

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Invitation to tender No. MOVE/D3/2011/571-1

**"An ex-post evaluation of transport infrastructure charging policy;
update of the external cost Handbook and impact assessment of future legislative
proposals"**

Contract notice OJEU S 10/2012/S 10-014045 published on 17 January 2012

Last update: 1 March 2012

Question 1:

"Technical and professional capacity – Criteria and references required": Is it possible to have some indications about traffic flows at network link level and revenues from tolling databases?

Answer 1:

The Commission expects the bidders to propose themselves the tools and data sources necessary for the successful execution of the contractual tasks. It is not a position therefore to suggest/recommend (a) particular database(s) for estimating the two impacts above.

Question 2:

At page 4 of the tender specifications, it is stated that "The long-term goal is to apply user charges to all vehicles and on the whole network to reflect at least the maintenance cost of infrastructure, congestion, air and noise Pollution", but at page 8 among the expected results the tender refers to "all major air pollutants, noise, congestion, the construction and maintenance of roads". Are the unitary costs for road construction, i.e. capital costs and investments, are to be included amongst the expected results of the study?

Answer 2:

As indicated in the Tender Specifications, the construction costs are amongst the expected results of the study

Question 3:

There is no indication in the tender about the reference year of the updated Handbook values. Would it be better to have a defined reference year (2010?) instead of the generic reference to "the last available year". Is there any preferred reference year to update the Handbook values?

Answer 3:

The Tender Specifications do not specify the reference year for the update. The bidder can therefore choose the reference year (recent by preference). It is important that the same reference year is used for the estimation of all the costs to ensure consistency

Question 4:

As regards Task B (Update of the Handbook on estimation of external costs in the transport sector), should an update also be provided in terms of external costs related to greenhouse gases?

Answer 4:

The Tender Specifications do not require the update of the costs related to GHG emissions. This does not prevent the bidder however to add this.

Question 5:

As regards the external air pollution costs, the impact pathway method is generally used. This approach first determines the emissions by transport and then calculates the monetary value of the damage caused by the emissions, using different steps. For each of these steps the literature review could turn up new evidence available in separate studies. Incorporating this in the update would require new modelling exercises integrating the new evidence with the original information. Is it the correct interpretation of the tender specifications that no such new model calculations are expected?

Answer 5:

The Terms of Reference do not precisely specify the method for updating the Handbook values. The bidder should therefore propose the most appropriate methodology (which can include modelling) for obtaining scientifically solid estimations of the unitary costs as requested in the Tender Specifications

Question 6:

In Annex 5 "Power of attorney" at the second page the partners should fill in 'Signed in.... On (dd/mm/yy). Just below that, it is once again written 'place and data'. Do the bidders have to fill in the same twice or is the first to be filled in by the European Commission and the second by the partners?

Answer 6:

These are the same things, i.e. the bidders need to indicate only once the date and the place. Power of attorney is a document to be signed by the person conferring powers to the person indicated in the document as a recipient of the said powers (in this case the recipient is the lead partner/contractor). The Commission does not have to co-sign it therefore.

Question 7:

There is some resemblance between this project and the ASSIST project under FP7 and some bidders may feel that the present tender is designed for the parties of the ASSIST project. Is the Commission aware of the resemblance?

Answer 7:

The objective of ASSIST is to provide general policy advice on the social and economic impacts of broadly understood transport policy.

The currently tendered study, on the contrary, is expected to deliver:

- the *ex-post* evaluation of policy in a particular field of policy (road charging),
- provide detailed quantification of the external costs of transport and of the costs of infrastructure (update of the values provided in the *Handbook*), and
- support in the Impact Assessment for a new initiative, which was not yet foreseen at the time the ASSIST project was launched,

The Commission does not therefore perceive any resemblance between the two studies. Moreover, the Commission is bound to respect high standards of impartiality and transparency in the tendering process and firmly rejects any allegations that the tender could have been designed in a manner to favour one or another tenderer.

Question 8:

The tender specifications indicate within Section IV.2.2 " Technical and professional capacity - Criteria and references required" that the tenderers should provide "proof of the managerial capabilities of the project director and manager, including educational background, degrees and diplomas and relevant professional experience". Is the provision of detailed CVs of the respective professional profiles is considered satisfactory for the evaluation of this specific technical and professional criterion.

Answer 8:

Detailed CVs are sufficient proof of professional capacity at this stage

Question 9:

The invitation to tender specifies that the tender should be submitted in triplicate, while the technical specifications indicate that the tender should be provided in four copies. Should the tender be submitted in triplicate (ie, one original + 2 copies) OR in 4 copies (ie, one original + 3 copies)?

Answer 9:

Please refer to Section III (1) of the Tender Specifications – the tenders must be submitted in **four copies** (one clearly marked "original" and three copies) as well as a copy of the offer on a CD-Rom.

Question 10:

Is it possible to include experts in the bid which are not European citizens and work outside the EU?

Answer 10:

Yes

Question 11:

Question 9 in the Question and Answer document is about the number of copies and the answer states that 4 copies should be submitted as per the Section II (1) of the Tender Specifications. However, in point 2 of the Invitation to Tender it is mentioned that the tender should be submitted in triplicate. Do the tenderers who already submitted their tenders need to send the fourth copy separately in a double envelope or they have to resubmit the entire proposal?

Answer 11:

Those tenderers who had already sent an offer in one original and two copies before the Question and Answer document was updated on 22.02.2012 and who do not intend to modify their offer, they do not need to send one additional copy to the Contracting Authority.

Question 12

Is it correct that also those who actually missed the deadline now are getting a second chance? Or can only those who managed to reach the deadline re-submit?

Answer 12:

The deadline is postponed for all potential tenderers as it was modified before the deadline.

Question 13:

Since some of the tenderers may take the opportunity to improve their proposal can they take submitted proposal back since for example they contain the original annexes with the signatures included? How can this be done? Can someone come to pick it up for instance?

Answer 13:

It is possible to get your offer back upon two conditions:

- The person who would pick the offer up must have a mandate from an authorized representative of the tenderer that would allow him/her to take the offer back.
- The Contracting authority must be able to identify from the external envelope the name of the tenderer.

This said, the Contracting authority will also accept that an amendment or addendum to the original offer is submitted. One original and three copies of the amendment/addendum has to be submitted (with the same double envelope system as for the original offer). The original will bear the original signature of an authorized legal representative of the tenderer on a letter listing clearly which parts of the original offer are replaced and/or supplemented. If a number of elements of a section/part of the offer are concerned, the contracting authority recommends replacing the whole section/part of the offer as appropriate to ease the task of the evaluation committee.