

Questions and answers raised for the tender

ENER/C2/2013 423-1 concerning

From the Sugar Platform to biofuels and biochemicals

Date: 05.09.2013

Question 1: Could you please tell me which price range is intended for the project?

Answer: The European Commission is not in position to inform eventual tenderers of the price range intended for any published open tender.

The only information that can be provided by the European Commission is the estimate made for the needed person-months necessary to carry out the tasks described in the tender. This information can be found in Section 3.6. "Estimate of the amount of work" of the Tender Specifications (please see http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/energy/tenders/index_en.htm). The text specifies that: "The amount of the work involved has been estimated at 120 man days".

Question 2: We have question on the tender documents, since the Draft Contract in Annex 5, seems to be missing. Could you please forward us the draft contract related to this tender? Or indicate where we can obtain this?

Answer: You can find the draft contract available on http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/energy/tenders/index_en.htm

Question 3: From the text of the tender we deduce that the scope of the research concerns only technologies that convert sugars into building blocks for biofuels and biochemicals. If this is the case:

- 1. Thermal conversion technologies that directly convert lignocellulosic feedstock into building blocks are outside the scope of the project since the conversion to sugars does not take place. Is this correct?**
- 2. The pretreatment technologies that treat the different substrates/raw materials in such a way that sugars are formed are also out of scope of the research. Is that correct?**
- 3. Algae as substrate are also out of the scope of the project. Is that correct?**

Answer:

1. Yes, the thermal conversion technologies that directly convert lignocellulosic feedstock into building blocks without conversion to sugars are out of scope of the study. However, if it is possible to extract sugars from the building blocks, the study should address this as part of input into the sugar platform.
2. The commercial pretreatment technologies that treat the different substrates/raw materials to form sugars are out of scope of the tender (a short description of these would suffice).

However, new and innovative specific pretreatment technologies that could produce specific and dedicated sugars that can facilitate downstream processing should be covered by the study.

3. Yes, algae as substrate are not included in the scope of the study. However, if algae can generate sugars, then the study should address this as part of input into the sugar platform.

Question 4: What are the crops to be considered in the research? Are you for instance also referring to starch-based crops?

Answer: Yes, starch-based crops, as any other crops which are suitable for the sugar platform, will be considered in the study.

Question 5:

The paragraph 1.5 of the tender specifications indicates that 3 copies of the tender have to be submitted one of them marked "original".

Please could you help me understand what does it mean?

Should I submit:

- **3 copies of both administrative documents and technical proposal?**
- **should 1 of these 3 copies of the entire documentation be marked with the stamp "original" and the other two be photocopied?**

Answer: According to section III of the tender specifications, tenderers must send 3 exemplars of the tender i.e. one original and two copies.

The original version will be clearly marked "original".

The two copies will be photocopies of the original version.

Each exemplar must include the three sections i.e. the administrative, the technical and the financial proposal.

Question 6:

The tender does not specify in clearly manner how the financial offer should be submitted:

- **who should submit it**
- **who should sign it**

Please could you tell me if a form is available?

Answer: There is no available form to submit the financial offer.

You must respect the tender specifications and in particular section 2.6 on the financial offer.

The financial offer, as the other parts of the final offer, will be submitted by the lead partner's authorised representative who signed the administrative identification form (Annex 1). It is not required to sign the financial offer.