

Contract notice: OJEU S 106-172793

Invitation to tender No. ENER/C1/431-2010 concerning

"Study on the operation of the system for the biofuels and bioliquids sustainability scheme"

Time-limit for receipt of tenders: 19/08/2011

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Updated 02/08/2011

- Question 1.** We are considering submitting an application to this tender call and I have a question. Is there an upper budget ceiling/limit?
- Answer 1.** Section I.6 of the tender indicates that the amount of work involved to carry out the contract is assessed at 200 man-days. Further, section IV.3 b) indicates that the contract will be awarded to the tender that offers the best ratio quality/price. There is no upper budget ceiling in the tender specifications, but as indicated in point 10 of the invitation to tender is in no way binding on the Commission and it may be decided not to award a contract, e.g. in the unlikely event where the price of the tender that offers the best ratio quality/price significantly exceeds a budget that can be normally expected to match the indicated man-days.
- Question 2** For Tasks 3 and 4: on agricultural raw materials (like soy, maize, sugar cane) for the production of biofuels or do we have to focus on all kinds of agricultural raw materials (like tomatoes, bananas, coffee)?
- Answer 2** It should focus on those agricultural raw materials that are relevant as feedstock for biofuel production.
- Question 3** For task 3: do we have to focus on the sustainability issues related to air, soil and water of the production of biofuels ("the plants or factories"), the production or the crops ("agricultural raw materials") or both?
- Answer 3** At least on the production of the crops ("agricultural raw materials"). On the production of biofuels ("the plants or factories") only as far as the sustainability issues would be relevant for this. If relevant issues are identified for the latter case the third bullet point in the description of task 3 in the specifications ('relevant laws regarding agricultural practices') can be considered to apply equivalently for such case, i.e. as 'relevant laws regarding emissions from plants or factories'.
- Question 4** In the description of Task 2, the EC talks about "...different types of systems applied in the 27 EU Member States on the provision of information..."; what exactly does "systems" mean here?

Answer 4 'Systems' refers to the MS laws/implementing measures with regard to the EU sustainability criteria for biofuels.

Question 5 Will the EC provide information on the “different types of systems” for the assessment?

Answer 5 As far as the Commission has such MS laws/implementing measures available as a result of MS having notified these to the Commission as transposition law these can be provided to the selected contractor.

Question 6 On task 1: 'other verification methods' were mentioned. Are these methods a) already collected by the Commission and will they be shared as part of the contract, or b) Tenderer needs to collect these methods? If a), please clarify the number of different methods to be analysed.

Answer 6 As indicated in the tender specifications 'other verification methods' refers to e.g. the so-called 'book and claim' system which is described in two of the documents given reference to in the specifications:

- Annex to the Impact Assessment Package of Implementation measures for the EU's objectives on climate change and renewable energy for 2020¹ (page 148-150).
- Report on the operation of the mass balance verification method for the biofuels and bioliquids sustainability scheme in accordance with Article 18(2) of Directive 2009/28/EC².

If tenderers can identify other methods than the 'book and claim' system or different variants of the 'book and claim' system that fit the description in Article 18(2) of Directive 2009/28/EC of "verification methods in which information about sustainability characteristics need not remain physically assigned to particular consignments or mixtures", they are invited to specify and address this in their offer.

Question 7 On task 2: Are the 'different types of systems applied in the 27 EU Member States' a) already collected and available, or b) the Tenderer needs to collect them.

Answer 7 Please see the answer to question 5.

¹ SEC(2008)85 Vol. II: http://ec.europa.eu/energy/renewables/doc/sec_2008_85-2_ia_annex.pdf

² Available on:
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:52011SC0129:EN:HTML:NOT>

Question 8 On task 3: Will the data subject to the analysis be a) shared by the Commission, or b) the Tenderer needs to collect them? If a), please clarify the number of different 'voluntary schemes' (approved by the Commission or not), the relevant laws regarding agricultural practices and voluntary application of good agricultural practices to be analysed.

Answer 8 **The tenderer needs to collect them. Their number would be as many as relevant to the issues related to air, soil and water and falling within the geographical scope indicated in the task.**

Question 9 On Task 4: Is a database for 'scientific progress and evidence since 2008' a) available, or b) the Tenderer needs to collect it?

Answer 9 **The tenderer needs to collect this.**

Question 10 On task 5: Will the participants of the meeting be determined by a) the Commission or by b) the Tenderer? If b), please clarify the expected types and numbers of companies / individuals.

Answer 10 **Tenderers are invited to suggest a general structure as well as numbers and types of participants for the stakeholder/expert meeting. The Commission could make further suggestions in the kick-off meeting.**