

Before submitting any written question to the Commission, the tenderers should consult this frequently asked questions section relating to the invitation to tender. Questions and answers are published here with full respect to the anonymity of the enquiring tenderers.

**Frequently Asked Questions about tender no TREN/D2-429/2006 on "Benchmarking and guidelines for streamlined authorisation processes for bioenergy installations" (JO S 65-078722 of 03/04/2007).**

*1. Can the offer and/or future project reporting be made in another language than English?*

The offer is allowed to be submitted in any official language of the EU. However, all project reportings towards the EC should be in English. Furthermore, if deemed necessary, dissemination related documents with particular relevance for certain Member States may additionally be done in the specific national language.

*2. The invitation to tender on page 10 states that "For each category of bioenergy installations, a reasonable geographical distribution of real cases, ie covering Member States and regions with extremely long licensing procedures (at least 3 cases per category) as well as Member States and regions with extremely short licensing procedures (at least 3 cases per category), is to be realised". Does this mean that per biomass category certain national/regional focuses can be made and that not all 27 Member States of the EU need to be covered in the project?*

Correct. This study shall compare very short licensing procedures with very time consuming ones for a limited set of feedstock-technology-combinations ("bioenergy categories"). To this end it is necessary to focus the project activities on those regions and Member States of the EU which provide us with such good and "bad" licensing examples. At the same time, however, we have to maintain a minimum European approach. Against this background please indicate in your offer minimum regional spread levels (eg "licensing cases from at least x different Member States per biomass category and - at the same time - licensing cases from at least y different Member States across all bioenergy categories will be documented").

*3. The final selection of Member States and regions takes place during sub-task 1 (literature survey) - is this correct?*

Eventually yes. Correct.

*4. In practice it may turn out to be very difficult to collect all the requested information about real licensing cases. How to deal with this problem? Can - in case of mobilisation difficulties - a project focus be placed on sub-task 1, for instance?*

Sub-task 2 (documentation of real licensing cases) is the core of this tendered project. We need the tenderer to collect facts about real cases in order to supply new and added value information to future political discussions about licensing procedures for bioenergy installations in Europe. Hence we advise the tenderers strongly to explain in their offer very convincingly on how to mobilise the collection of requested information and how to meet the related objectives. Sub-task 1 (literature survey) is just a brief starting point for the project, no focus.

*5. On page 8 of the invitation to tender you are mentioning a number of 5-10 bioenergy categories, a minimum requirement of 6 real licensing cases per selected bioenergy category and a total of at least 60 real cases. Is there any contradiction in between these figures?*

A: We do not see there any contradiction. The actual number of bioenergy categories will be decided upon by the tenderer and the Commission by the end of sub-task 1 (literature survey). Subtask 2 (documentation of real licensing cases) will then cover at least 6 real licensing cases per bioenergy category AND at the same time at least 60 real licensing cases in total (across all selected bioenergy categories).

*6. On page 10 of the invitation to tender you mention a project "consortium". Does this mean that you prefer a multi-partner consortium, rather than a single partner?*

We do not have a preference on this issue. Your offer will be evaluated according to the award criteria outlined on page 22 of the invitation to tender. One of the award criteria includes "access to information" and it is up to you to convince the evaluators on how good your individual or joint access to real licensing cases in the various regions of Europe is (see also question 3 in this context).

*7. Considering that the final selection of bioenergy categories and regions/Member States takes place during sub-task 1 (literature survey) and considering the high importance of access to real licensing data throughout Europe (see question 1) it may be necessary to supplement the tenderer with regional subcontractors by the end of sub-task 1 which support the tenderer in getting access to information and data of real licensing cases. Would this be an acceptable approach?*

In principle we prefer project offers which are as clear and concrete as possible. On the other hand we understand the logic behind this point and the possible added-value to the project. Our recommendation is as follows: In case you prefer the subcontracting option please define in your offer as clearly as possible the foreseen subcontracting budgets, tasks to be subcontracted (what exactly shall the subcontractors do incl. a definition of their regional focus), and subcontractor qualifications (eg project developer, consultant, technology manufacturer etc.). In this context please note that the invitation to tender includes all formal rules relevant for subcontracting. In this specific case, if subcontracting is decided at a later stage, the Commission will have to approve the subcontractors chosen according to the rules stated in the tender. If an agreement on that is not reached with the contractor the Commission reserves its right to terminate the contract. Please also bear in mind that even in case of subcontracting full responsible towards the Commission the remains solely with the contactor(s).

*8. On page 8 of the invitation to tender you are mentioning several exemplary bioenergy categories. In how far are these examples binding or preferred options?*

These are just examples in order to explain better what we mean with the term "bioenergy category". We want a project which really focuses at those bioenergy categories where the most substantial (national/regional) differences regarding their licensing procedures exist. As we do not know these bioenergy categories yet exactly (we want you/the market to tell us) we included sub-task 1 (literature survey) into the project scope for their identification.

*9. Are these bioenergy categories limited to heating and/or power generation applications only or do you also mean to include the production plants of and/or application units for liquid biofuels?*

There is no limitation from our side in principle as long as bioenergy is concerned. We want the project to address the most problematic bioenergy categories which hinder the bioenergy market to grow quicker. There is only one exception: The use of liquid biofuels in vehicles and related licensing problems are not to be addressed here because such procedures are of an entirely different type.

*10. Who pays for the workshops which are part of sub-task 3 (analysis and recommendations)?*

These workshops shall be carried out in the premises of the EC in Brussels. Such rooms will be provided at zero cost for the tenderer. Any further workshop related cost, however (eg catering, travel cost reimbursements to invited experts - if applicable -), is to be paid by the tenderer. Consequently all such cost has to be included into the offer.

*11. On page 22 of the invitation to tender a certain format for CV presentation is proposed. Is this binding?*

No, this is just a "preferred" format. Any other useful format will also be possible; this is no award criterion.