

**The European Carbon Dioxide Capture and Storage (CCS) project network  
2008/S 163-219639**

**Questions and answers**

**Question:**

In terms of the project qualification process referred to at 1.3 within the Terms of Reference, could you please confirm our understanding that:

- qualification criteria shall be designed to assess projects' suitability to be part of the CCS network only, and not to rank projects' technical quality or financial viability in absolute terms;
- the extent of the project assessment shall be limited to ascertaining whether such criteria are met and will not include a full technical or financial appraisal;
- because the Commission's decision to declare the eligibility of projects will rely on the consultation of relevant stakeholders and independent experts, the project assessment carried out the contractor shall not provide an exclusive basis for such a decision (incidentally, the latter point will also ensure the contractor's neutrality).

**Answer:**

We can confirm that your understanding of the qualification process referred to at 1.3 within the Terms of Reference is correct.

**Question:**

in terms of a consortium's participating to the tender in the subject, we would envisage including (as a formal consortium partner) an Association grouping the services of a number of institutes of research. However, in light of the fact that a couple of these institutes of research (part of the Association) are participating with another consortium, we are not sure whether this issue could constitute a conflict of interest from the Commission's point of view.

For the sake of clearance, we highlight the fact that the participation of the respective Association in our consortium would be ensured under its specific legal entity, while the respective institutes of research will participate to the other Consortium with their own legal entities.

**Answer:**

the fact that an association of institutes (with an own legal entity) is a formal consortium partner of one bid, while organisations which are members of this association are formal consortium partners of a competing bid, does in itself not constitute a conflict of interest from the Commission's point of view.

**Question:**

1. with regards to the number of projects referred to under task 1:
  - Is there an indication as to how many projects can be awarded? Could you also specify the envisaged limiting criterion? (such as for example cumulative financial budget limit, number of projects or even amount of CO2 captured)
  - Is there any view on the number of project applications that can be expected and need to be assessed? Could you also comment further about the distribution in time?
2. with regards to the procedure for application and assessment:
  - Will the submission procedure for applications be of the tender kind (for example, only the highest ranks would be awarded) or will it be a procedure of a more open nature (perhaps with windows of opportunity, or even a continuous opportunity to submit, in which case applications can only be assessed against objective criteria (pass or miss) but cannot be compared to each other.
  - Furthermore, depending on the answer to the previous question - for the tender case: how many tender rounds will be organised? For the open case: what will be the period that the programme will be open for applications?

**Answer:**

1.
  - there is no indication as to how many projects can be admitted to the project network.
  - at this stage we have no view on the number of applications that can be expected in the first three years of the operation of the project network.
2.
  - it is stated in the tender document that one of the contractor's tasks is to "assess project applications in technical terms as to the extent to which the projects meet the agreed qualification criteria". No call for tenders are planned.
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**Question**

- 1) Will our tender proposal remain confidential for the other bidders?
- 2) Will we have the opportunity to present physically our offer?
- 3) Is there any other information/clarification available to the tenderers than the original documents (we have not seen any other information on the WEB page)?

**Answer :**

- 1) your proposal - and all of its annexes - will remain confidential.
- 2) no bidder will have the opportunity to present its offer physically.
- 3) all information is available on our website. There is no further information available.