



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
TAXATION AND CUSTOMS UNION
Direct taxation, Tax Coordination, Economic Analysis and Evaluation

Economic analysis, evaluation & impact assessment support

Brussels, **11 JUN 2012**
TAXUD/R1/TA Ares (2012) 759798

Subject: Call for tenders TAXUD/2012/AO-05
Provision of tax and customs information services

- Replies to questions

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

You will find in the Annex to this letter the replies to all the questions received up to 5 June 2012.

This letter is being posted on the website of the Directorate-General for Taxation and Customs Union, at this URL address.

http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/common/tenders_grants/tenders/index_en.htm

Questions received subsequently will be answered in further letters which will be placed regularly on the same website. Prospective tenderers are invited to monitor this site attentively.

As mentioned in the invitation letter (ref TAXUD-R1/TA (2012) 519369) published with the tender documents, requests for additional information received less than five working days before the closing date for submission of tenders, i.e. after 11 June 2012, will not be processed.

Yours faithfully,

Jean-Pierre De Laet
Head of Unit

Question no. 1

In the context of the above mentioned call for tender, we would kindly ask you to provide clarification as to the question below:

On page 1 under Section 1. *Background and objectives for this call for tender of the tender specification* paragraph 3 it is stated that, "The studies conducted under this framework contract are considered to be an essential source of information for impact assessment of Commission initiatives".

As you are aware, DG TAXUD is currently tendering two framework contracts for evaluation and impact assessment services and economic analysis (TAXUD/2012/AO-02 and TAXUD/2012/AO-01). Could DG TAXUD confirm that the firm to be retained in this current call for tenders will not be conflicted out of the other two calls for tenders and vice versa? The basis for this question is as to whether there exists a conflict (issues of independence) between Firm X preparing tax and customs information services and then performing an assessment/evaluation thereof.

Reply

It is up to the tenderer to determine if there could be a potential conflict of interest. If that is the case, the tenderer will have to provide the Commission with evidence of compensatory measures that they commit to take to segregate duties regarding the services and/or products to be provided under TAXUD/2012/AO-05 - Provision of tax and customs information services, as opposed to the services and/or products to be provided under (an)other procurement procedure(s) launched by the Commission (namely, TAXUD/2012/AO-01 – Provision of economic analysis in the area of customs and/or TAXUD/2012/AO-02 – Provision of evaluation and impact assessment related services).

Question no. 2

In the context of the tender TAXUD/2012/AO-05, we would kindly ask you to provide examples of: 1) Data collection services requests; 2) Studies and comparative analysis requests

Reply

An example of a data collection service request has been published on the website of Directorate General for Taxation and Customs Union

An example of a study and comparative analysis has been published on the website of Directorate General for Taxation and Customs Union

Question no. 3

In the context of the tender TAXUD/2012/AO-05, we would kindly ask you to provide an estimate of a number of data collection requests to be delivered in 48 hours?

Reply

The number of data collection requests is estimated at 10 services of 10 man-days on average for the duration of the framework contract. All data collection requests need to be delivered within 48 hours.

Question no. 4

In the context of the tender TAXUD/2012/AO-05, we would kindly ask you to clarify the following:

In 3(a) on page 10 of the tendering specifications, you ask to provide 3 client reference contacts of companies other than the Commission that are making use of services similar to the service requirements of this call for tenders. Please clarify whether referees can only be corporate entities, or could they also be international organisations and public sector bodies?

Reply

The client references can be corporate entities, international organisations and public sector bodies.

Question no. 5

In the context of the tender TAXUD/2012/AO-05, we would kindly ask you to clarify the following:

In pages 5-6, the tendering specifications set out that for each request, the contractor shall provide a detailed quotation. Please could you clarify as to how much time the provider will be given to provide the detailed quotation?

Reply

The average time given for a detailed quotation depends on the nature of the service requested. For data collection services that have to be delivered within 48 hours, the quotation must be given within 24 hours of the request. For studies and comparative analysis, the time frame for providing a quotation is usually 3 weeks. However, to accommodate the urgency of requests, the deadline may in exceptional circumstances be shortened to 1 week.