



22 August 2011

Clarification No 2 for open call for tenders:**Framework service contract(s) for the provision of GMES Initial Operations 2011-2013 Land Monitoring Services: High Resolution land cover characteristics of 5 main land cover types (6 lots)****Reference number: EEA/SES/11/004****Question 1:**

A question was received as to the possibility to extend the time limit for submission of tenders by additional 6 weeks.

Answer 1:

Please see clarification No 1, question and answer No 1 available at the following address:

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/about-us/tenders/eea-ses-11-004-framework/clarification-no-1/view>

Question 2:

The development of the High Resolution (HR) layers requires a considerable amount of VHR data as input for the processing (especially tree density layer, as any ancillary data from Member States would not be sufficient and would not be consistent in quality) as well as for the verification.

Do the costs for the VHR data have to be covered by the Contractor?

Answer 2:

The contractor shall cover the cost of VHR data as input for the processing as well as for the verification for the development of HRLs. These requirements could partly be covered by the data available from the ESA data warehouse.

Question 3:

When 2/3 of the Member States participate in Verification and Enhancement as noted in the Tender document, who would then be responsible for the desired final accuracy of the HR layers?

Answer 3:

The contractor is responsible for the desired final accuracy of the HRLs in the cases where Member States do not take responsibility.

Question 4:

For the test classification required for submission as part of the proposal, which input HR data should be used for classification, and which VHR for training of the classifier?

Answer 4:

It is entirely up to the contractor to decide on the methodological approach for which input HR data should be used for classification and which VHR for training of the classifier. Nevertheless, the contractor shall bear in mind that the method applied to the test area is representative for the proposed methodological approach as it is indicated in the award criteria of this Call for Tenders.

Question 5:

It is not clear in the tender documents if the quotations for the 2 service elements of the forest layers have to be offered in one contract within the indicated budget per lot?

Answer 5:

The service elements of the forest layers shall be offered for each lot. Concerning the indicative budget per lot, EEA, depending on the actual needs and overall budget availability, may decide to procure the required forest service element 1 or both forest service elements.

Question 6:

We are looking to partner with our US sister company on this tender and wondered if a US company can participate?

Answer 6:

In accordance with Articles 106 and 107 of the applicable Financial Regulation (EC) No 1605/2002 as amended by Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1995/2006 (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/consleg/2002/R/02002R1605-20070101-en.pdf>), participation in tendering procedures is open on equal terms to all natural and legal persons from one of the EU Member States and to all natural and legal persons in a third country which has a special agreement with the European Union in the field of public procurement on the conditions laid down in that agreement (i.e. at this moment, Croatia, FYROM and Albania; Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein; Mexico and Chile).

Furthermore, where the Multilateral Agreement on Government Procurement concluded within the World Trade Organisation applies, the contracts shall also be open to nationals of the States which have ratified this agreement (i.e. Canada, the EU with regard to its 27 Member States, Hong Kong- China, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Korea, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands with respect to Aruba, Norway, Singapore, Switzerland, Chinese Taipei, the United States) under the conditions laid down in that agreement. For more information on the WTO GPA, please refer to http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/qproc_e/memobs_e.htm.

*Please note that according to section II.1.7 of the contract notice, the contract at issue is **not** covered by the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA).*

Pursuant to section III.2.1 of the contract notice, tenderers shall prove that they are authorized to perform the contract and present the supporting evidence acceptable under their national law. As stated in the contract notice under section III.1.3, tenders may be submitted by consortia of economic operators; however, each consortium member must fulfil the conditions for participation referred to above, notably the eligibility rules. Therefore a company established in the US may not participate to this call for tenders as a consortium member.

Without prejudice to the above, tenderer 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 EEA 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 (Articles 136(3) and 137(4) of the Implementing rules of the applicable Financial Regulation regarding the selection criteria on technical and professional capacity).

Question 7:

On page 16, table 3, 2006-2009-2012 years are mentioned in products description. Could you please confirm that agriculture areas products to be delivered is expected for reference year 2012 only (taking in account previous years during production).

Answer 7:

It is hereby confirmed, that agriculture areas products to be delivered are expected for reference year 2012 only.

Question 8:

On page 16, paragraph 6.2.3.4. it is stated that "For wetland areas presence of surface water during the reference year (2012) shall be mapped. Seasonal changes using AWiFS data will be used to map areas covered temporarily by water surfaces, as well as areas covered during the whole reference year."

Could you please be more specific, whether the expected Wetland Inventory products shall map

a) ALL areas with seasonal variation of water surface presence all over the service area

or rather

b) seasonal variation of water surface presence for the designated wetland areas ONLY.

Answer 8:

It hereby is confirmed that the expected Wetland Inventory products shall map all areas with seasonal variation of water surface presence all over the service area.