

TENDER SPECIFICATIONS
ATTACHED TO THE INVITATION TO TENDER

Invitation to tender No. ENER/C3/2012-436 concerning

Market study for a voluntary common European Union certification scheme for the
energy performance of non-residential buildings

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I. SPECIFICATIONS

I.1. Introduction

CONTEXT:

Buildings are responsible for 40% of energy consumption and 36% of CO₂ emissions in the European Union. Energy performance of buildings is key to achieve the EU's Climate & Energy objectives, namely a 20% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2020, 20% energy savings by 2020 and a 20% share of renewables.

The Energy Performance of Buildings Directive¹ (hereafter referred to as 'the EPBD') is the main legislative instrument at EU level to achieve energy performance in buildings. Under this Directive, the Member States (hereafter referred to as 'MS') must apply minimum requirements as regards the energy performance of new and existing buildings, ensure the certification of their energy performance and require the regular inspection of boilers and air conditioning systems in buildings.

With the recast of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive² in 2010 (hereafter referred to as 'the recast EPBD'), the legislative framework has been augmented, for example by ensuring the Energy Performance Certificate (hereafter referred to as 'the EPC') is included in all advertisements for sales or renting and by requiring all existing buildings when they undergo a major renovation to meet certain efficiency levels and not only those above 1000m² as is the case for the current Directive.

Moreover, the Directive (in article 11(9)) requires the Commission to adopt, in consultation with the relevant sectors, a voluntary common European Union certification scheme for the energy performance of non-residential buildings.

Directive 2010/31/EU, Article 11 (9):

'The Commission shall, by 2011, in consultation with the relevant sectors, adopt a voluntary common European Union certification scheme for the energy performance of non-residential buildings. That measure shall be adopted in accordance with the advisory procedure referred to in Article 26(2). Member States are encouraged to recognise or use the scheme, or use part thereof by adapting it to national circumstances.'

In this context, a 'voluntary' scheme should be developed in addition to the already existing mandatory national energy performance certificates under Article 7 of Directive 2002/91/EC and Articles 11, 12 and 13 of Directive 2010/31/EU.

Recital (31) of Directive 2010/31/EU says furthermore that: *'(...) uniform conditions for a voluntary common certification should be established in order to enhance the transparency of energy performance in the Union's non-residential property market (...).'*

For more information about the legislative framework and other initiatives and projects regarding the energy performance of buildings please see:

¹ Directive 2002/91/EC of 16 December 2002 on the energy performance of buildings. OJ L 1 of 4.1.2003, p.65

² Directive 2010/31/EU of 19 May 2010 on the energy performance of buildings (recast). OJ L 153 of 18.6.2010, p.13

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/efficiency/buildings/buildings_en.htm and

<http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/>

In March 2011 the Commission presented three broad options to Member State representatives in the Committee meeting. After the meeting DG Energy appointed external consultants. The consultants developed a proposal for a scheme that would classify buildings on the basis of national methods that would have to be subject to a quality check before switching to a common EU calculation method once the CEN standards will be ready in 2015.

In a second Committee meeting in January 2012 the Commission presented this proposal to the Member States representatives as a possible way forward. Most of the Member States showed little enthusiasm. Concerns were raised regarding the risk of confusion by switching from a scheme using national calculation methods to a common EU calculation method. Nevertheless some Member States showed interest in the possibility of a European energy certificate to be used as their national energy performance certificate in future.

A meeting with stakeholders of the relevant sectors (real estate, hotels, banks, etc.), also held in January 2012, brought quite similar conclusions. Most participants would prefer to wait for a high quality common European Union calculation method based on the new set of CEN standards rather than to risk a false start on the market that would be difficult, if not impossible, to reverse.

Having analysed the current situation with the help of external expertise, and on the basis of consultation both with stakeholders and with Member States, DG Energy believes it is worth spending the necessary time to get this scheme right.

This is why DG ENER favours a two-step approach:

- 1st step: A detailed market analysis/study to define what the market needs are and what the scheme will be used for (given the fact that the scheme should finally be driven by the market) – **(current tender)**
- 2nd step: The technical development of the scheme.

I.2. Purpose of the contract

I.2.1. Objectives:

To allow for the implementation of Article 11 (9) of the recast EPBD, the Commission considers that a number of issues require further analysis. The main objectives of the contract are to:

Firstly, obtain a good understanding of the current market for (non-residential) building certification schemes (with a focus on their energy performance);

Secondly, identify the scope and positioning for a successful common EU certification scheme for the energy performance of non-residential buildings;

Thirdly, give recommendations for the further development and implementation of such a scheme;

Finally, the contractor shall provide expert knowledge and support to questions which might arise during the execution of the contract.

TASKS:

TASK 1 - MARKET ANALYSIS AND MARKET DEMAND

Obtain a good understanding of the current market for (non-residential) building certification schemes (with a focus on their energy performance).

UNDERTAKE A MARKET SURVEY

Analysis of the existing market of (non-residential) building certification in the EU, focusing especially on their energy performance, to be carried out at least by:

- Collection, analysis and evaluation of existing relevant, accurate, current and impartial data, statistics and publications/studies on existing market leading schemes for the energy certification of buildings in EU Member States (including leading schemes outside the EU). The Commission will provide to the contractor existing information in its possession.
- Identify all market players on demand and supply side (potential users/customers, competitors and involved parties) for certification schemes for buildings (especially for the energy performance of non-residential buildings) and their requirements for a common certification scheme for buildings at EU level;

RUN AND MONITOR THE MARKET SURVEY, ANALYSE THE DATA AND REPORT THE RESULTS

The methodology used for the observation/survey of the market should be part of the technical offer and at least lead to:

- Definition and characterization of the target market(s) and its (their) micro and macro environment (who are the customers, how big is the market share of customers asking for a certification, how are they involved, etc.),
- Analysis of the target market (data on figures and findings),
- Information about the relation of building's certification and the policy on energy efficiency in buildings in the specific Member state

TASK 2 – SCOPE AND POSITIONING

Identify the scope and positioning for a successful common EU certification scheme for the energy performance of non-residential buildings.

SCOPE (MARKET NEEDS, WANTS AND DEMANDS)

The output expected is a detailed and quantified description of the market needs, wants and demands of energy performance of buildings certification in EU Member States to be able to define the scope of a common EU certification scheme and should contain at least:

- The scope of the scheme (e.g. restricted to energy or wider scoped, etc.),
- The content of the scheme (e.g. energy rating, differences to the EPBD-certification, etc.),
- The price (related to the content/quality),
- The calculation method and rating scale,
- The quality insurance (e.g. accuracy, reproducibility, etc.),
- The overall management of the scheme (see also under Task 3)

- The cost of acquisition and operation (e.g. if the certification has to be renewed periodically),
- The examination of the factors that influence the needs (social, economic, technological, political and legal environment),
- The analysis of the influence of the cost on the uptake of a voluntary scheme,
- Other additional aspects defined by the offer.

The exercise should be done for certification schemes of buildings in general and for the common EU certification scheme in particular. The description should distinguish at least:

- Between the different real-estate markets e.g. sales, rentals, etc.
- Between new and existing buildings,
- Between non-residential and residential buildings,
- Between public and private buildings
- Between energy only and other schemes (e.g. sustainability) by putting them in their respective context,
- Between schemes that focus on the energy performance of construction and building systems (energy performance of a building) and schemes that focus on the building operational performance (including the performance in use),
- Between voluntary and mandatory schemes.

POSITIONING OF THE SCHEME ON THE MARKET

Analysis and recommendations on the potential positioning of a common EU certification scheme compared to existing certification schemes to have an added value on the market. They should contain at least:

- Analysis and evaluation of the uptake and market satisfaction with existing certification schemes used in EU Member States,
- Evaluation of the success factors and the weaknesses of existing schemes,
- Determination and analysis of the competition market and the competitive tools (e.g. price, content of certification etc., what could be the market "niche"?),
- Analysis of overlaps to the existing mandatory scheme under the EPBD,
- Analysis of the opportunities and risks of the competition/concurrence to existing schemes,
- Evaluation of existing data on the impact of certification on the market value and energy savings of certified buildings and possible positive effects of a common EU certification scheme
- Identification and description of possible space for positioning and added value of a common EU certification scheme on the market,

This analysis should distinguish:

- Between energy only and other (e.g. sustainability) schemes,

- Between voluntary and mandatory schemes,
- Between schemes that focus on the energy performance of construction and building systems (energy performance of a building) and schemes that focus on the building operational performance (including the performance in use) by taking into account the differences that exist between their calculation methods (e.g. inclusion or non-inclusion of a life-cycle assessment),
- Between schemes for new and existing buildings,
- Between non-residential and residential buildings,
- Between public and private buildings.

TASK 3 – RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT, MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

Give recommendations for the further development and implementation of such a scheme.

MARKETING STRATEGIES

Analysis and evaluation of successful marketing strategies of certification schemes taking into account at least

- Analysis and evaluation of successful marketing strategies of existing certification schemes used in EU Member States,
- Definition and recommendations on marketing strategies for a common EU certification scheme on the market (e.g. how to create a positive image and a "unique" position),
- Proposals on pre-conditions for a success and proper uptake of a common EU certification scheme taking into account failures that must be avoided,
- Definition of elements that need to be the part of the content of a common EU certification scheme to be successful on the market ("defining the product"),
- Specification of risks of the uptake on the market,

ORGANISATION OF MANAGEMENT

Analysis and evaluation of successful organisation of management of certification schemes taking into account at least:

- Assessment of existing management systems and their impacts (e.g. on cost of administration and certification),
- Recommendations for the establishing of an appropriate management system for the common EU certification scheme,
- Assessment of existing training schemes (e.g. for issuers) and recommendation on the appropriate training system for the common EU certification scheme,
- Assessment of existing quality management systems (qualification and quality control) and recommendation on the appropriate quality management system for the common EU certification scheme

recommendation about the management of a potential common EU certification scheme to be successful and taken up by the EU market,

DISTRIBUTION AND COMMUNICATION CONCEPT

Analysis and evaluation of successful distribution and communication concepts of certification schemes taking into account at least

- Analysis and evaluation of successful existing distribution and communication concepts,
- Development of a distribution and communication concept for a common EU certification scheme,

FINANCING

Analysis and evaluation of successful financing concepts of certification schemes taking into account at least

- Assessment and evaluation of existing instruments used for financing of certification schemes or for the link between certification and incentives,
- Get information how the certification process could be linked to support financial and insurance schemes (e.g. incentives, grants, loans etc.) in Member States.
- Get recommendations how the common EU certification scheme could be handled and financed (the aim must be a maximised reduction of the administrative burden)

ROADMAP TO A COMMON EU CERTIFICATION SCHEME

- Get recommendations about the further development of a potential common EU certification scheme,
- Provision of a roadmap to a common EU certification scheme starting from the development up to the implementation on the market,
- Get recommendations on the 'roll-out' (taking into consideration a possible 'testing phase' (if necessary)),
- Provision of a detailed timeline of this roadmap with a link to Mandate 480 of CEN (the development of the second generation of EPBD-CEN standards through the European Committee for standardisation).

TASK 1-3: GENERAL ASPECTS - RESULTS

EXPECTATION ON RESULTS:

- The results of the exercise should identify strengths and weaknesses of existing schemes focussing on their position/relevance and uptake on the market and in relation to their added value,
- They should include the possibility to compare similarities and differences to existing schemes on the market,
- They should contain a list of non-residential buildings that should be included for the further development of the scheme (related to Annex I of the EPBD recast),

- They should make reference to the category new and existing buildings, of non-residential and residential buildings and of public and private buildings (public buildings being part of the non-residential sector and its role to lead by example),
- They should serve for identification and recommendation where the emphasis for the development of a voluntary EU certification should lie to be successful on the market,
- They should also be adequate to serve as a basis for the definition of the scope, the content, the price/cost and other specification of the criteria needed for the development of a voluntary EU certification scheme,
- They should state the probable trend and market share for voluntary certification schemes for buildings in the future (growing/stagnation/decrease) according to existing data,
- They should provide a ranking according to their importance,
- They should be summarised in an Executive summary

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- According to the calculation method (asset or calculated /operational or measured),
- For an overall realistic and successful management,
- For the quality of the certification scheme related to its price,
- On the need for broadening the scope to a common EU certification scheme for residential buildings,

CONSULTATION – NEEDS

In order to allow technical and financial evaluation of the offers, the technical offer should provide a detailed proposal for the appropriate consultation of Member States and all relevant stakeholders. This proposal should therefore describe what is relevant:

- The different stages of the consultation,
- The way stakeholders will be categorised,
- The way how the consultation will be sampled,
- Means used to consult (direct interview, meeting/workshop, paper/internet/phone survey, etc.),
- etc.

RESPECTIVE DATA AND LEGISLATION TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT:

The following (non-exhaustive) list of legislation and standards should be taken into account:

- Directive 2002/91/EC on the energy performance of buildings with annex
- Directive 2010/31/EU on the energy performance of buildings (recast) with annexes (especially Annex I)
- Directive 2006/32/EC on energy services
- Energy Efficiency Directive (adopted version)

- Directive 2009/125/EC on Eco-design and Directive 2010/30/EU on Energy labelling
- Directive on 2009/28/EC on use of energy from renewable sources
- Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications
- Regulation (EC) 66/2010 on the EU Eco-label
- Relevant CEN Standards (e.g. EN 15603, EN 15217, etc.)

1.2.2. Working method:

The work must provide the Commission's services with the necessary results for a proper understanding of the European market for building certification schemes (with focus on energy performance), their success factors and failures. The contractor must identify and analyse the scope and positioning of existing schemes and give recommendations on the scope and positioning for a possible common EU certification scheme for the energy performance of non-residential buildings which shall be applicable in all EU Member States. Recommendations must be given for the further development and implementation of such a scheme.

Therefore it is envisaged that the work will entail particularly a research task (market analysis of the EU market on building certification and the examination of existing data and studies). The tender must outline an appropriate methodology for such an analysis.

As Article 11 (9) of Directive 2010/31/EU demands the development of the voluntary common EU certification scheme « in consultation with the relevant sectors » it will be important to identify and involve key stakeholders during the project, including, amongst others, the Member States, possible customers (such as e.g. European Property Federation, real estate companies, etc.), organisations of issuers (Chamber of Architects/Engineers, energy agencies, ESCOs etc.), certification bodies (BRE, DGNB, CSTB, Passivhaus-Institute, etc.), industry representatives (e.g. business federations) and other stakeholders (e.g. BPIE, CEN). Contacts with other Commission services, if applicable, should be managed through the lead service (i.e. DG ENER C.3). The tender must outline how the contractor envisages involving the relevant parties into the work.

Given the importance of the contract for the implementation of the recast EPBD in this area, the Commission expects the contractor to maintain a close working relationship with the responsible service of the Commission (i.e. DG ENER C.3) throughout the project and to have the flexibility to adapt to changing circumstances within the boundaries of the contract. The tender must outline how the contractor will ensure this.

The contractor shall support the Commission during two expert meetings during the project period with the aim to obtain input from different stakeholders into the development of the scheme. The tender must outline the contractor's preliminary ideas on how he intends to involve the relevant stakeholders and how and when the experts meetings should be organised.

The tender must indicate the potential risks to the project being able to deliver results, including ways in which the contractor intends to mitigate these.

The tender must also contain a constantly rolling timeline (e.g. as a bar chart) illustrating the proposed work programme and indicative timetable for all stages of work, meetings and reports.

I.3. Reports and documents to produce - Timetable to observe

Execution of the tasks begins after the date on which the Contract enters into force.

In principle, the deadlines set out below cannot be extended. The Contractor is deemed solely responsible for delays occasioned by subcontractors or other third parties (except for rare cases of *force majeure*). Adequate resources and appropriate organisation of the work including management of potential delays should be put in place in order to observe the timetable below.

A **kick-off meeting** will take place in Brussels, at the latest 15 days following the signature of the contract, in order to settle all the details of the study, report, etc... to be undertaken. The contractor (and his possible subcontractors) shall attend this meeting with a proposal of a timeline/timetable of the contract.

At least two interim meetings will take place in Brussels (to be defined in agreement with the Commission's services) The interim meetings should be used to discuss the interim state of play as well as any observations the Commission may have.

A **final meeting** will take place in Brussels as soon as possible after the delivery of the (draft) final report to discuss the results of the project and any observations the Commission may have.

I.3.1. Progress reports

The 1st **progress report** showing progress of the work shall be submitted to the Commission at the latest 3 months after the date of signature of the contract.

A 2nd **progress report** showing progress of the work shall be submitted to the Commission, in principle, 9 months after after the date of signature of the contract.

The Commission shall have 60 days from receipt to approve or reject the progress report and to pay an interim payment. The Contractor shall have 20 days in which to submit additional information or a new progress report.

I.3.2. Final report

The contractor will submit a final report to the Commission at the latest **12 months** after the signature of the contract.

The Commission shall have 60 days from receipt to approve or reject the final report and to pay the balance. The Contractor shall have 20 days in which to submit additional information or a new final report.

I.3.3. Report format and publication

3 copies of the reports shall be supplied in paper form and one copy in electronic form in MS Office format.

Reports have to be drafted in English in a proper literate manner and must be fully comprehensive in terms of grammatical structure (complete sentences, punctuation, explanation of abbreviations, etc.) using clear language.

The Commission may publish the results of the study. For this purpose, the tenderer must ensure that the study is not subject to any restrictions deriving from intellectual property rights of third

parties. Should he intend to use data in the study, which cannot be published, this must be explicitly mentioned in the offer.

I.4. Duration of the tasks

The duration of the tasks shall not exceed **15 months**. This period is calculated in calendar days.

I.5. Place of performance

The tasks will be performed on the Contractor's premises. However, meetings between the contractor and the Commission may be held on Commission premises in Brussels.

I.6. Estimate of the amount of work involved

The amount of work involved to carry out this contract is assessed at **300 man-days**.

II. TERMS OF CONTRACT

In drawing up his offer, the tenderer should bear in mind the provisions of the draft contract attached to this invitation to tender (Annex 5). Any limitation, amendment or denial of the terms of contract will lead to automatic exclusion from the procurement procedure.

The Commission may, before the contract is signed, either abandon the procurement procedure or cancel the award procedure without the tenderers being entitled to claim any compensation.

II.1. Terms of payment

Payments shall be made in accordance with the provisions specified in Annex 6, the draft service contract. There will be no pre-financing.

II.2. Subcontracting

If the tenderer intends to subcontract part of the service, he shall indicate in his offer which part will be subcontracted and to what extent (% of the total contract value).

Tenderers must ensure that Article II.20 of the contract (Annex 6) can be applied to subcontractors. Once the contract has been signed, Article II.6 of the above-mentioned contract shall govern the subcontracting.

II.3. Joint tenders

In case of a joint tender submitted by a group of tenderers, these latter will be regarded as partners. If awarded the contract, they will have an equal standing towards the contracting authority in the execution of the contract.

The tenderers should indicate in their offer whether the partnership takes the form of:

a) a new or existing legal entity which will sign the contract with the Commission in case of award

or

b) a group of partners not constituting a new legal entity, who via a power of attorney, signed by an authorised representative of each partner (except the lead partner), designate one of the partners as lead partner, and mandate him as lead contractor to sign the contract with the Commission in case of award.

If the contractor is a grouping or consortium of two or more persons, all such persons shall be jointly and severally liable to the Commission for the fulfilment of the terms and conditions of the contract. Such persons shall designate one of them to act as leader with full authority to bind the grouping or the consortium and each of its members. It shall be responsible for the receipt and processing of payments for members of the grouping, for managing the service administration and for coordination. The composition and constitution of the grouping or consortium, and the allocation of the scope of tasks amongst the members, shall not be altered without the prior written consent of the Commission which can be withheld at discretion.

III. FORM AND CONTENT OF THE TENDER

III.1. General

Tenders must be written in **one of the official languages** of the European Union and submitted in **triplicate** (one clearly marked "original" and two copies) as well as a copy of the offer on a CD/DVD. The attention of the tenderers is drawn to the fact that all of the deliverables requested under the contract will have to be submitted in English.

Tenders must be clear and concise, with continuous page numbering, and assembled in a coherent fashion (e.g. bound or stapled).

The original signature of the single tenderer's or lead partner's authorised representative) (preferably in blue ink) on the administrative identification form (Annex 1) shall be considered as the signature of the tender, binding the single tenderer or the group of partners to the terms included in the tender.

III.2. Structure of the tender

All tenders must include three sections i.e. an administrative, a technical and a financial proposal.

III.2.1. Section One: administrative proposal

This section must provide the following information, set out in the standard identification forms attached to these tender specifications (Annexes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 as well other evidence required):

- Tenderers' identification (Annex 1)
 - All tenderers must provide proof of **registration**, as prescribed in their country of establishment, on one of the **professional or trade registers** or provide a declaration or certificate.
 - If the tenderer is a natural person, he/she must provide a copy of the identity card/passport or driving licence and proof that he/she is covered by a social security scheme as a self-employed person.

Each tenderer (including subcontractor(s) or any member of a consortium or grouping) must complete and sign the identification forms in Annex 1 and also provide above-mentioned documents. However, the subcontractor(s) shall not be required to fill in or provide those documents when the services represent less than 20% of the contract.

- Financial identification (Annex 2)

The **bank identification form** must be filled in and signed by an authorised representative of the tenderer and his/her banker. A standard form is attached in Annex 2 and a specific form for each Member State is available at the following Internet address:

http://ec.europa.eu/budget/contracts_grants/info_contracts/financial_id/financial_id_en.cfm

In the case of a grouping, this form must only be provided by the person heading the project only.

If the corresponding bank account of economic operators is already registered in the Commission's files they are not obliged to provide a new form on the condition that they confirm that no change in the information already provided as occurred. In case of doubt, we recommend submitting a new form.

- Legal entities (Annex 3)

The legal entity form in Annex 3 must be filled in and should be accompanied by a number of supporting documents, available on the Web site:

http://ec.europa.eu/budget/contracts_grants/info_contracts/legal_entities/legal_entities_en.cfm

In the case of a grouping, this form must be provided by all partners.

Economic operators already registered as a legal entity in the Commission's files (i.e. they are or have been contractors of the Commission) are not obliged to provide a new form on the condition that they confirm that no change in the information already provided as occurred, In case of doubt, we recommend submitting a new form.

- Declaration of honour with respect to the Exclusion criteria and absence of conflict of interest (Annex 4)

An original should be filled and signed by (an) authorised representative(s) of all partners. Only sub-contractors with a part of the contract above 20% should the sign the form.

- Power of attorney (Annex 5) – in case of grouping only

An original should be filled and signed by (an) authorised representative(s) of each partner.

- All the supporting documentation for the purpose of checking the selection criteria (IV.2) should also be submitted under this section

The Commission reserves the right, however, to request clarification or additional evidence in relation to the bid submitted for evaluation or verification purposes within a time-limit stipulated in its request.

III.2.2. Section Two: Technical proposal

This section is of great importance in the assessment of the bids, the award of the contract and the future execution of any resulting contract.

The award criteria as set out in chapter IV.3 define those parts of the technical proposal to which the tenderers should pay particular attention as they will be the ground for the evaluation of the quality of the proposal.

The technical proposal should address all matters laid down in the specifications and should include models, examples and technical solutions to problems raised in the specifications. The level of detail of the tender will be extremely important for the evaluation of the tender.

Tenderers must present in their bids a proposal on the methodology and the organisation of the work to carry out in the framework of the study.

III.2.3. Section Three: Financial proposal

All tenders must contain a financial proposal. The tenderer's attention is drawn to the following points:

- Prices must be quoted in **euros**, including the countries which are not in the euro-area. As far as the tenderers of those countries are concerned, they cannot change the amount of the bid because of the evolution of the exchange rate. The tenderers choose the exchange rate and assume all risks or opportunities relating to the rate fluctuation.
- Prices must be fixed amounts and include all expenses, such as travel expenses and daily allowances.
- **Prices must be quoted free of all duties, taxes and other charges, i.e. also free of VAT**, as the European Union is exempt from such charges in the EU under Articles 3 and 4 of the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities 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. For those countries where national legislation provides an exemption by means of a reimbursement, the amount of VAT is to be shown separately. 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;
- **Prices shall be fixed** and not subject to revision during the performance of the contract;
- For each category of staff involved in the project, the tenderer must specify:
 - the total labour costs;
 - **the daily rates** and **total number of days** (man/days) each member of staff will contribute to the project;
 - other categories of costs, indicating the nature of the cost, the total amount, the unit price and the quantity.

Bids involving more than one service provider (consortium) must specify the amounts indicated above for each provider.

IV. ASSESSMENT AND AWARD OF THE CONTRACT

Participation in tendering procedures is open on equal terms to all natural and legal persons coming within the scope of the Treaties and to all natural and legal persons in a third country which has a special agreement with the Union in the field of public procurement, under the conditions laid down in that agreement.

Where the Multilateral Agreement on Public Contracts concluded within the framework of the WTO applies, the contracts are also open to nationals of states which have ratified this Agreement, under the conditions provided for therein.

The procedure for the award of the contract, which will concern only admissible bids (see requirements in the invitation to tender, in particular, regarding the deadline for submission and the presentation of the offers and packaging), will be carried out in three successive stages.

The aim of each of these stages is:

- 1) to check on the basis of the exclusion criteria, whether tenderers can take part in the tendering procedure;
- 2) to check on the basis of the selection criteria, the technical and professional capacity and economic and financial capacity of each tenderer;
- 3) to assess on the basis of the award criteria each bid which has passed the exclusion and selection stages.

The assessment will be based on each tenderer's bid. All the information will be assessed in the light of the criteria set out in these specifications.

IV.1. Exclusion criteria (exclusion of tenderers)

IV.1.1. Exclusion criteria (Article 93 Financial Regulation³)

1. To be eligible for participating in this contract award procedure, tenderers must not be in any of the following situations:
 - (a) they are bankrupt or being wound up, are having their affairs administered by the courts, have entered into an arrangement with creditors, have suspended business activities, are the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or are in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;
 - (b) they have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgement which has the force of *res judicata*;
 - (c) they have been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the contracting authority can justify;
 - (d) they have not fulfilled obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the

³ Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities (OJ L 248 of 16.9.2002)

- country in which they are established or with those of the country of the contracting authority or those of the country where the contract is to be performed;
- (e) they have been the subject of a judgement which has the force of res judicata for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation or any other illegal activity detrimental to the Union's financial interests;
 - (f) they are currently subject to an administrative penalty referred to in Article 96(1) of the Financial Regulation⁴ for being guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the contracting authority as a condition of participation in a contract procurement procedure or by the authorising officer as a condition of participation in a grant award procedure, for failing to supply this information or for having been declared to be in serious breach of their obligations under contracts or grants covered by the Union budget.
2. The cases referred to in point IV.1.1. e) above shall be the following:
- a) cases of fraud as referred to in Article 1 of the Convention on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests established by the Council Act of 26 July 1995 (OJ/C 316 of 27.11.1995, p. 48);
 - b) cases of corruption as referred to in Article 3 of the Convention on the fight against corruption involving officials of the European Communities or officials of Member States of the European Union, established by the Council Act of 26 May 1997 (OJ/C 195 of 25.6.1997, p. 1);
 - c) cases of involvement in a criminal organisation, as defined in Article 2(1) of Joint Action 98/733/JHA of the Council (OJ/L 315 of 29.12.1998, p. 1);
 - d) cases of money laundering as defined in Article 1 of Council Directive 91/308/EEC (OJ/L 166 of 28.6.1991, p.77).

IV.1.2. Other cases of exclusion

1. In accordance with Article 94 Financial Regulation, contracts will not be awarded to tenderers who, during the procurement procedure:

- a) **are subject to a conflict of interest;**

Tenderers must declare:

- that they do not have any conflict of interest in connection with the contract; a conflict of interest could arise in particular as a result of economic interests, political or national affinities, family or emotional ties, or any other relevant connection or shared interest;
- that they will inform the contracting authority, without delay, of any situation constituting a conflict of interest or which could give rise to a conflict of interest;
- that they have not made and will not make any offer of any type whatsoever from which an unjustified advantage can be derived under the contract;
- that they have not granted and will not grant, have not sought and will not seek, have not attempted and will not attempt to obtain, and have not accepted and will not accept, any advantage, financial or in kind, to or from any party whatsoever, where such advantage constitutes an illegal practice or involves corruption, either

⁴ Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) n° 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities, OJ L 248 of 16 September 2002, p. 1, amended by Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) n° 1995/2006 of 13 December 2006, OJ L 390 of 30 December 2006, p.1.

directly or indirectly, inasmuch as it is an incentive or reward relating to performance of the Contract.

The Commission reserves the right to check the above information.

- b) **are guilty of misrepresentation** in supplying the information required by the contracting authority as a condition of participation in the procurement procedure or fail to supply this information.
 - c) find themselves in one of the **situations of exclusion**, referred to in paragraph IV.1.1. above for this procurement procedure.
2. As mentioned under section III.2.1., the tenderers must provide proof of **registration**, as prescribed in their country of establishment, on one of the professional or trade registers or provide a declaration or certificate.

IV.1.3. Evidence to be provided by the tenderers

1. When submitting their bids, each tenderer (including subcontractor(s) or any member of a consortium or grouping) shall provide a declaration on their honour, duly signed and dated, stating that they are not in one of the situations mentioned above (cf. IV.1.1 and VI.1.2). For that purpose, they must complete and sign the form attached in Annex 4. Where the tenderer is a legal entity, they shall, whenever requested by the Commission, provide information on the ownership or on the management, control and power of representation of the legal entity.
2. The tenderer to whom the contract is to be awarded shall provide, within 15 calendar days after notification of the results of the procurement procedure and in any case before the signature of the contract, the following evidence, confirming the declaration referred to above:

The Commission shall accept, as satisfactory evidence that the tenderer is not in one of the situations described in point IV.1.1 (a), (b) or (e) above, a recent extract from the judicial record or, failing that, an equivalent document recently issued by a judicial or administrative authority in the country of origin or provenance showing that those requirements are satisfied.

The Commission accepts, as satisfactory evidence that the tenderer is not in the situation described in point IV.1.1 (d) above, a recent certificate issued by the competent authority of the State concerned.

Where no such document or certificate is issued in the country concerned, it may be replaced by a sworn or, failing that, a solemn statement made by the interested party before a judicial or administrative authority, a notary or a qualified professional body in his country of origin or provenance.

3. Depending on the national legislation of the country in which the candidate or tenderer is established, the documents referred to in paragraph 1 and 2 above shall relate to legal and/or natural persons including, if applicable with regard to points b) and e), company directors or any person with powers of representation, decision-making or control in relation to the tenderer.
4. When the subcontracted part is above 20% of the contract value, the subcontractor(s) must also provide the above-mentioned declaration on honour. In case of doubt on this declaration on the honour, the contracting authority may also request the evidence referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 above.

5. The Commission reserves the right to request any other document relating to the proposed tender for evaluation and verification purpose, within a delay determined in its request.

Remark:

The tenderers will be waived of the obligation to submit the documentary evidence above mentioned if such evidence has already been submitted for the purposes of another procurement procedure launched by the Directorates General in charge of Energy or Transport and provided that the documents are not more than one year old starting from their issuing date and that they are still valid. In such a case, the tenderer shall declare on his honour that the documentary evidence has already been provided in a previous procurement procedure, specifying the reference of the call for tender for which the documents have been provided, and confirm that no changes in his situation have occurred.

IV.1.4. Administrative and financial penalties

Without prejudice to the application of penalties laid down in the contract, candidates or tenderers and contractors who have been found guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the contracting authority as a condition of participation in the procurement procedure or have failed to supply this information or have been declared to be in serious breach of their obligations under contracts covered by the Union budget may be subject to administrative or financial penalties, in accordance with Article 96 of the Financial Regulation and Articles 134b and 133a of the Implementing Rules.⁵

IV.2. SELECTION CRITERIA (SELECTION OF TENDERERS)

To be eligible, the tenderers must have the economic and financial capacity as well as the technical and professional capacity to perform the tasks required in this call for tender. In particular, the following selection criteria have been set for this tender:

IV.2.1. Economic and financial capacity – Criteria and references required

The tenderer (or, for a consortium, total turnover of its members) must have an average annual turnover for the last three years for which the accounts are closed of at least 400,000.00 EUR.

Tenderers must provide proof of their financial and economic capacity by means of the following documents: profit and loss accounts for the last three financial years, where their publication is required under the company law of the country in which the economic operator is established.

An economic operator may, where appropriate and for a particular contract, rely on the capacities of other entities, regardless of the legal nature of the links which it has with them. It must in that case prove to the contracting authority that it will have at its disposal the resources necessary for performance of the contract, for example by producing an undertaking on the part of those entities to place those resources at its disposal.

⁵ Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) n° 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities, OJ L 357 of 31 December 2002, p. 1, as amended.

Under the same conditions, a consortium of economic operators may rely on the capacities of members of the consortium or of other entities.

IV.2.2. Technical and professional capacity – Criteria and references required

- 1) The tenderer shall have successfully completed, as contractor, at least 2 studies in the fields of energy performance and/or energy certification of buildings. At least one of the completed studies should have a minimum value of 100.000 € (VAT included).
- 2) The tenderer shall propose a team of *minimum* 3 experts with very good communication and drafting skills in English. The team must be composed of members having at least the following qualifications:
 - 1 senior staff member with at least 8 years of professional experience, including experience in the fields of energy performance and energy certification of buildings, market analysis (including knowledge of the structure and functioning of the relevant markets and industrial sectors) and standardisation.
 - 2 qualified experts with at least 4 years of experience in conducting legal, regulatory, technical and market analysis and stakeholder consultations as well as experience in the fields of energy performance of buildings.

The following documentary proof is requested in order to check that the above criteria are fulfilled:

- A list of principal assignments and services provided in the past 3 years that are relevant for this tender, together with a statement of the price of the service, the period of work and whether the service was rendered to public or private clients (name of client to be indicated).
- The detailed curriculum vitae of each team member proposed for carrying out the work should be submitted as proof of meeting the above criterion 2. CVs shall include educational background, degrees and diplomas, professional experience, research work, publications and linguistic skills of each team member. The CVs shall be presented, preferably, in accordance to the Commission Recommendation on a common European format for curricula vitae, published in OJ L79 of 22 March 2002, p. 66;

Changes or additions to the team initially proposed must be notified to the Commission in writing. The Commission will have the right to object to any changes of members of the team from those initially proposed.

IV.3. EVALUATION OF TENDERS – AWARD CRITERIA

The contract will be awarded according to the criteria given below, on the basis of the economically most advantageous tender.

Only bids that have reached a total score of a minimum of 70% and a minimum score of 60 % for each criterion will be taken into consideration for awarding the contract.

a) Technical evaluation criteria in their order of importance as weighted by percentage

N°	Award Criteria	Weighting
1	Understanding of the objective of the tender	10

	Understanding of the needs, the objectives and the scope of the tender.	
2	Methodology of work Clarity, completeness and full coverage of the tasks; Quality of proposed methodology and tools for gathering, validating, analysing and presenting information; Quality and appropriateness of proposed consultation activities.	50
3	Management Appropriateness of the project planning and management, and the human and financial resources allocated to cope with and fulfil the obligations of the contract. Quality of the work-plan and schedule.	30
4	Overall clarity and presentation of the offer	10
Total number of points		100

b) Total price

The contract will be awarded to the tender which offers the best ratio quality/price.

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \frac{\text{Price of lowest tender}}{\text{Price of tender } x} \quad \text{Multiplied by } 0.3 \\
 \text{Score for tender } x = & \quad + \\
 & \frac{\text{Total quality score for award}}{\text{criteria for tender } x} \quad \text{Multiplied by } 0.7 \\
 & \quad \quad \quad 100
 \end{aligned}$$

All bids which reached the minimum technical thresholds will be ranked according to the above formula.

IV.4. INFORMATION FOR TENDERERS

The Commission will inform tenderers of decisions reached concerning the award of the contract, including the grounds for any decision not to award a contract or to recommence the procedure.

Upon written request, the Commission will inform the rejected tenderers of the reasons for their rejection and the tenderers having submitted an admissible tender of the characteristics and relative advantages of the selected tender and the name of the successful tenderer.

However, certain information may be withheld where its release would impede law enforcement or otherwise be contrary to the public interest, or would prejudice the legitimate

commercial interests of economic operators, public or private, or might prejudice fair competition between them.

V. ANNEXES

1. Identification of the Tenderer
2. Financial Identification
3. Legal Entity Form
4. Declaration by the Tenderer (relating to the exclusion criteria and absence of conflict of interest)
5. Power of Attorney (mandate in case of joint tender)
6. Draft Contract

ANNEX 1

IDENTIFICATION OF THE TENDERER

(Each service provider, including subcontractor(s) or any member of a consortium or grouping, must complete and sign this identification form)

Call for tender ENER/C3/2012-436

Identity	
Name of the tenderer	
Legal status of the tenderer	
Date of registration	
Country of registration	
Registration number	
VAT number	
Description of statutory social security cover (at the level of the Member State of origin) and non-statutory cover (supplementary professional indemnity insurance) ⁶	
Address	
Address of registered office of tenderer	
Where appropriate, administrative address of tenderer for the purposes of this invitation to tender	
Contact Person	
Surname: First name: Title (e.g. Dr, Mr, Ms) : Position (e.g. manager): Telephone number: Fax number: E-mail address:	

⁶ For natural persons

Legal Representatives	
Names and function of legal representatives and of other representatives of the tenderer who are authorised to sign contracts with third parties	
Declaration by an authorised representative of the organisation⁷ I, the undersigned, certify that the information given in this tender is correct and that the tender is valid.	
Surname: First name:	Signature:

⁷ This person must be included in the list of legal representatives; otherwise the signature on the tender will be invalidated.

ANNEX 2

Financial identification form

(to be completed by the tenderer and his or her financial institution)

A specific form for each Member State is available at the following Internet address:

http://ec.europa.eu/budget/contracts_grants/info_contracts/financial_id/financial_id_en.cfm

In the case of a grouping, this form must only be provided by the person heading the project.

ANNEX 3

Legal entity form

Complete the legal entity form, which should be accompanied by a number of supporting documents, available on the Web site:

http://ec.europa.eu/budget/contracts_grants/info_contracts/legal_entities/legal_entities_en.cfm

Please note that we can only accept either original documents or certified copies, which must be less than 6 months old.

ANNEX 4

Declaration of honour with respect to the Exclusion Criteria and absence of conflict of interest

Each service provider, including subcontractor(s) or any member of a consortium or grouping, must sign this declaration

The undersigned *[name of the signatory of this form, to be completed]*:

- in his/her own name (*if the economic operator is a natural person or in case of own declaration of a director or person with powers of representation, decision making or control over the economic operator⁸*)
or
- representing (*if the economic operator is a legal person*)

official name in full (*only for legal person*):

official legal form (*only for legal person*):

official address in full:

VAT registration number:

declares that the company or organisation that he/she represents / he/she:

- a) is not bankrupt or being wound up, is not having its affairs administered by the courts, has not entered into an arrangement with creditors, has not suspended business activities, is not the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, and is not in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;
- b) has not been convicted of an offence concerning professional conduct by a judgment which has the force of *res judicata*;
- c) has not been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the contracting authorities can justify;
- d) has fulfilled all its obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions and the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which it is established, with those of the country of the contracting authority and those of the country where the contract is to be carried out;

⁸ To be used depending on the national legislation of the country in which the candidate or tenderer is established and where considered necessary by the contracting authority (see art. 134(4) of the Implementing Rules).

- e) has not been the subject of a judgement which has the force of *res judicata* for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation or any other illegal activity detrimental to the Union's financial interests;
- f) is not a subject of the administrative penalty for being guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the contracting authority as a condition of participation in the procurement procedure or failing to supply an information, or being declared to be in serious breach of his obligation under contract covered by the budget.

In addition, the undersigned declares on their honour:

- g) they have no conflict of interest in connection with the contract; a conflict of interest could arise in particular as a result of economic interests, political or national affinities, family or emotional ties or any other relevant connection or shared interest;
- h) they will inform the contracting authority, without delay, of any situation considered a conflict of interest or which could give rise to a conflict of interest;
- i) they have not made and will not make any offer of any type whatsoever from which an advantage can be derived under the contract;
- j) they have not granted and will not grant, have not sought and will not seek, have not attempted and will not attempt to obtain, and have not accepted and will not accept any advantage, financial or in kind, to or from any party whatsoever, constituting an illegal practice or involving corruption, either directly or indirectly, as an incentive or reward relating to award of the contract;
- k) that the information provided to the Commission within the context of this invitation to tender is accurate, sincere and complete;
- l) that in case of award of contract, they shall provide upon request the evidence that they are not in any of the situations described in points a, b, d, e above.

For situations described in (a), (b) and (e), production of a recent extract from the judicial record is required or, failing that, a recent equivalent document issued by a judicial or administrative authority in the country of origin or provenance showing that those requirements are satisfied. Where the Tenderer is a legal person and the national legislation of the country in which the Tenderer is established does not allow the provision of such documents for legal persons, the documents should be provided for natural persons, such as the company directors or any person with powers of representation, decision making or control in relation to the Tenderer.

For the situation described in point (d) above, recent certificates or letters issued by the competent authorities of the State concerned are required. These documents must provide evidence covering all taxes and social security contributions for which the Tenderer is liable, including for example, VAT, income tax (natural persons only), company tax (legal persons only) and social security contributions.

For any of the situations (a), (b), (d) or (e), where any document described in two paragraphs above is not issued in the country concerned, it may be replaced by a sworn or, failing that, a solemn statement made by the interested party before a judicial or administrative authority, a notary or a qualified professional body in his country of origin or provenance.]

By signing this form, the undersigned acknowledges that they have been acquainted with the administrative and financial penalties described under art 133 and 134 b of the Implementing Rules (Commission Regulation 2342/2002 of 23/12/02), which may be applied if any of the declarations or information provided prove to be false.

Full name

Date

Signature

ANNEX 5

POWER OF ATTORNEY

mandating one of the partners in a joint tender as lead partner and lead contractor ⁹

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 tender as a partner in the group of partners constituted by **Company 1, Company 2, Company N**, and led by **Company X**, 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 European Commission awards the Contract to the group of partners constituted by **Company 1, Company 2, Company N**, and led by **Company X** on the basis of the joint tender to which this power of attorney is attached, all the partners shall be co-signatories of the Contract in accordance with the following conditions:
 - (a) All partners shall be jointly and severally liable towards the European Commission for the performance of the Contract.
 - (b) All partners 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.
- 1) Payments by the European Commission related to the services and/or supplies subject to the Contract shall be made through the lead partner's bank account: **[Provide details on bank, address, account number]**.
- 2) The partners grant to the lead partner all the necessary powers to act on their behalf in the submission of the tender and conclusion of the Contract, including:
 - (a) The lead partner shall submit the tender on behalf of the group of partners.
 - (b) The lead partner shall sign any contractual documents — including the Contract, and Amendments thereto — and issue any invoices related to the Services on behalf of the group of partners.
 - (c) The lead partner shall act as a single contact point with the European Commission 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 of partners to the European Commission, and shall see to a proper administration of the Contract.

Any modification to the present power of attorney shall be subject to the European Commission's express approval. This power of attorney shall expire when all the contractual obligations of the group of partners towards the European Commission for the delivery of the services and/or supplies subject to the Contract have ceased to exist. The parties cannot terminate it before that date without the Commission's consent.

Signed in on **[dd/mm/yyyy]**

Place and date:

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

⁹ To be filled in and signed by each of the partners in a joint tender, except the lead partner;

ANNEX 6
DRAFT CONTRACT



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENERGY

Directorate C - Renewables, Research and Innovation, Energy Efficiency
Director

SERVICE CONTRACT

CONTRACT NUMBER – **ENER/C3/2012-436/SI2.XXX**

The European Union (hereinafter referred to as "the Union"), represented by the European Commission (hereinafter referred to as "the Commission"), which is represented for the purposes of the signature of this contract by Ms Marie Donnelly, Director in the Directorate-General for Energy, Directorate for Renewables, Research and Innovation, Energy Efficiency,

of the one part,

and

[*official name in full*]

[*official legal form* (Delete if contractor is a natural person or a body governed by public law.)]

[*statutory registration number* (Delete if contractor is a body governed by public law. For natural persons, indicate the number of their identity card or, failing that, of their passport or equivalent)]

[*official address in full*]

[*VAT registration number*]

(hereinafter referred to as "the Contractor"), [represented for the purposes of the signature of this contract by [*forename, surname and function.*]]

[The parties identified above and hereinafter collectively referred to as 'the Contractor' shall be jointly and severally liable vis-à-vis the Commission for the performance of this contract.]

of the other part,

HAVE AGREED

the **Special Conditions** and the and the following Annexes¹⁰:

Annex I – General Conditions for service contracts

Annex II – Tender Specifications (Invitation to Tender No [complete] of [insert date])

Annex III – Contractor's Tender (No [complete] of [insert date])

[Other Annexes]

which form an integral part of this contract (hereinafter referred to as “the Contract”).

- The terms set out in the Special Conditions shall take precedence over those in the other parts of the Contract.
- The terms set out in the General Conditions shall take precedence over those in the other Annexes.
- The terms set out in the Tender Specifications (Annex II) shall take precedence over those in the Tender (Annex III).

Subject to the above, the several instruments forming part of the Contract are to be taken as mutually explanatory. Ambiguities or discrepancies within or between such parts shall be explained or rectified by a written instruction issued by the Commission, subject to the rights of the Contractor under Article I.7 should he dispute any such instruction.

¹⁰ Voluminous annexes may be replaced by a reference to publicly available documents.

I – SPECIAL CONDITIONS

ARTICLE I.1 - SUBJECT

- I.1.1.** The subject of the Contract is a market study on a common European Union certification scheme for the energy performance of non-residential buildings.
- I.1.2.** The Contractor shall execute the tasks assigned to him in accordance with the Tender Specifications annexed to the Contract (Annex II).

ARTICLE I.2 - DURATION

- I.2.1.** The Contract shall enter into force on the date on which it is signed by the last contracting party.
- I.2.2.** Under no circumstances may implementation commence before the date on which the Contract enters into force.
- I.2.3.** The duration of the execution of the tasks shall not exceed 15 months. This period and all other periods specified in the Contract are calculated in calendar days. Execution of the tasks shall start from date of entry into force of the Contract. The period of execution of the tasks may be extended only in exceptional and duly justified cases and with the express written agreement of the parties. If the request for extension is made by the contractor, he must send it to the Commission in good time before it is due to take effect and at all events one month before the period of the execution of the tasks elapses, except in cases duly substantiated by the contractor and accepted by the Commission.
- I.2.4.** N/A

ARTICLE I.3 – CONTRACT PRICE

- I.3.1.** The total amount to be paid by the Commission under the Contract shall be EUR [*amount in figures and in words*] covering all tasks executed.

This price also covers any fees payable to the Contractor in relation to the vesting of rights in the Union and where applicable the transfer of rights to the Union and any use of the results by the Commission.

- I.3.2.** Prices shall be expressed in EUR.
- I.3.3.** N/A
- I.3.4.** N/A

ARTICLE I.4 – PAYMENTS

I.4.1 Interim payment

The Contractor shall submit an invoice indicating the reference number of the Contract for an interim payment of EUR [*amount in figures and in words*] equal to 40 % of the total amount referred to in Article I.3.1.

The invoice for interim payment shall be accompanied by the 2nd **progress report** in accordance with the instructions laid down in Annex II.

The Commission shall have sixty days from receipt to approve or reject the progress report and to pay an interim payment. The Contractor shall have twenty days in which to submit additional information or a new progress report.

I.4.2 Payment of the balance

Within sixty days of completion of the tasks referred to in Annex II, the Contractor shall submit an invoice indicating the reference number of the Contract for payment of the balance.

The invoice shall be accompanied by the final report in accordance with the instructions laid down in Annex II.

The Commission shall have sixty days from receipt to approve or reject the final progress report and to pay the balance. The Contractor shall have twenty days in which to submit additional information or a new final report.

[For Contractors established in Belgium, the provisions of the Contract constitute a request for VAT exemption No 450, article 42, paragraph 3.3 of the Belgian VAT code (circular 2/1978), provided the Contractor includes the following statement in his invoice(s): “Exonération de la TVA, article 42, paragraphe 3.3 du code de la TVA (circulaire 2/1978)” or an equivalent statement in the Dutch or German language.]

ARTICLE I.5 – BANK ACCOUNT

Payments shall be made to the Contractor’s bank account denominated in euro, identified as follows:

Name of bank: [complete]
Address of branch in full: [complete]
Exact designation of account holder: [complete]
Full account number including codes: [complete]
[IBAN¹¹ code: [complete]]

ARTICLE I.6 – GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

Any communication relating to the Contract or to its implementation shall be made in writing in paper or electronic form and shall bear the Contract number. Ordinary mail shall be deemed to have

¹¹ BIC or SWIFT code for countries with no IBAN code.

been received by the Commission on the date on which it is registered by the department responsible indicated below.

Electronic communication must be confirmed by paper communication when requested by any of the parties. The parties agree that paper communication can be replaced by electronic communication with electronic signature.

Communications shall be sent to the following addresses¹²:

Commission:

European Commission
Directorate-General for Energy
Directorate C
Unit C3
Mr Clemens Haury
Clemens.haury@ec.europa.eu
B-1049 Bruxelles

Contractor:

Mr/Mrs/Ms [*complete*]
[*Function*]
[*Company name*]
[*Official address in full*]

ARTICLE I.7– APPLICABLE LAW AND SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

I.7.1. The Contract shall be governed by Union law, complemented, where necessary, by the national substantive law of Belgium.

I.7.2. Any dispute between the parties resulting from the interpretation or application of the Contract which cannot be settled amicably shall be brought before the courts of Belgium.

ARTICLE I.8 – DATA PROTECTION

Any personal data included in the Contract shall be processed pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data. Such data shall be processed solely for the purposes of the performance, management and monitoring of the Contract by the Director of the Shared Resource Directorate MOVE/ENER acting as data controller without prejudice to possible transmission to the bodies charged with monitoring or inspection task in application of Union law.

¹² Fax number and e-mail accounts may be added. If an e-mail account is given, incoming e-mails should be redirected if the account holder is absent and a clause should be added specifying what is considered to be the reference date of the electronic communication (date of sending, receiving or opening).

ARTICLE I.9 - USE OF THE RESULTS

I.9.1 Modes of exploitation

All studies/analysis/elaborations/thesis/materials/reports, scientific work, website layout or content, computations, documented data, database format and data, methods of creation, industrial design, discoveries produced within this Contract and for which the rights vest in the Union and thereby the Union has acquired the ownership in accordance with Article II.10 may be used in the following way:

- i) distribution:
 - publishing in paper copies
 - publishing in electronic form as downloadable/non-downloadable file
 - making available on internet
 - broadcasting
 - public presentation or display
 - communication through a press information services,
 - inclusion in widely accessible databases or indexes
 - in any form and by any method existing at this date and in the future
 - giving access on individual requests without right to reproduce or exploit, as provided for by Regulation 1049/2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents
- ii) storage:
 - in paper format
 - in electronic format
 - in original format (sculpture, maquette etc.)
- iii) archiving in line with the applicable document management rules¹³
- iv) modifications made by the Commission or by a third party:
 - shortening
 - making a summary
 - modification of the content
 - technical changes to the content
 - addition of new elements, paragraphs titles, leads, bolds, legend, table of content, summary, graphics, subtitles, sound, etc.,
 - preparation in audio form, preparation as a presentation, animation, pictograms story, slide-show, public presentation etc.
 - extracting a part or dividing into parts
 - use of a concept or preparation of a derivate work
 - digitisation or converting the format for storage or usage purposes
 - translate, subtitle, dub
- v) language versions:
 - official languages of EU
- vi) use for own purposes:
 - making available to the staff of the Commission
 - making available to the persons and entities working for the Commission or cooperating with it, including: contractors, subcontractors whether legal or natural persons, EU-institutions, agencies and bodies, Member States institutions

¹³ See Decision 2002/47/EC on document management, Decision 2004/563/EC on electronic and digitised documents and the Implementing Rules SEC(2009) 1643: http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/archival_policy/legal_basis_en.htm
In case of Contracting Authority different from the European Commission the legal base may be different.

- installing, uploading, processing
 - arranging, compiling, combining, retrieving
 - making a copy, reproducing
- vii) allow use of results by third parties:
- for commercial or non commercial purposes,
 - against payment, without payment or against fulfilment of other conditions
 - assignment in full or in part
 - for a particular period or unlimited in time

Where the Commission becomes aware that scope of modifications exceeds the scope envisaged in the Contract the creator shall be consulted. The creator will be obliged to provide his response within two weeks. He shall provide his agreement including any suggestions of modifications free of charge. The creator may refuse the intended modification only when it may harm his honour, reputation or distort integrity of the work.

I.9.2 Pre-existing rights, intermediaries, creators' rights

Where industrial and intellectual property rights, including rights of ownership and use of the Contractor and third parties, exist prior to the Contract being entered into, ("pre-existing rights") the Contractor shall establish a list which shall specify all pre-existing rights and disclose it to the Commission at the latest when delivering a final result.

All pre-existing rights to delivered results shall vest in the Union and thereby under the terms of the Contract be effectively transferred to the Union, as provided for in Article I.9.1.

The Contractor shall present relevant and exhaustive proofs of acquiring all necessary rights together with delivery of the final report at the latest. The latter should be fulfilled by presentation of the contractors', all subcontractors' intermediating in the transfer of rights and creators' statements prepared in accordance with annexes A1.

ARTICLE I.11 - CONTRACT CONCLUDED DURING STANDSTILL PERIOD

In case this Contract was signed by both the Commission and the Contractor before the expiry of 14 calendar days from the day after simultaneous dispatch of information about the award decisions and decisions to reject, this Contract shall be null and void.

This article is not applicable for contracts not covered by Directive 2004/18/EC and in cases indicated in Article 158a(2) of the rules for the implementation of the Financial Regulation (Regulation No 2342/2002).

SIGNATURES

For the Contractor,
[Company name/forename/surname/function]

For the Commission,
Marie Donnelly, Director

signature[s]: _____

signature: _____

Done at [Brussels], [date]

Done at Brussels,

In duplicate in English.

II – GENERAL CONDITIONS

ARTICLE II.1 – PERFORMANCE OF THE CONTRACT

- II.1.1.** The Contractor shall perform the Contract to the highest professional standards. The Contractor shall have sole responsibility for complying with any legal obligations incumbent on him, notably those resulting from employment, tax and social legislation.
- II.1.2.** The Contractor shall have sole responsibility for taking the necessary steps to obtain any permit or licence required for performance of the Contract under the laws and regulations in force at the place where the tasks assigned to him are to be executed.
- II.1.3.** Without prejudice to Article II.3 any reference made to the Contractor's staff in the Contract shall relate exclusively to individuals involved in the performance of the Contract.
- II.1.4.** The Contractor must ensure that any staff performing the Contract has the professional qualifications and experience required for the execution of the tasks assigned to him.
- II.1.5.** The Contractor shall neither represent the Commission nor behave in any way that would give such an impression. The Contractor shall inform third parties that he does not belong to the European public service.
- II.1.6.** The Contractor shall have sole responsibility for the staff who executes the tasks assigned to him.

The Contractor shall make provision for the following employment or service relationships with his staff:

- staff executing the tasks assigned to the Contractor may not be given orders direct by the Commission;
 - the Commission may not under any circumstances be considered to be the staff's employer and the said staff shall undertake not to invoke in respect of the Commission any right arising from the contractual relationship between the Commission and the Contractor.
- II.1.7.** In the event of disruption resulting from the action of a member of the Contractor's staff working on Commission premises or in the event of the expertise of a member of the Contractor's staff failing to correspond to the profile required by the Contract, the Contractor shall replace him without delay. The Commission shall have the right to request the replacement of any such member of staff, stating its reasons for so doing. Replacement staff must have the necessary qualifications and be capable of performing the Contract under the same contractual conditions. The Contractor shall be responsible for any delay in the execution of the tasks assigned to him resulting from the replacement of staff in accordance with this Article.
- II.1.8.** Should any unforeseen event, action or omission directly or indirectly hamper execution of the tasks, either partially or totally, the Contractor shall immediately and on his own initiative record it and report it to the Commission. The report shall include a description of

the problem and an indication of the date on which it started and of the remedial action taken by the Contractor to ensure full compliance with his obligations under the Contract. In such event the Contractor shall give priority to solving the problem rather than determining liability.

II.1.9. Should the Contractor fail to perform his obligations under the Contract, the Commission may - without prejudice to its right to terminate the Contract - reduce or recover payments in proportion to the scale of the failure. In addition, the Commission may impose penalties or liquidated damages provided for in Article II.12.

ARTICLE II.2 – LIABILITY

II.2.1. The Commission shall not be liable for damage sustained by the Contractor in performance of the Contract except in the event of wilful misconduct or gross negligence on the part of the Commission.

II.2.2. The Contractor shall be liable for any loss or damage sustained by the Commission in performance of the Contract, including in the event of subcontracting under Article II.6 but only up to three times the total amount of the Contract. Nevertheless, if the damage or loss is caused by the gross negligence or wilful misconduct of the Contractor or by its employees, the Contractor shall remain liable without any limitation as to the amount of the damage or loss.

II.2.3. The Contractor shall provide compensation in the event of any action, claim or proceeding brought against the Commission by a third party as a result of damage caused by the Contractor in performance of the Contract.

II.2.4. In the event of any action brought by a third party against the Commission in connection with performance of the Contract, the Contractor shall assist the Commission. Expenditure incurred by the Contractor to this end may be borne by the Commission.

II.2.5. The Contractor shall take out insurance against risks and damage relating to performance of the Contract if required by the relevant applicable legislation. He shall take out supplementary insurance as reasonably required by standard practice in the industry. A copy of all the relevant insurance contracts shall be sent to the Commission should it so request.

ARTICLE II.3 - CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

II.3.1. The Contractor shall take all necessary measures to prevent any situation that could compromise the impartial and objective performance of the Contract. Such conflict of interests could arise in particular as a result of economic interest, political or national affinity, family or emotional ties, or any other relevant connection or shared interest. Any conflict of interests which could arise during performance of the Contract must be notified to the Commission in writing without delay. In the event of such conflict, the Contractor shall immediately take all necessary steps to resolve it.

The Commission reserves the right to verify that such measures are adequate and may require additional measures to be taken, if necessary, within a time limit which it shall set. The Contractor shall ensure that his staff, board and directors are not placed in a situation which could give rise to conflict of interests. Without prejudice to Article II.1 the Contractor

shall replace, immediately and without compensation from the Commission, any member of his staff exposed to such a situation.

II.3.2. The Contractor shall abstain from any contact likely to compromise his independence.

II.3.3. The Contractor declares:

- that he has not made and will not make any offer of any type whatsoever from which an unjustified advantage can be derived under the Contract,
- that he has not granted and will not grant, has not sought and will not seek, has not attempted and will not attempt to obtain, and has not accepted and will not accept, any advantage, financial or in kind, to or from any party whatsoever, where such advantage constitutes an illegal practice or involves corruption, either directly or indirectly, inasmuch as it is an incentive or reward relating to performance of the Contract.

II.3.4. The Contractor shall pass on all the relevant obligations in writing to his staff, board, and directors as well as to third parties involved in performance of the Contract.

ARTICLE II.4 – CONFIDENTIALITY

II.4.1. The Contractor undertakes to treat in the strictest confidence and not make use of or divulge to third parties any information or documents which are linked to performance of the Contract. The Contractor shall continue to be bound by this undertaking after completion of the tasks.

II.4.2. The Contractor shall obtain from each member of his staff, board and directors an undertaking that they will respect the confidentiality of any information which is linked, directly or indirectly, to execution of the tasks and that they will not divulge to third parties or use for their own benefit or that of any third party any document or information not available publicly, even after completion of the tasks.

ARTICLE II.5 – DATA PROTECTION

II.5.1 The Contractor shall have the right of access to his/her personal data and the right to rectify any such data. Should the Contractor have any queries concerning the processing of his/her personal data, s/he shall address them to the entity acting as data controller provided for in Article I.8.

II.5.2 The Contractor shall have right of recourse at any time to the European Data Protection Supervisor.

II.5.3 Where the Contract requires the processing of personal data by the Contractor, the Contractor may act only under the supervision of the data controller, in particular with regard to the purposes of the processing, the categories of data which may be processed, the recipients of the data, and the means by which the data subject may exercise his/her rights.

II.5.4 The Contractor shall limit access to the data to the staff strictly necessary for the performance, management and monitoring of the Contract.

II.5.5 The Contractor undertakes to adopt appropriate technical and organisational security measures having regard to the risks inherent in the processing and to the nature of the personal data concerned in order to:

- a) prevent any unauthorised person from having access to computer systems processing personal data, and especially:

- aa) unauthorised reading, copying, alteration or removal of storage media;
- ab) unauthorised data input as well as any unauthorised disclosure, alteration or erasure of stored personal data;
- ac) unauthorised use of data-processing systems by means of data transmission facilities;
- b) ensure that authorised users of a data-processing system can access only the personal data to which their access right refers;
- c) record which personal data have been communicated, when and to whom;
- d) ensure that personal data being processed on behalf of third parties can be processed only in the manner prescribed by the contracting institution or body;
- e) ensure that, during communication of personal data and transport of storage media, the data cannot be read, copied or erased without authorisation;
- f) design its organisational structure in such a way that it meets data protection requirements.

ARTICLE II.6 – SUBCONTRACTING

- II.6.1.** The Contractor shall not subcontract without prior written authorisation from the Commission nor cause the Contract to be performed in fact by third parties.
- II.6.2.** Even where the Commission authorises the Contractor to subcontract to third parties, he shall none the less remain bound by his obligations to the Commission under the Contract and shall bear exclusive liability for proper performance of the Contract.
- II.6.3.** The Contractor shall make sure that the subcontract does not affect rights and guarantees to which the Commission is entitled by virtue of the Contract, notably Article II.20.

ARTICLE II.7 – AMENDMENTS

Any amendment to the Contract shall be the subject of a written agreement concluded by the contracting parties before fulfilment of all their contractual obligations. An oral agreement shall not be binding on the contracting parties.

ARTICLE II.8 – ASSIGNMENT

- II.8.1.** The Contractor shall not assign the rights and obligations arising from the Contract, in whole or in part, without prior written authorisation from the Commission.
- II.8.2.** In the absence of such authorisation, or in the event of failure to observe the terms thereof, assignment by the Contractor shall not be enforceable against and shall have no effect on the Commission.

ARTICLE II.9 - USE, DISTRIBUTION AND PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONTRACT

- II.9.1.** The Contractor shall authorise the Commission to process, use, distribute and publish, for whatever purpose, by whatever means and on whatever medium, any data contained in the Contract, in particular the identity of the Contractor, the subject matter, the duration and the amount paid. Where personal data is concerned, Articles I.8 and II.5 shall apply.

- II.9.2.** Unless otherwise provided by the Special Conditions, the Commission shall not be required to distribute or publish documents or information supplied in performance of the Contract. If it decides not to distribute or publish the documents or information supplied, the Contractor may not have them distributed or published elsewhere without prior written authorisation from the Commission.
- II.9.3.** Any distribution or publication of information relating to the Contract or use of outcome of the implementation of the Contract and provided as such by the Contractor shall require prior written authorisation from the Commission and, if so requested, shall mention that it was produced within a contract with the Commission. It shall state that the opinions expressed are those of the Contractor only and do not represent the Commission's official position.
- II.9.4.** The use of information obtained by the Contractor in the course of the Contract for purposes other than its performance shall be forbidden, unless the Commission has specifically given prior written authorisation to the contrary.

ARTICLE II.10 – OWNERSHIP OF THE RESULTS - INTELLECTUAL AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY

- II.10.1** A result shall be any outcome of the implementation of the Contract and provided as such by the Contractor.

A creator shall be any person who contributed to production of the result.

Pre-existing intellectual property rights, sometimes referred to as background technology, are any industrial and intellectual property rights which exist prior to the contract being entered into and include rights of ownership and use of the Contractor, the Commission and any third parties ("pre-existing rights").

It shall be a material term of the Contract and of the essence of the Contract that Contractors shall be under a duty to provide a list of pre-existing rights at the date of delivery of the final result the latest.

- II.10.2** The ownership of all the results or rights thereon as listed in the tender specification and the tender attached to the contract, including copyright and other intellectual or industrial property rights, and all technological solutions and information embodied therein, obtained in performance of the Contract, shall be irrevocably and fully vested to the Union, which may use them as described in the Contract. All the rights shall be vested on the Union from the moment the results were delivered and accepted by the Commission.

For the avoidance of doubt and where applicable, any such vesting of rights is also deemed to constitute an effective transfer of the rights from the Contractor to the Union.

The payment of the fee under Article I.3 is deemed to include all forms of use by the Union of the results as set out in Article I.9.

The above vesting of rights in the Union under this Contract covers all territories worldwide and is valid for the whole duration of intellectual property rights protection.

- II.10.3** Any intermediary sub-result, raw data, intermediary analysis made available to the Commission by the Contractor cannot be used by the Union without written consent of the Contractor, unless the tender specification explicitly provides for it to be treated as self-contained result.
- II.10.4** The Contractor retains all right, title and interest in pre-existing rights not fully vested into the Union in line with Article I.9.2, and hereby grants the Union for the requested period a licence to use the pre-existing rights to the extent necessary to use the delivered results.

II.10.5 The Contractor shall ensure that delivered results are free of rights or claims from third parties including in relation to pre-existing rights, for any use envisaged by the Commission. This does not concern the moral rights of natural persons and rights referred to in Article II.10.4.

II.10.6 The Contractor shall clearly point out all quotations of existing textual works made by the Contractor. The complete reference should include as appropriate: name of the author, title of the work, date of publishing, date of creation, place of publication, address of publication on internet, number, volume and other information allowing to identify the origin easily.

II.10.7 The Contractor shall clearly indicate all parts to which there are pre-existing rights and all parts of the result originating from external sources: parts of other documents, images, graphs, tables, data, software, technical inventions, know-how etc. (delivered in paper, electronic or other form).

For non-textual results or results provided in electronic form only, the description, instruction or information document shall list all parts coming from external sources: IT development tools, routines, subroutines and/or other programs ("background technology"), concepts, designs, installations or pieces of art, data, source or background materials or any other parts of external origin.

II.10.8 If the Commission so requires, the Contractor shall provide proof of ownership or rights to use all necessary rights to the materials referred to in Article II.10.7.

II.10.9. By delivering the results the Contractor confirms that the creators undertake not to oppose their names being recalled when the results are presented to the public and confirms that the results can be divulged.

The Contractor shall possess all relevant agreements of the creator and provide proof by way of documentary evidence.

II.10.10. By delivering the results the Contractor warrants that the above transfer of rights does not violate any law or infringe any rights of others and that he possesses the relevant rights or powers to execute the transfer. He also warrants that he has paid or has verified payment of all fees including fees to collecting societies, related to the final results.

II.10.11. The Contractor shall indemnify and hold the Union harmless for all damages and cost incurred due to any claim brought by any third party including creators and intermediaries for any alleged breach of any intellectual, industrial or other property right based on the Union 's use of the works and in relation to which the Contractor has granted the Union user rights.

ARTICLE II.11 – FORCE MAJEURE

II.11.1. Force majeure shall mean any unforeseeable and exceptional situation or event beyond the control of the contracting parties which prevents either of them from performing any of their obligations under the Contract, was not due to error or negligence on their part or on the part of a subcontractor, and could not have been avoided by the exercise of due diligence. Defects in equipment or material or delays in making it available, labour disputes, strikes or financial problems cannot be invoked as force majeure unless they stem directly from a relevant case of force majeure.

II.11.2. Without prejudice to Article II.1.8, if either contracting party is faced with force majeure, it shall notify the other party without delay by registered letter with acknowledgment of receipt or equivalent, stating the nature, likely duration and foreseeable effects.

II.11.3. Neither contracting party shall be held in breach of its contractual obligations if it has been prevented from performing them by force majeure. Where the Contractor is unable to perform his contractual obligations owing to force majeure, he shall have the right to remuneration only for tasks actually executed.

II.11.4. The contracting parties shall take the necessary measures to reduce damage to a minimum.

ARTICLE II.12 – LIQUIDATED DAMAGES

Should the Contractor fail to perform his obligations under the Contract within the time limits set by the Contract, then, without prejudice to the Contractor's actual or potential liability incurred in relation to the Contract or to the Commission's right to terminate the Contract, the Commission may decide to impose liquidated damages per calendar day of delay according to the following formula:

$$0.3 \times (V/d)$$

V is the amount specified in Article I.3.1;

d is the duration specified in Article I.2.3 expressed in days

The Contractor may submit arguments against this decision within thirty days of notification by registered letter with acknowledgement of receipt or equivalent. In the absence of reaction on his part or of written withdrawal by the Commission within thirty days of the receipt of such arguments, the decision imposing the liquidated damages shall become enforceable. These liquidated damages shall not be imposed where there is provision for interest for late completion. The Commission and the Contractor expressly acknowledge and agree that any sums payable under this Article are in the nature of liquidated damages and not penalties, and represent a reasonable estimate of fair compensation for the losses that may be reasonably anticipated from such failure to perform obligations.

ARTICLE II.13 – SUSPENSION OF THE CONTRACT

Without prejudice to the Commission's right to terminate the Contract, where the Contract is subject to substantial error, irregularity or fraud the Commission may suspend execution of the Contract or any part thereof. Suspension shall take effect on the day the Contractor receives notification by registered letter with acknowledgment of receipt or equivalent, or at a later date where the notification so provides. The Commission shall as soon as possible give notice to the Contractor to resume the service suspended or inform that it is proceeding with contract termination. The Contractor shall not be entitled to claim compensation on account of suspension of the Contract or of part thereof.

ARTICLE II.14 – TERMINATION BY THE COMMISSION

II.14.1. The Commission may terminate the Contract in the following circumstances:

- (a) where the Contractor is being wound up, is having his affairs administered by the courts, has entered into an arrangement with creditors, has suspended business activities, is the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or is in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;
- (b) where the Contractor has not fulfilled obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country

in which he is established or with those of the country applicable to the Contract or those of the country where the Contract is to be performed;

- (c) where the Commission has evidence or seriously suspects the Contractor or any related entity or person, of professional misconduct;
- (d) where the Commission has evidence or seriously suspects the Contractor or any related entity or person, of fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation or any other illegal activity detrimental to the Union's financial interests;
- (e) where the Commission has evidence or seriously suspects the Contractor or any related entity or person, of substantial errors, irregularities or fraud in the award procedure or the performance of the Contract;
- (f) where the Contractor is in breach of his obligations under Article II.3;
- (g) where the Contractor was guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the Commission as a condition of participation in the Contract procedure or failed to supply this information;
- (h) where a change in the Contractor's legal, financial, technical or organisational situation could, in the Commission's opinion, have a significant effect on the performance of the Contract;
- (i) where execution of the tasks has not actually commenced within three months of the date foreseen, and the new date proposed, if any, is considered unacceptable by the Commission;
- (j) where the Contractor is unable, through his own fault, to obtain any permit or licence required for performance of the Contract;
- (k) where the Contractor, after receiving formal notice in writing to comply, specifying the nature of the alleged failure, and after being given the opportunity to remedy the failure within a reasonable period following receipt of the formal notice, remains in serious breach of his contractual obligations.

II.14.2. In case of force majeure, notified in accordance with Article II.11, either contracting party may terminate the Contract, where performance thereof cannot be ensured for a period corresponding to at least to one fifth of the period laid down in Article I.2.3.

II.14.3. Prior to termination under point c), d), e), h) or k), the Contractor shall be given the opportunity to submit his observations.

Termination shall take effect on the date on which a registered letter with acknowledgment of receipt terminating the Contract is received by the Contractor, or on any other date indicated in the letter of termination.

II.14.4. Consequences of termination

In the event of the Commission terminating the Contract in accordance with this article and without prejudice to any other measures provided for in the Contract, the Contractor shall waive any claim for consequential damages, including any loss of anticipated profits for uncompleted work. On receipt of the letter terminating the Contract, the Contractor shall take all appropriate measures to minimise costs, prevent damage, and cancel or reduce his commitments. He shall draw up the documents required by the Special Conditions for the tasks executed up to the date on which termination takes effect, within a period not exceeding sixty days from that date.

The Commission may claim compensation for any damage suffered and recover any sums paid to the Contractor under the Contract.

On termination the Commission may engage any other contractor to execute or complete the services. The Commission shall be entitled to claim from the Contractor all extra costs incurred in doing so, without prejudice to any other rights or guarantees it has under the Contract.

ARTICLE II.14a – SUBSTANTIAL ERRORS, IRREGULARITIES AND FRAUD ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE CONTRACTOR

Where, after the award of the Contract, the award procedure or the performance of the Contract prove to have been subject to substantial errors, irregularities or fraud, and where such errors, irregularities or fraud are attributable to the Contractor, the Commission may refuse to make payments, may recover amounts already paid or may terminate all the contracts concluded with the Contractor, in proportion to the seriousness of the errors, irregularities or fraud.

ARTICLE II.15 – INVOICING AND PAYMENTS

II.15.1. Pre-financing guarantee:

Where required by Article I.4.1, the Contractor shall provide a financial guarantee in the form of a bank guarantee or equivalent supplied by a bank or an authorised financial institution (guarantor) equal to the amount indicated in the same article to cover pre-financing under the Contract. Such guarantee may be replaced by a joint and several guarantee by a third party.

The guarantor shall pay to the Commission at its request an amount corresponding to payments made by it to the Contractor which have not yet been covered by equivalent work on his part.

The guarantor shall stand as first-call guarantor and shall not require the Commission to have recourse against the principal debtor (the Contractor).

The guarantee shall specify that it enters into force at the latest on the date on which the Contractor receives the pre-financing. The guarantee shall be retained until the pre-financing has been deducted from interim payments or payment of the balance to the Contractor. It shall be released the following month. The cost of providing such guarantee shall be borne by the Contractor.

II.15.2. Interim payments and payment of the balance:

Payments shall be executed only if the Contractor has fulfilled all his contractual obligations by which the invoice is submitted.

At the end of each of the periods indicated in Annex II the Contractor shall submit to the Commission a formal request for payment accompanied by the following documents which are provided for in the Special Conditions.

If providing a progress report is a condition for payment, on receipt the Commission shall have the period of time indicated in the Special Conditions in which:

- to approve it, with or without comments or reservations, or suspend such period and request additional information; or
- to reject it and request a new progress report.

Approval of the progress report shall not imply recognition of the regularity or of the authenticity, completeness and correctness of the declarations or information it contains.

Where the Commission requests a new report because the one previously submitted has been rejected, this shall be submitted within the period of time indicated in the Special Conditions. The new progress report shall likewise be subject to the above provisions.

II.15.3. Payment currency and costs:

Payments are executed in the currency of the contract.

Costs of the transfer are borne in the following way:

- costs of dispatch charged by the bank of the Commission are borne by the Commission,
- cost of receipt charged by the bank of the Contractor are borne by the Contractor,
- all costs of repeated transfer caused by one of the parties are borne by the party who caused repetition of the transfer.

ARTICLE II.16 – GENERAL PROVISIONS CONCERNING PAYMENTS

II.16.1. Payments shall be deemed to have been made on the date on which the Commission's account is debited.

II.16.2. The payment periods referred to in Article I.4 may be suspended by the Commission at any time if it informs the Contractor that his invoice is not admissible, either because the amount is not due or because the necessary supporting documents have not been properly produced. The Commission may proceed with further verification, including an on-the-spot check, in order to ascertain, prior to payment, that the invoice is admissible.

The Commission shall notify the Contractor accordingly by registered letter with acknowledgment of receipt or equivalent. Suspension shall take effect from the date of dispatch of the letter. The remainder of the period referred to in Article I.4 shall begin to run again once the suspension has been lifted.

II.16.3. In the event of late payment the Contractor shall be entitled to interest, provided the calculated interest exceeds EUR 200. In case interest does not exceed EUR 200, the Contractor may claim interest within two months of receiving the payment. Interest shall be calculated at the rate applied by the European Central Bank to its most recent main refinancing operations (“*the reference rate*”) plus eight percentage points (“*the margin*”). The reference rate in force on the first day of the month in which the payment is due shall apply. Such interest rate is published in the C series of the Official Journal of the European Union. Interest shall be payable for the period elapsing from the calendar day following expiry of the time limit for payment up to the day of payment. Suspension of payment by the Commission may not be deemed to constitute late payment.

ARTICLE II. 17 – TAXATION

II.17.1. The Contractor shall have sole responsibility for compliance with the tax laws which apply to him. Failure to comply shall make the relevant invoices invalid.

II.17.2. The Contractor recognises that the Commission is, as a rule, exempt from all taxes and duties, including value added tax (VAT), pursuant to the provisions of Articles 3 and 4 of the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the European Union.

- II.17.3.** The Contractor shall accordingly complete the necessary formalities with the relevant authorities to ensure that the goods and services required for performance of the Contract are exempt from taxes and duties, including VAT.
- II.17.4.** Invoices presented by the Contractor shall indicate his place of taxation for VAT purposes and shall specify separately the amounts not including VAT and the amounts including VAT.

ARTICLE II.18 - REIMBURSEMENTS

- II.18.1.** Where provided by the Special Conditions or by Annex II, the Commission shall reimburse the expenses which are directly connected with execution of the tasks on production of original supporting documents, including receipts and used tickets.
- II.18.2.** Travel and subsistence expenses shall be reimbursed, where appropriate, on the basis of the shortest itinerary.
- II.18.3.** Travel expenses shall be reimbursed as follows:
- a) travel by air shall be reimbursed up to the maximum cost of an economy class ticket at the time of the reservation;
 - b) travel by boat or rail shall be reimbursed up to the maximum cost of a first class ticket;
 - c) travel by car shall be reimbursed at the rate of one first class rail ticket for the same journey and on the same day;
 - d) travel outside Union territory shall be reimbursed under the general conditions stated above provided the Commission has given its prior written agreement.
- II.18.4.** Subsistence expenses shall be reimbursed on the basis of a daily allowance as follows:
- a) for journeys of less than 200 km (return trip) no subsistence allowance shall be payable;
 - b) daily subsistence allowance shall be payable only on receipt of a supporting document proving that the person concerned was present at the place of destination;
 - c) daily subsistence allowance shall take the form of a flat-rate payment to cover all subsistence expenses, including accommodation, meals, local transport, insurance and sundries;
 - d) daily subsistence allowance, where applicable, shall be reimbursed at the rate specified in Article I.3.
- II.18.5.** The cost of shipment of equipment or unaccompanied luggage shall be reimbursed provided the Commission has given prior written authorisation.
- II.18.6.** Conversion between the euro and another currency shall be made using the daily euro exchange rate published in the C series of the *Official Journal of the European Union* of the day on which the expense was made.

ARTICLE II.19 – RECOVERY

- II.19.1.** If total payments made exceed the amount actually due or if recovery is justified in accordance with the terms of the Contract, the Contractor shall reimburse the appropriate amount in euro on receipt of the debit note, in the manner and within the time limits set by the Commission.

- II.19.2.** In the event of failure to pay by the deadline specified in the debit note, the sum due shall bear interest at the rate indicated in Article II.16.3. Interest shall be payable from the calendar day following the due date up to the calendar day on which the debt is repaid in full.
- II.19.3.** The Commission may, after informing the Contractor, recover amounts established as certain, of a fixed amount and due by offsetting, in cases where the Contractor also has a claim on the Union that is certain, of a fixed amount and due. The Commission may also claim against the guarantee, where provided for.

ARTICLE II.20 – CHECKS AND AUDITS

- II.20.1.** Pursuant to Article 142 of the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities, the Court of Auditors shall be empowered to audit the documents held by the natural or legal persons receiving payments from the budget of the Union from signature of the Contract up to five years after payment of the balance.
- II.20.2.** The Commission or an outside body of its choice shall have the same rights as the Court of Auditors for the purpose of checks and audits limited to compliance with contractual obligations from signature of the Contract up to five years after payment of the balance.
- II.20.3.** In addition, the European Anti Fraud Office may carry out on-the-spot checks and inspections in accordance with Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96 and Parliament and Council Regulation (EC) No 1073/1999 from signature of the Contract up to five years after payment of the balance.

ANNEX [A1]

Statement of Contractor concerning right to delivered result

I, [*insert name of the authorised representative of the Contractor*] representing [*insert name of the Contractor*], party to the Contract [*insert title and/or number of the contract*] warrants that the Contractor holds full right to the delivered [*insert title and/or description of result*] which is free of any claims, including claim of the creators who transferred all their rights and [were fully paid] [will be paid as agreed within [*complete*] weeks from [delivery of this statement.] [receipt of confirmation of acceptance of the work].

Date, place, signature