address of the database and, if needed, the necessary identification data to retrieve the document.

3.2.2. Economic and financial capacity

Tenderers must comply with the following selection criteria in order to prove that they have the necessary economic and financial capacity to perform the contract.

Criterion F1	
Minimum level of capacity	Average yearly turnover of the last two financial years above EUR 700.000.
Basis for assessment	This criterion applies to the tenderer as a whole, i.e. a consolidated assessment of the combined capacities of all <i>involved entities</i> will be carried out.
Evidence	Copy of the profit and loss accounts and balance sheets for the last two years for which accounts have been closed from each concerned <i>involved entity</i> , or, failing that, appropriate statements from banks. The most recent year must have been closed within the last 18 months.

All of the above specified evidence of economic and financial capacity must be provided with the tender.

3.2.3. Technical and professional capacity

Tenderers must comply with the following selection criteria in order to prove that they have the necessary technical and professional capacity to perform the contract.

Criterion T1	
The tenderer must have the capacity to employ quality assurance measures to ensure the quality of provided services.	
Minimum level of capacity	The quality assurance measures must comply with ISO 9001
	(or equivalent)
Basis for assessment	This criterion applies to the tenderer as a whole, i.e. the
	combined capacities of all involved entities.
Evidence	A certificate drawn up by independent bodies, or other
	evidence of equivalent measures proving compliance with
	the minimum requirements.

Criterion T2	
The tenderer must propose at least 2 persons for the profile 'expert in occupational health and safety (OHS)' and at least 2 persons for the profile 'expert in environmental management (EM)'.	
Minimum level of capacity	Each of the persons proposed for the profile of OHS expert must have:
	— at least a higher vocational degree or bachelor's degree in an area related to occupational health and safety(or equivalent) attested by a diploma,

- at least comprehension of the Dutch language at level C2 (spoken and written) and the English language at level C1 (spoken and written) in accordance with Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. The exact level of language proficiency must be indicated assessment grid http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/
- at least 5 years of professional experience in the area of OH&S (following the award of the diploma demonstrating minimum educational qualification requirements). The CVs (see tender documentation) have to prove that the persons proposed each have expertise in the following specific areas for the following minimum number of months:
- a) hazard identification and risk assessments at least 24 months;
- b) hazardous substances safety including determination of exposure levels at least 12 months;
- c) development of domain-related work procedures/instructions at least 12 months;
- d) safety at construction site (i.e. safety and health plans at construction site) at least 12 months;
- e) follow-up and assistance with the implementation of new legislation at least 24 months.

Each of the persons proposed for the profile of EM expert must have:

- at least a bachelor's degree in an area related to environmental science (or equivalent) followed by a Master of Science degree in an area related to environment (or equivalent) attested by a diploma,
- at least comprehension of the Dutch language at level C2 (spoken and written) and the English language at level C1 (spoken and written) in accordance with Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. The exact level of language proficiency must be indicated assessment grid http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/
- at least have followed training covering the domains 'Dutch environmental legislation and practices' and 'auditing environmental management systems',
- at least 5 years of professional experience in the area of environmental management (following the award of the master's degree diploma demonstrating minimum

	educational qualification requirements). The CVs have to prove that the persons proposed each have expertise in the following specific areas:
	a) development of domain-related work procedures/instructions — at least 12 months;
	b) direct interactions and negotiations with environmentally responsible authorities — at least 12 months;
	c) follow-up and assistance with the implementation of new legislation — at least 24 months;
	d) management of environment aspect register — at least 12 months;
	e) environmental reporting according to a certified environmental management system — at least 12 months.
Basis for assessment	This criterion applies to the tenderer as a whole, i.e. the combined capacities of all involved entities.
Evidence	The curriculum vitae of the proposed persons including supporting documents must be provided in order to confirm that the minimum requirements have been met. The precise contractual link with the tenderer must be specified. It is reminded that freelancing qualifies as subcontracting.

Criterion T3			
The tenderer must prove experience in the provision of consultancy services in the areas of a) occupational health and safety (OHS) and b) environmental management (EM)			
Minimum level of capacity	Experience in the provision of consultancy services in the areas of a) occupational health and safety (OHS) and b) environmental management (EM) executed in the past 5 years.		
	The (set up of the) project activity reference form (PARF) shall be used to give details about relevant projects and/or activities performed under the contracts which the tenderer wants to present as proof of the tenderer's experience with the execution of services comparable to some of those defined under Chapter 3 of the technical specifications, in particular: • for category 1 services (S), the scope and activities as mentioned in points 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 in Chapter 3 of the technical specifications; • for category 2 services (S), the scope and activities as mentioned in points 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 12 in Chapter 3 of the technical specifications; — a minimum of 1 contract related to consultancy services		

	in at least one of the related areas (OHS or EM) for a scientific organisation (e.g. research centre, university, R&D department), — a minimum of 1 contract shall relate to a minimum involvement of 160 man-hours duration.
Basis for assessment	This criterion applies to the tenderer as a whole, i.e. the combined capacities of all involved entities.
Evidence	Tenderers shall provide information about past contracts which shall include details regarding the contractual amounts, dates, recipients (both public and private), and a description of the tasks performed.
	The minimum duration of such reference contracts shall be 40 man-hours in order to be considered. In the case of contracts still ongoing, only the portion executed during the reference period will be taken into consideration.
	As supporting documents for each project reference the Contracting authority may request statements issued by the clients and take contact with them.

delta All of the above specified evidence of technical and professional capacity must be provided with the tender.

Involved entities must not be subject to conflicting interests which may negatively affect the contract performance. Where the *Contracting authority* has established such conflicting interests, it may conclude that the tenderer or an involved entity does not possess the required professional capacity to perform the contract to an appropriate quality standard.

The presence of conflicting interests shall be examined during the evaluation phase based on the statements made through the Declarations on Honour and, where applicable, the commitment letters (*Annex 5.1 and Annex 5.2*).

3.3. Compliance with the minimum requirements specified in the procurement documents

By submitting a tender a tenderer commits to perform the contract in full compliance with the terms and conditions of the procurement documents for this call for tenders. Particular attention is drawn to the minimum requirements specified in the Technical specifications document (Tender specifications – part 2) and to the fact that tenders must comply with applicable data protection, 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.

The minimum requirements shall be observed throughout the entire duration of the contract. Compliance with these requirements is mandatory and cannot be subject to any assumptions, limitations, conditions, or reservations on the part of a tenderer.

d Tenders that are not compliant with the applicable minimum requirements shall be rejected.

3.4. Award criteria

The objective of the award criteria is to evaluate the tenders with a view to choosing the most economically advantageous tender.

The contract shall be awarded to the tender with the best price-quality ratio on the basis of the following criteria:

Technical quality (TQ) (max. 30 points)
 Price (P) (max. 70 points)

The sum of the above criteria will determine the total score (TS) of a tender:

TS = TQ + P

The highest total score TS will determine the tender with the best price-quality ratio. A maximum of 100 points can be obtained.

The total score will be rounded to one decimal place.

Price P

The **price** criterion **P** shall be evaluated as follows.

A maximum of 70 points will be obtained by the tender offering the lowest price, which is compliant with the Tender Specifications and submitted by a tenderer not in an exclusion situation.

The other tenders shall be ranked according to the following formula:

 $P = (Pmin/Po) \times 70$

where

P: price points of each offer

Po: price of each offer

Pmin: price of the lowest price offer

70: maximum price points obtainable

The price considered for evaluation will be the total price of the offer, covering all the requirements and all options if applicable as set out in the Tender Specifications.

The total price must be a fixed amount including all charges (all-inclusive price).

Total price will be rounded to one decimal place

Quality TQ

The quality of the tender will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

Document to be provided concerning the technical award criteria:

A document presenting the tenderer's approach to guarantee the effective performance of the required services in accordance with the Technical Specifications. It is important to notice, that not only the qualifications of the service providers are listed, but also a description is given which methods will be applied when the services are provided.

The document shall contain the following points as listed below:

- Proposed methodology to perform the demands of the JRC Petten as set out in the Technical Specifications at the highest possible quality standards including allocated resources guaranteeing effective implementation of the services to be provided and continuity of the services.
- Proposed methodology that will be applied to ensure the follow up of demands and the timeliness of proposed deliverables.
- Methodology that will be applied to ensure the quality and relevance of the proposed deliverables.

Evaluation of the technical award criteria

The technical award criteria are intended to assess the **quality of the tenders** based on the proposal of the tenderer. The criteria concerning the ability or capacity of the tenderers such as previous experience, professional education which are taken into account for the evaluation of the selection criteria will not be taken into account for the evaluation of the award criteria. The technical evaluation will be based on the following criteria:

Technical award criteria	Maximum
	number of
	points
	(Threshold)

guarantee effective performance of the required services in	30 (16)
accordance with the Technical Specifications will be evaluated in connection with the following sub-criteria:	
Robustness of the proposed methodology to fulfil the demands of the JRC Petten at the highest possible quality standards including allocated resources guaranteeing effective implementation of the services to be provided, whilst continuity of the services is guaranteed	12 (6)
Appropriateness of methods that will be applied to ensure the follow up of demands and the timeliness of proposed deliverables	9 (5)
Appropriateness of methods that will be applied to ensure the quality and relevance of the proposed deliverables	9 (5)
Total number of points	30 (16)

The result of the technical evaluation is the sum of the number of points obtained as a result of the evaluation of each sub-criterion.

Points will be awarded in accordance with the assessment table below:

Point range - % of the maximum score per (sub-) criterion	Description
0 – 20 % Very poor	The proposal fails to address the criterion under examination or cannot be judged due to missing or incomplete information.
21 – 40 % Poor	There are substantial weaknesses in relation to the criterion in question.
41 – 60 % Fair	The proposal addresses the criterion; although there are shortcomings, its content is considered fair.
61 – 80 % Good	The proposal addresses the criterion well; any shortcomings are minor and its content is considered of value.
81 – 100 % Excellent	The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question; its content is considered of excellent quality.

Tenders that do not reach the minimum quality threshold (per sub-award criterion and per total) will be rejected and will not be ranked. The points for the technical quality will be rounded to 1 decimal place.

3.5. Award (ranking of tenders)

Tenders shall be ranked according to the best price-quality ratio in accordance with the formula below:

Should the outcome of the formula lead to two or more tenders with the same result, the tenders with lower price will be ranked higher than the tenders with higher price.

• The contract shall be awarded to the tender ranked first, which complies with the minimum requirements specified in the procurement documents and is submitted by a tenderer having access to procurement, not in an exclusion situation and fulfilling with the selection criteria.

4. FORM AND CONTENT OF THE TENDER

4.1. Form of the tender: how to submit the tender?

Tenders are to be submitted via the eSubmission application according to the instructions laid down in the Invitation to tender letter and the eSubmission Quick Guide.

Make sure you prepare and submit your electronic tender in eSubmission early enough to ensure it is received within the deadline specified under Heading IV.2.2 of the contract notice.

4.2. Content of the tender: what documents to submit with the tender?

The documents to be submitted with the tender in eSubmission are listed in *Annex 1*.

The following requirements apply to the technical and financial offer to be uploaded in eSubmission:

Technical offer.

The technical offer must provide all the information needed to assess the compliance with the Technical specifications document (Tender specifications – part 2) and the award criteria. Tenders deviating from the minimum requirements or not covering all the requirements may be rejected on the basis of non-compliance and not evaluated further.

• Financial offer.

A complete financial offer, including the breakdown of the price needs to be uploaded. For this purpose, the Financial Model in *Annex 6* shall be completed and uploaded in eSubmission. The total amount of the offer as indicated in cell **E9** must be encoded in the field "Total amount" under the section "Tender data" in eSubmission.

It is the responsibility of each tenderer to ensure that the total amount of the tender inserted in the eSubmission field "Total amount" corresponds to the amount indicated in the uploaded financial offer. In case of discrepancies, only the amount indicated in the financial offer will be taken into account.

The financial offer shall be:

- expressed in euros. Tenderers from countries outside the euro zone have to quote their
 prices in euro. The price quoted may not be revised in line with exchange rate
 movements. It is for the tenderer to bear the risks or the benefits deriving from any
 variation.
- quoted free of all duties, taxes and other charges, i.e. also free of VAT.

♦ The European Union Institutions are exempt from such charges in the EU under Articles 3 and 4 of the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the European Union of 8 April 1965 annexed to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. Exemption is granted to the Commission by the governments of the Member States, either through refunds upon presentation of documentary evidence or by direct exemption.

In case of doubt about the applicable VAT system, it is the tenderer's responsibility to contact his or her national authorities to clarify the way in which the European Union is exempt from VAT.

4.3. Signature policy: how can documents be signed?

Where a document needs to be signed, the signature must be either hand-written or a qualified electronic signature as defined in <u>Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 on electronic identification</u> and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market (the *eIDAS Regulation*).

For hand-written signatures see Section 1 of the Invitation to tender.

For electronic signatures see: https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/wikis/x/YIrgIw

All documents must be signed by the signatories (when they are individuals) or by their duly authorised representatives.

For the following documents, when signed by representatives, tenderers must provide evidence for the delegation of the authorisation to sign:

- The Declaration on Honour of the tenderer (in case of joint tender the Declarations on Honour of all group members);
- (If applicable in the case of joint tender) the power(s) of attorney drawn up using the model attached in *Annex 3*).

The delegation of the authorisation to sign on behalf of the signatories (including, in the case of proxy(-ies), the chain of authorisations) must be evidenced by appropriate written evidence (copy of the notice of appointment of the persons authorised to represent the legal entity in signing contracts (together or alone), or a copy of the publication of such appointment if the legislation which applies to signatory requires such publication or a power of attorney). A document that the *Contracting authority* can access on a national database free of charge does not need to be submitted if the *Contracting authority* is provided with the exact internet link and, if applicable, the necessary identification data to retrieve the document.

4.4. Confidentiality of tenders: what information and under what conditions can be disclosed?

Once the *Contracting authority* has opened a tender, it becomes its property and shall be treated confidentially, subject to the following:

- For the purposes of evaluating the tender and, if applicable, implementing the contract, performing audits, benchmarking, etc., the *Contracting authority* is entitled to make available (any part of) the tender to its staff and the staff of other Union institutions, agencies and bodies, as well to other persons and entities working for the *Contracting authority* or cooperating with it, including contractors or subcontractors and their staff provided that they are bound by an obligation of confidentiality.
- After the signature of the award decision tenderers whose tenders were received in accordance with the submission modalities, who have access to procurement, who are not found to be in an exclusion situation referred to in Article 136(1) of the FR, who are not rejected under Article 141 of the FR, whose tenders are not found to be

incompliant with the procurement documents, and who make a request in writing will be notified of the name of the tenderer to whom the contract is awarded, the characteristics and relative advantages of the successful tender and the price of the offer and/or contract value. The *Contracting authority* may decide to withhold certain information that it assesses as being confidential, in particular where its release would prejudice the legitimate commercial interests of economic operators or might distort fair competition between them. Such information may include, without being limited to, confidential aspects of tenders such as unit prices included in the financial offer, technical or trade secrets⁸.

• The *Contracting authority* may disclose the submitted tender in the context of a request for public access to documents, or in other cases where the applicable law requires its disclosure. Unless there is an overriding public interest in disclosure⁹, the *Contracting authority* may refuse to provide full access to the submitted tender, redacting the parts (if any) that contain confidential information, the disclosure of which would undermine the protection of commercial interests of the tenderer, including intellectual property.

The Contracting authority will disregard general statements that the whole tender or substantial parts of it contain confidential information. Tenderers need to mark clearly the information they consider confidential and explain why it may not be disclosed. The Contracting authority reserves the right to make its own assessment of the confidential nature of any information contained in the tender.

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⁸ For the definition of trade secrets please see Article 2 (1) of DIRECTIVE (EU) 2016/943 on the protection of undisclosed know-how and business information (trade secrets) against their unlawful acquisition, use and disclosure.

⁹ See Article 4 (2) of the REGULATION (EC) No 1049/2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents.

APPENDIX: LIST OF REFERENCES

Award criteria	See Section 3.4
Contracting authority	See Section 1.1
Entities on whose capacities the tenderer relies to fulfil the selection criteria	See Section 2.4.3
EU Validation services	See Section 2.3 EU Grants and Tenders Rules on Legal Entity Validation, LEAR appointment and Financial Capacity assessment
Exclusion criteria	See Section 3.1
Financial Regulation	Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union
Framework contract	See Section 1.6
Framework contract ceiling	See Section 1.6
Identified subcontractors	See Section 2.4.2
Involved entities	See Section 2.4
Joint tender	See Section 2.4.1
Participant Register	See Section 2.3 https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/participant-register The section 2.3
Selection criteria	See Section 3.2
Sole tenderer	See Section 2.4
Subcontracting/subcontractor	See Section 2.4.2
Treaties	The EU Treaties: https://europa.eu/european-union/law/treaties_en

ANNEXES

Annex 1. List of documents to be submitted with the tender or during the procedure $\frac{1}{2}$

Description	Sole tenderer			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	When and where to submit the document?	Instructions for uploading in eSubmission (if applicable)		
•		Group leader	Member of the group				How to name the file?	Where to upload?
1. Identification and i	nformation	about the	tenderer.					
eSubmission view								
•								
Ways to submit		Par	ties		Tender data	Submission repo	ort	Submit
Declaration on Honour on Exclusion and Selection Criteria (see Section 3.1) model in Annex 2. Declaration on Honour on						With the tender in eSubmission	'Declaration on Honour'	With the concerned entity under 'Parties' →'Identification tenderer' →'Attachments'→'Declaration on Honour'.
exclusion and selection criteria								For entities on whose capacity is being relied and who are not subcontractors, the document must be uploaded in the section of the Sole tenderer or Group leader:
								→'Identification tenderer' →'Attachments'→'Other

								documents'.
Evidence that the person signing the documents is an authorised representative of the entity ¹⁰	\boxtimes	\boxtimes	\boxtimes			With the tender in eSubmission	'Authorisation to sign' documents'.	With the concerned entity under 'Parties' →'Identification tenderer' →'Attachments'→'Other documents'.
Power of attorney (see Section 2.4.1) model in Annex 3. Power of attorney						With the tender in eSubmission	'Power of attorney'	In the Group leader's section under 'Parties' →'Identification tenderer' →'Attachments'→'Other documents'.
List of identified subcontractors (see Section 2.4.2) model in Annex 4. List of identified subcontractors						With the tender in eSubmission	"List of identified subcontractors"	In the Sole tenderer's or the Group leader's section under 'Parties' →'Identification tenderer' →'Attachments'→'Other documents'.
Commitment letter (see Section 2.4.2 and 2.4.3)				(model in Annex 5.1)	(model in Annex 5.2)	With the tender in eSubmission	'Commitment letter'	With the concerned entity under 'Parties' →'Identification tenderer' →'Attachments'→'Other documents'.
Evidence of non-exclusion (see Section 3.1)	\boxtimes	\boxtimes	\boxtimes			Only upon request by <i>the</i> Contracting authority. At any time during the procedure	n.a.	n.a.

¹⁰ A document that the Contracting authority can access on a national database free of charge does not need to be submitted if the Contracting authority is provided with the exact internet link and, if applicable, the necessary identification data to retrieve the document.

Evidence of legal existence and status		\boxtimes	\boxtimes			With the tender in eSubmission	n.a.	n.a.
Evidence of legal capacity (see Section 3.2.1)		\boxtimes				With the tender in eSubmission	n.a.	n.a.
Evidence of economic and financial capacity F1 (see Section 3.2.2)	The documents must be provided only by the <i>involved entities</i>					With the tender in eSubmission	'Balance_sheet_ entity_year" Profit_Loss_Acc ount_entity_year	With the Group leader or the sole tenderer under 'Parties' →'Identification tenderer' →'Attachments'→'Economic and financial capacity'.
Evidence of technical and professional capacity (see Section 3.2.3)	who contribute to reaching the minimum capacity level The documents must be provided only by the involved entities who contribute to reaching the minimum capacity level				ed	With the tender in eSubmission	'Evidence of technical and professional capacity - T1' 'Evidence of technical and professional capacity - T2' 'Evidence of technical and professional capacity - T3'	With the Group leader or the sole tenderer under 'Parties' →'Identification tenderer' →'Attachments'→'Technical and professional capacity'.

2. Tender data.	1						<u>'</u>		
eSubmission view									
•			•		-				
Ways to submit		P	arties		Tender data	Submission rep	oort	Submit	
Failure to upload the fo	llowing doci	uments in e	Submission	will lead to rejec	ction of the tender.				
Technical offer	\boxtimes	\boxtimes				With the tender	'Technical offer'	Under section 'Tend →'Technical offer'	er Data'
(see Section 4.2)						in eSubmission			
Financial offer	X	\boxtimes				With the tender	'Financial offer'	Under 'Tender Data' →'Financial offer'	
(see Section 4.2)						in eSubmission		7 I manetar oner	
model in Annex 6									

Annex 2. Declaration on Honour on exclusion and selection criteria. (Annex 2 is published as a separate document)

Annex 3. Power of attorney

Call for tenders JRC/PTT/2021/OP/1455 -

NL-Petten: Provision of Occupational Health, Safety and Environmental expertise to JRC Petten

POWER OF ATTORNEY

The undersigned:

- Signatory (Name, Function, Company, Registered address, VAT Number) having the legal capacity required to act on behalf of his/her company,

HEREBY AGREES TO THE FOLLOWING:

- 1) To submit a joint tender as a member of a group of tenderers (the Group), constituted by Company 1, Company 2, Company N (Group members), and led by Company 1 (Group leader), in accordance with the conditions specified in the tender specifications and the terms specified in the tender to which this Power of attorney is attached.
- 2) If the *Contracting authority* awards the contract resulting from this call for tenders to the *Group* on the basis of the joint tender to which this power of attorney is attached, all *Group members* shall be considered parties to the contract in accordance with the following conditions:
 - (a) All *Group members* shall be jointly and severally liable towards the *Contracting authority* for the performance of the contract.
 - (b) All *Group members* shall comply with the terms and conditions of the contract and ensure the proper delivery of their respective share of the services and/or supplies subject to the contract.
- 3) Payments by the *Contracting authority* related to the services and/or supplies subject to the Contract shall be made through the bank account of the *Group leader*: [Provide details on bank, address, account number].
- 4) The *Group members* grant to the *Group leader* all the necessary powers to act on their behalf in the submission of the tender and the conclusion of the contract, including:
 - (a) The *Group leader* shall submit the tender on behalf of all *Group members* and indicate in the "Tender Contact Info" section in eSubmission the name and e-mail address of an individual single point of contact authorised to communicate officially with the *Contracting authority* in connection with the submitted tender on behalf of all *Group members*, including in connection with all relevant questions, clarification requests, notifications, etc., that may be received during the evaluation, award and until the contract signature.
 - (b) The *Group leader* shall sign any contractual documents including the contract, and amendments thereto and issue any invoices related to the performance of the contract on behalf of all *Group members*.
 - (c) The *Group leader* shall act as a single contact point with the *Contracting authority* in the delivery of the services and/or supplies subject to the contract. It shall co-ordinate the

delivery of the services and/or supplies by the *Group* to the *Contracting authority*, and shall see to a proper administration of the contract.

Any modification to the present Power of attorney shall be subject to the *Contracting authority*'s express approval. This Power of attorney shall expire when all the contractual obligations of the *Group* have ceased to exist. The parties cannot terminate it before that date without the *Contracting authority*'s consent.

Place and date:

Name (in capital letters), function, company and signature:

Annex 4. List of identified subcontractors

Identification details	Roles/tasks during contract execution	Proportion of subcontracting (% of contract volume)
[Full official name		
Registered address		
Statutory registration number		
VAT registration number]		
[Full official name		
Registered address		
Statutory registration number		
VAT registration number]		
[REPEAT AS MANY TIMES AS		
THE NUMBER OF		
IDENTIFIED		
SUBCONTRACTORS]		
Other subcontractors that do		
not need to be identified under		
Section 2.4.2		
	TOTAL % of subcontracting	0,00%

Annex 5.1. Commitment letter by an identified subcontractor

[Letterhead, if any]

European Commission

Call for tenders Ref. JRC/PTT/2021/OP/1455

Attn:

[Insert date]

Commitment letter by identified subcontractor
I, the undersigned,
Name:
Function:
Company:
Registered address:
VAT Number:
having the legal capacity required to act on behalf of the company <i>[insert name of the entity]</i> hereby confirm that our company agrees to participate as subcontractor in the offer of [insert name of the tenderer] for the call for tenders JRC/PTT/2021/OP/1455 – NL-Petten: Provision of Occupational Health, Safety and Environmental expertise to JRC Petten.
In the event that the tender of the aforementioned tenderer is successful, [insert name of the subcontractor] commits itself to make available the resources necessary for performance of the contract as a subcontractor and to carry out the services that will be subcontracted to it in compliance with the terms of the contract. It further declares that it is not subject to conflicting interests which may negatively affect the contract performance and that it accepts the general conditions attached to the tender specifications for the above call for tenders, in particular the contractual provisions related to checks and audits.
Done at:
Name:
Position:
Signature:

Annex 5.2. Commitment letter by an entity on whose capacities is being relied

[Letterhead, if any]

European Commission

Call for tenders Ref. JRC/PTT/2021/OP/1455

Annex 6. Financial offer form (Annex 6 is published as a separate document)	
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