

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Contract notice: OJEU 2015/S 114-205916

Invitation to tender No. ENER/C1/2014-668 concerning

*Study on the impact assessment for a new Directive
mainstreaming deployment of renewable energy
and ensuring that the EU meets its 2030 renewable energy target*

Time-limit for receipt of tenders: 23/07/2015

Last update 15/07/2015

Question 1. As stated in the Tender Specifications document (paragraph 2.6 financial offer):

1.1 Quoted prices must exclude VAT; the amount can be shown separately.

Can you confirm that consequently all budgeted/accepted expenses are only eligible for refund exclusive of the VAT share? Thus, paid VAT amounts e.g. for travel expenses need to be covered by the Tenderer?

1.2 Travel and subsistence expenses are not refundable separately.

Does this mean all travel/subsistence expenses (daily allowance, accommodation, means of transportation) are refundable solely within the proposed budget? E.g. expenses for external attendees participating in a workshop need to be included in the Tenderers budget and will not be reimbursed in addition to the Tenderers budget?

Answer 1. 1.1 As a rule, transactions with the EU are exempted from VAT, based on the Protocol of Privileges and Immunities of the European Union, Article 3. The method to apply the exemption, vary by a Member State, from direct exemption (VAT not to be paid at all) to the return of the paid VAT by the at a later stage.

This means, that the contract is not to be taxed with VAT. Correspondingly, the budget has to be indicated as VAT-excluded.

1.2 This indeed means that all travel/subsistence expenses (daily allowances, accommodation costs, cost of transport), as well as the expenses for external attendees participating in a workshop need to be included in the tenderer's budget – the financial offer - and are refundable **within** the proposed budget, as **a part of the grand total offer.**

Question 2: Section “2.3.d Technical and professional capacity criteria and evidence, a) Criteria relating to tenderers” contains the same criteria – please see below -

tender ENER/C1/2014-688 with deadline 22-06-2015 (2016 report RE package 2020-2030).

Could you please clarify whether this is intentional, or whether other criteria need to be taken into account to prove our technical capacity.

a. Criteria relating to tenderers

Tenderers (in case of a joint tender the combined capacity of all tenderers and identified subcontractors) must comply with the following criteria:

- The tenderer must prove experience in the fields related to this contract (e.g. renewable energy, including modelling and data analysis on renewable energy, and biofuel and bioenergy sustainability) with at least three projects delivered on these topics in the last three years with a minimum value for each project of € 100 000.
- The tenderer must prove ability to work with data sources and reports submitted in original EU languages without depending on the Commission translation services (e.g. work with Member State reports) with at least three projects delivered in the last three years demonstrating the necessary language coverage.
- The tenderer must prove capacity to draft high quality and sophisticated reports in idiomatic English.

Answer 2. The two calls (tender ENER/C1/2014-688 and tender ENER/C1/2014-668) indeed intentionally have identical requirements for "Criteria relating to tenderers"

Question 3. Would it be possible to define 'EU mechanism', which is the focus of Task 1.2 and 'EU-wide measures and policies', which is the focus of Task 2? From the reading of both task description, the distinction between these two is not entirely clear to us.

We also observe an emphasis on financial instruments in the relevant background material, related to Task 1.2.

Does this mean that the focus of Task 1.2 should be on EU financial instruments?

Or should Task 1.2 also assess options such as an EU-wide tendering scheme for renewables, a harmonized feed-in premium scheme or an EU-wide tradable certificate scheme?

Answer 3. There are issues common to task 1.2 and task 2, but while task 1.2 is focusing on the achievement of the 27% target – and how to possibly fill any gap between Member States' joint efforts and the 27% target, task 2 is focusing rather on general mainstreaming policies that are not linked to achieving the particular target (although they certainly will contribute). It is therefore expected that all options assessed under task 2.1 should be able to deliver certainty that EU reaches at least 27% renewable energy by 2030. There is no such constraint on options assessed under task 2.

It therefore seems appropriate to assess e.g. EU-wide tendering scheme under task 2.1, if the volume of the tendering is linked to ensuring that EUY reaches the at least 27% target

Question 4. Could you confirm or reject the impression that some persons in our team have that regarding the format shown Annex 4 on pages 26-28 of this call, this format is obligatory for use of the parts of the tender bid, including Part D: technical offer and Part E: Financial offer. Or is it rather a format for reports to be delivered by the successful bidder?

Answer 4. As stated on page 18 (4.3. Graphic requirements), Annex 4 sets out the graphic requirements for the final report, and not the tender bid.