



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
ENVIRONMENT
Directorate B - Circular Economy & Green Growth
Unit B.3 - Waste Management & Secondary Materials

CALL FOR TENDERS

ENV/B.3/ETU/2016/00XXMV

STUDY ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PRODUCT DESIGN
REQUIREMENTS SET OUT IN ARTICLE 4 OF THE WEEE
DIRECTIVE- The case of re-usability of printer cartridges

TENDER SPECIFICATIONS

DRAFT

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1. INFORMATION ON TENDERING

1.1. Participation

Participation in this tender procedure is restricted to the invited candidates only.

1.2. Contractual conditions

The tenderer should bear in mind the provisions of the draft contract which specifies the rights and obligations of the contractor, particularly those on payments, performance of the contract, confidentiality, and checks and audits.

1.3. Compliance with applicable law

The tender must comply with applicable environmental, social and labour law obligations established by Union law, national legislation, collective agreements or the international environmental, social and labour conventions listed in Annex X to Directive 2014/24/EU¹.

1.4. Joint tenders

A joint tender is a situation where a tender is submitted by a group of economic operators (natural or legal persons). Joint tenders may include subcontractors in addition to the members of the group.

In case of joint tender, all members of the group assume joint and several liability towards the Contracting Authority for the performance of the contract as a whole, i.e. both financial and operational liability. Nevertheless, tenderers must designate one of the economic operators as a single point of contact (the leader) for the Contracting Authority for administrative and financial aspects as well as operational management of the contract.

After the award, the Contracting Authority will sign the contract either with all members of the group, or with the leader on behalf of all members of the group, authorised by the other members via powers of attorney.

1.5. Subcontracting

Subcontracting is permitted but the contractor will retain full liability towards the Contracting Authority for performance of the contract as a whole.

Tenderers are required to identify all subcontractors and provide an indication of the proportion of subcontracting. See Annex 2, questionnaire for joint bids and subcontracting.

¹ Directive 2014/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on public procurement and repealing Directive 2004/18/EC (OJ L 94, 28.3.2014, p. 65).

During contract performance, the change of any subcontractor identified in the tender or additional subcontracting will be subject to prior written approval of the Contracting Authority.

1.6. Structure and content of the tender

The tenders must be presented as follows:

Part A: Identification of the tenderer (see section 1.7)

Part B: Non-exclusion (see section 2.2)

Part C: Selection (see section 2.3)

Part D: Technical offer (see section 3)

Part E: Financial offer (see section 2.6)

1.7. Identification of the tenderer

The tender must include a cover letter signed by an authorised representative presenting the name of the tenderer (including all entities in case of joint tender) and identified subcontractors if applicable, and the name of the single contact point (leader) in relation to this procedure. Coherence must be ensured between the information in the cover letter and in Annex 1.

In case of joint tender, the cover letter must be signed either by an authorised representative for each member, or by the leader authorised by the other members with powers of attorney. The signed powers of attorney must be included in the tender as well. Subcontractors that are identified in the tender must provide a letter of intent signed by an authorised representative stating their willingness to provide the service presented in the tender and in line with the present tender specifications.

The tenderer (and each member of the group in case of joint tender) must declare whether it is a Small or Medium Size Enterprise in accordance with [Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC](#). This information is used for statistical purposes only.

All tenderers (including all members of the group in case of joint tender) must provide a signed Legal Entity Form with its supporting evidence. The form is available on: http://ec.europa.eu/budget/contracts_grants/info_contracts/legal_entities/legal_entities_en.cfm

Tenderers that are already registered in the Contracting Authority's accounting system (i.e. they have already been direct contractors) must provide the form but are not obliged to provide the supporting evidence.

The tenderer (or the leader in case of joint tender) must provide a Financial Identification Form with its supporting documents. Only one form per tender should be submitted. No form is needed for subcontractors and other members of the group in case of joint tender. The form is available on: http://ec.europa.eu/budget/contracts_grants/info_contracts/index_en.cfm

2. EVALUATION AND AWARD

2.1. Evaluation steps

The evaluation is based solely on the information provided in the submitted tender. It involves the following:

- Verification of non-exclusion of tenderers on the basis of the exclusion criteria
- Selection of tenderers on the basis of selection criteria
- Verification of compliance with the minimum requirements set out in these tender specifications
- Evaluation of tenders on the basis of the award criteria

The contracting authority may reject abnormally low tenders, in particular if it established that the tenderer or a subcontractor does not comply with applicable obligations in the fields of environmental, social and labour law.

The tenders will be assessed in the order indicated above. Only tenders meeting the requirements of one step will pass on to the next step.

2.2. Verification of non-exclusion

All tenderers must provide a declaration on honour (see Annex 5), signed and dated by an authorised representative, stating that they are not in one of the situations of exclusion listed in that declaration on honour.

In case of joint tender, each member of the group must provide a declaration on honour signed by an authorised representative.

In case of subcontracting, subcontractors whose capacity is necessary to fulfil the selection criteria must provide a declaration on honour signed by an authorised representative.

The Contracting Authority reserves the right to verify whether the successful tenderer is in one of the situations of exclusion by requiring, at any point during the procedure, the supporting documents listed in the declaration on honour.

The obligation to submit supporting evidence does not apply to international organisations.

A tenderer (or a member of the group in case of joint tender, or a subcontractor) is not required to submit the documentary evidence if it has already been submitted for another procurement procedure and provided the documents were issued not more than one year before the date of their request by the contracting authority and are still valid at that date. In such cases, the tenderer must declare on its honour that the documentary evidence has already been provided in a previous procurement procedure, indicate the reference of the procedure and confirm that there has been no change in its situation.

A tenderer (or a member of the group in case of joint tender, or a subcontractor) is not required to submit a specific document if the contracting authority can access the document in question on a national database free of charge.

2.3. Selection criteria

Tenderers must prove their legal, regulatory, economic, financial, technical and professional capacity to carry out the work subject to this call for tender.

The tenderer may 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 Contracting Authority 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.

2.3.1. Declaration and evidence

The tenderers (and each member of the group in case of joint tender) and subcontractors whose capacity is necessary to fulfil the selection criteria must provide the declaration on honour (see Annex 5), signed and dated by an authorised representative, stating that they fulfil the selection criteria applicable to them individually. In case of joint tender or subcontracting, the criteria applicable to the tenderer as a whole will be verified by combining the various declarations for a consolidated assessment.

This declaration is part of the declaration used for exclusion criteria (see section 2.2) so only one declaration covering both aspects should be provided by each concerned entity.

The Contracting Authority will evaluate selection criteria on the basis of the declaration on honour and evidence submitted for the legal and regulatory, financial and economic and technical and professional capacity of the tenderers.

A tenderer (or a member of the group in case of joint tender, or a subcontractor) is not required to submit the documentary evidence if it has already been submitted for another procurement procedure and provided the documents were issued not more than one year before the date of their request by the contracting authority and are still valid at that date. In such cases, the tenderer must declare on its honour that the documentary evidence has already been provided in a previous procurement procedure, indicate the reference of the procedure and confirm that there has been no change in its situation.

A tenderer (or a member of the group in case of joint tender, or a subcontractor) is not required to submit a specific document if the contracting authority can access the document in question on a national database free of charge.

2.3.2. Legal and regulatory capacity criteria and evidence

Tenderers must prove that they are allowed to pursue the professional activity necessary to carry out the work subject to this call for tenders. The tenderer (including each member of the group in case of joint tender) must provide the following information in its tender if it has not been provided with the Legal Entity Form:

- For legal persons, a legible copy of the notice of appointment of the persons authorised to represent the tenderer in dealings with third parties and in legal proceedings, or a copy of the publication of such appointment if the legislation applicable to the legal person requires such

publication. Any delegation of this authorisation to another representative not indicated in the official appointment must be evidenced.

- For natural persons, if required under applicable law, a proof of registration on a professional or trade register or any other official document showing the registration number.

2.3.3. Economic and financial capacity criteria and evidence

The tenderer must have the necessary economic and financial capacity to perform this contract until its end. The tenderer must comply with the following selection criteria:

Annual turnover of the last two financial years above EUR 186 000 (one hundred and eighty six thousand euros); this criterion applies to the tenderer as a whole, i.e. the combined capacity of all members of a group in case of a joint tender.

On request from the contracting authority, the tenderer should be able to provide the following evidence at short notice:

- Copy of the profit and loss accounts for the last two years for which accounts have been closed from each concerned legal entity;
- Failing that, appropriate statements from banks;
- If applicable, evidence of professional risk indemnity insurance.

If, for some exceptional reason which the Contracting Authority considers justified, a tenderer is unable to provide one or other of the above documents, it may prove its economic and financial capacity by any other documents which the Contracting Authority considers appropriate. In any case, the Contracting Authority must at least be notified of the exceptional reason and its justification. The Commission reserves the right to request any other document enabling it to verify the tenderer's economic and financial capacity.

2.3.4. Technical and professional capacity criteria and evidence

a. Criteria and evidence relating to tenderers

Tenderers (in case of a joint tender the combined capacity of all members of the group and identified subcontractors) must comply with the criteria listed below:

The project references indicated below consist of a list of relevant services provided in the past three years, with the sums, dates and clients, public or private, accompanied by statements issued by the clients.

- **Criterion A1:** The tenderer must prove experience in the field of environmental impacts of products as well as in waste policy.

The contractor shall have specific experience with regard to legal and technical analysis of the EU and national legislation, as well as experience in data collection and analysis. Excellent analytical and forecasting skills are required, covering all aspects of the life-cycle of products including waste management.

Evidence A1: the tenderer must provide references for two projects delivered in these fields in the last three years with a minimum value for each project of € 30,000.

Criterion A2: The tenderer must prove capacity to draft reports in English.

Evidence A2: the tenderer must provide one document of at least 10 pages (report, study, etc.) in this language that it has drafted and published or delivered to a client in the last two years. The verification will be carried out on 5 pages of the document.

In order to prove their capacity, the tenderer must submit with its tender the evidence listed above.

b. Criteria and evidence relating to the team delivering the service:

The team delivering the service should include, as a minimum, the following profiles:

Criterion B1 - Project Manager: At least four years' experience in project management, including overseeing project delivery, quality control of delivered service, client orientation and conflict resolution experience in project of a similar size (at least € 50,000), with experience in management of teams of at least three people.

Evidence B1: CV

Criterion B2 - Language quality check: at least one members of the team should have at least C1 level in the Common European Framework for Reference for Languages² in English.

Evidence B2: a language certificate or past relevant experience.

Criterion B3 - Expert(s) in environmental impacts of products: At least three years of professional experience. Relevant higher education degree or equivalent professional experience and at least three years' professional experience in the field.

Evidence B3: CV

Criterion B3 - Expert(s) in waste policy: At least three years of professional experience. Relevant higher education degree or equivalent professional experience and at least three years' professional experience in the field.

Evidence B3: CV

In order to prove their capacity, the tenderer must submit with its tender the evidence listed above.

² See http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/linguistic/Cadre1_en.asp

2.4. Compliance with the minimum requirements

The technical offer must cover all aspects and tasks required in the technical specifications and provide all the information needed to apply the award criteria. Offers deviating from the requirements or not covering all requirements may be rejected on the basis of non-compliance with the tender specifications and will not be evaluated.

2.5. Award criteria

The contract will be awarded to the most economically advantageous tender, according to the 'best price-quality ratio' award method. The quality of the tender will be evaluated based on the following criteria. The maximum total quality score is 100 points.

A maximum of 60 points will be attributed to criterion 1, a maximum of 30 points will be attributed to criterion 2, and a maximum of 10 points will be attributed to criterion 3. In addition a minimum threshold will be set up under this system of points:

- Technical sufficiency levels: Selected companies will have to score a minimum of 30, 15 and 5 points under criteria 1, 2 and 3 respectively, with a minimum total of 65 points.

Assessment of the tenders will focus on the quality of the proposed services therefore tenderers should elaborate on all points addressed by these specifications in order to score as many points as possible. The mere repetition of mandatory requirements set out in these specifications, without going into details or without giving any added value, will only result in a very low score. In addition, if certain essential points of these specifications are not expressly covered by the tender, the Commission may decide to give a zero mark for the relevant qualitative award criteria.

1 **Quality of the proposed methodology** (60 points – minimum threshold 50%)

The degree to which the methodology shows a clear understanding of the tasks at hand and reflects the capacity to analyse, review and evaluate legislation, documents, reports and figures, in accordance with the needs of the contracting authority. Furthermore the tender must demonstrate the capacity to resolve the questions underlying in the tender in a realistic and well-structured way, as well as whether the methods proposed are suited to the needs set out by the Commission in the Technical Description.

Sub-criterion 1.1: quality of the approach to elaborate a description of the current market situation (20 points – minimum threshold 50%)

Sub-criterion 1.2: quality of the approach to elaborate an analysis of the current practices applied as regards the re-usability of printer cartridges and an evaluation of their efficiency in order to identify good practices (30 points – minimum threshold 50%)

Sub-criterion 1.3: quality of the approach to elaborate proposals and recommendations (10 points – minimum threshold 50%)

2 Organisation of the work and allocation of resources (30 points – minimum threshold 50%)

This criterion will assess how the roles and responsibilities of the proposed team and of the economic operators (in case of joint tenders, including subcontractors if applicable) are distributed for each task. It also assesses the global allocation of time and resources to the project and to each task or deliverable, and whether this allocation is adequate for the work. The tender should provide details on the allocation of time and resources and the rationale behind the choice of this allocation. Details should be provided as part of the technical offer and not simply as part of the financial offer.

3 Quality control measures (10 points – minimum threshold 50%)

This criterion will assess the quality control system applied to the service foreseen in these tender specifications concerning the quality of the deliverables, the language quality check, and continuity of the service in case of absence of a member of the team. The quality control system should be detailed in the tender and specific to the tasks at hand; a generic quality control system will result in a low score.

2.5.1. Ranking and Award

Having examined the tenders from a technical point of view, the evaluation committee will proceed considering which is the economically most advantageous offer taking into account **only those tenders that have obtained at least 65 out of the 100 points that are available for the technical quality of the bid**. The evaluation committee will then proceed with the financial comparison of the tenders retained for further consideration according to the ranking procedure below.

The bid offering the best value for money will be chosen, provided that the minimum number of points cited above is achieved. The ranking of the tenders will be calculated as follows:

- All bids that do not reach the stated technical sufficiency levels for each individual award criteria will not be considered for contract award.
- All bids that have passed the individual levels and score 65 or higher are deemed to be technically sufficient. Then the price is divided by the total number of points awarded to obtain the price-quality ratio. The award of the contract will be made in accordance with the lowest ratio.

The Commission reserves the right not to select any tender if the amounts tendered exceed the budget envisaged for this project.

2.6. Financial offer

The maximum budget allocated to this contract is fixed at € 70,000 (seventy thousand Euros) excluding VAT (including fees, travel and all other costs. **NB Travel and subsistence expenses should be part of the lump sum and will not be refunded separately**). Any offers received that do not respect this maximum budget will be automatically excluded from the evaluation procedure. For guidance purposes see Annex 3.

The price for the tender must be quoted in euro. Tenderers from countries outside the euro zone have to quote their prices in euro. The price quoted may not be revised in line with exchange rate movements. It is for the tenderer to assume the risks or the benefits deriving from any variation.

Prices must be quoted free of all duties, taxes and other charges, including VAT, as the European Union is exempt from such charges under Articles 3 and 4 of the Protocol on the privileges and immunities of the European Union. The amount of VAT may be shown separately.

3. TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

3.1. General background

The Circular Economy Action Plan emphasises, the importance of ecodesign to make products more durable or easier to repair, upgrade or remanufacture, and to, overall, help save precious resources. It highlights that electrical and electronic products are particularly significant in this context, and, inter alia, announces that that *"the Commission will emphasise circular economy aspects in future product design requirements under the Ecodesign Directive.... The Commission will analyse these issues on a product by product basis in new working plans and reviews, taking into account the specificities and challenges of different products (such as innovation cycles), and in close cooperation with relevant stakeholders"*.³

However, provisions on eco-design are also already included in Directive 2012/19/EU on waste electrical and electronic equipment (hereafter mentioned as the "WEEE Directive")⁴. According to Article 4 of the "WEEE Directive, Member States *"shall encourage cooperation between producers and recyclers and measures to promote the design and production of EEE, notably in view of facilitating re-use, dismantling and recovery of WEEE, its components and materials"*. In this context, the Directive obliges Member States to *"take appropriate measures so that the ecodesign requirements facilitating re-use and treatment of WEEE are applied and producers do not prevent, through specific design features or manufacturing processes, WEEE from being re-used, unless such specific design features or manufacturing processes present overriding advantages, for example, with regard to the protection of the environment and/or safety requirements"*.

However, so far, little progress appears to have been made in the implementation of this requirement, inter alia because the interests of producers, users and recyclers are not aligned. It is therefore essential that Member States take appropriate measures and provide incentives to promote improved product design, preserving the single market and competition, and enabling innovation.

³ COM(2015) 614 final: COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS: Closing the loop - An EU action plan for the Circular Economy (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52015DC0614>)

⁴ [OJ L 197, 24.7.2012, p. 38](#)

Moreover, the Commission in its legislative proposal on waste⁵ proposes to encourage better product design by differentiating the financial contribution paid by producers under extended producer responsibility schemes on the basis of the end-of-life costs of their products. This should also create a direct economic incentive to design products that can be more easily recycled or reused.

In order to address the implementation of the product design requirement under Article 4 of the WEEE Directive, and related deficiencies, barriers and possible further steps, the case-study of printer cartridges has been selected. Printer cartridges are a typical example of equipment that can be re-used many times before coming to the end of its life. Printer cartridges which contain electrical/ electronic parts and are dependent on electric currents or electromagnetic fields in order to function properly meet the definition of EEE and therefore fall within the scope of the WEEE Directive. Inter alia, the requirements under Article 4 of the WEEE Directive imply that measures are to be taken by Member States that producers of such EEE do not prevent, through specific design features or manufacturing processes, used cartridges from being re-used. Moreover, there is a requirement in the Directive that by 2019 there be a separate collection of WEEE at the rate of 65% of the average weight of EEE placed on the market in the three preceding years or alternatively of 85% of WEEE generated.

The Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC)⁶ reported that 300-500 million ink cartridges and 10-20 million toner cartridges are sold annually in the EU. Only 20% of these are reused while it is estimated that in total volume, per year, 40-70% of the cartridges end up in incinerators and/or landfills. Depending on their design for durability, some cartridges may typically afford several reuse cycles. From a resource use perspective, considering the quantity of cartridges placed annually on the market (and subsequently discarded), design for reuse, recycling, reduced material usage and recovery resulting in increased durability contributes to maintaining/creating "green jobs", notably SMEs, as well as social sector enterprises and volunteer and charitable organisations.

Compared to reuse/preparation for re-use practices, the production of new cartridges results in higher resource and energy use and associated toxic waste to be disposed. Many European SMEs are in the cartridge reuse (remanufacturing) market. However, rather than rewarding a resource-saving practice, these are frequently exposed to litigations for allegations of copyright infringement, with cartridges often designed to inhibit reuse or refilling, for example through use of glues and sealing rather than screws.

Market analyses show that different producers have chosen different business models as regards the re-usability of their cartridges and the services they provide to their customers in relation to the collection of the used printer cartridges. Different models have also applied for

⁵ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52015PC0595>

⁶ IPTS Working Document for the development of EU Ecolabel criteria for imaging equipment (July 2013), http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/documents/Technical%20Background%20Report_Imaging%20Equipment.pdf

different types of cartridges with professional cartridges being quite often reusable while the cartridges put on the consumer market indicated to be for "single-use".

From a consumer perspective, ink and toner cartridges constitute 63% of their expenditure of 256 billion euro, over the life time of a printing device⁷. This ratio tends to be even higher for lower cost printers and multi-functional devices (MFDs).

Since 2012, producers of imaging equipment are committed under a Voluntary Agreement⁸ to improving the environmental performance of this type of equipment placed on the European market. Cartridges are within the scope of the agreement and the signatories committed to the use of cartridges not preventing reuse or recycling, and to not prevent the use of a non-OEM⁹ cartridge.

Voluntary ecolabelling schemes have been put in place to increase user awareness and guide sustainable purchasing choices. The EU Ecolabel criteria established for imaging equipment¹⁰ include “*Design for recycling and/or reuse of toner and/or ink cartridges*” and even “*cartridge take-back*” as awarding requirements.

3.2. Objective and Tasks

The study will contribute to the implementation of the WEEE Directive and will be used in order to further promote actions to increase re-usability of EEE and the prevention of WEEE generated, in line with the waste hierarchy as established in Directive 2002/98/EC on waste.

The objective of the contract is to produce a study to assist the Commission assessing the implementation on the ground of Article 4 of the WEEE Directive, through the case of the re-usability of printer cartridges and possibly of other types of EEE and in supporting Member States in improving the level of compliance with the EU legislation especially as regards promoting the reuse of EEE.

The tasks to be performed are:

Task 1: Description of the current market situation

The study shall research and present quantitative data on the current market situation, and relevant past evolution, with regard to printer cartridges including data on the reuse sector, data on the potential to reuse (re-fill) printer cartridges and data on the cartridges reused.

⁷ Impact Assessment Accompanying the document REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL on the voluntary ecodesign scheme for imaging equipment (SWD(2013) 15),

<http://eurlex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=SWD:2013:0015:FIN:EN:PDF>

⁸ <https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/documents/VA%20Imaging%20Self-Regulatory%20Initiative-V-4-0.pdf>

⁹ Non-OEM Cartridge is a toner or ink cartridge not sold by the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) that is remanufactured and/or refilled.

¹⁰ Commission Decision 2013/806/EU establishing the ecological criteria for the award of the EU Ecolabel for imaging equipment

In particular, the contractor shall research and present information on at least the following:

- Information on the different types of printer cartridges in the market (and past evolution) both for professional and for consumer use;
- Information on the potential to reuse (re-fill) printer cartridges i.e. the percentage of printer cartridges on the market which are re-usable (re-fillable);
- Information on business practices, including by the original manufacturers, that may hinder re-usability;
- Data on the percentage of re-used (re-filled) printer cartridges and information on the level of development and organisation of the reuse sector.

Task 2: Inventory and analysis of relevant measures taken at Member State and industry level and evaluation of their efficiency

The study shall take stock, describe and analyse the measures taken by Member States with regard/ relevant to the implementation of Article 4 of the WEEE Directive, as well as of measures taken by industry, and evaluate their efficiency. To this end, as a minimum, the study shall:

- (i) present different business models that are applied by the producers as regards the re-usability of the printer cartridges they place on the market and the services they provide to their customers in relation to collection of the used printer cartridges.
- (ii) provide a description of the measures that have been taken by Member States to implement Article 4 of the WEEE Directive and evaluate their efficiency.
- (iii) present a description and an assessment of the actions already taken by the industry in relation to the implementation of the requirements spelled out by Article 4 of the WEEE Directive, including e.g. of the Ecodesign industry voluntary agreement on imaging equipment, its implementation and efficiency with regard to the reuse of printer cartridges.
- (iv) present a description of the relevant ecolabel criteria and review available information on their application.

Moreover, the contractor shall identify good practices and supporting instruments that may have been applied either by Member States or by producers to facilitate re-use or eliminate obstacles to the re-usability of used printer cartridges including, where relevant, Green Public Procurement criteria. On the basis of this analysis, the contractor shall assess whether it is feasible to apply these practices on a broad scale and possibly to other type of EEE as well, taking into consideration the relevant costs and benefits.

Task 3: Present proposals and recommendations for further action

On the basis of the assessment of the current situation under the previous tasks, the contractor shall make recommendations/ develop possible proposals for further action to be taken by Member States and stakeholders to comply with the requirements of the WEEE Directive and/or for supporting action by the Commission aiming to give effect to the requirements on product design under Article 4 of the WEEE Directive. .

The contractor shall present specific proposals for improving the current situation with regard to the re-usability/reuse of printer cartridges but may also extend such proposals and recommendations to other type of EEE.

The contractor shall also assess, and if relevant and appropriate include in the recommendation, any proposal for improving the currently used Ecolabel criteria so as to become more operation/impactful or to further promote the reusability of printer cartridges.

Methodology aspects

The contractor shall perform a literature (and online) review and shall document it in the report. Relevant studies conducted shall be taken into consideration.

A large part of tasks 1 and 2 consist of analysing national reports and studies in various languages of the Member States. Tenderers should explain in their offer how they will arrange for a language regime that fosters highest efficiency for each task's completion and cope with the large variety of languages involved.

The contractor shall also undertake consultations with key stakeholders (producers, reuse operators, preparation for reuse facilities, recyclers, national authorities, NGOs) for additional information as necessary and in order to have a detailed exchange of views with a view to achieving a good understanding of the applied measures and identify whether it is feasible to apply selected good practices on a broad scale.

Within 2 weeks of the specific contract signature, the contractor shall participate in a kick-off meeting with the Commission to discuss the details of the study as specified above. This meeting will be held in the Commission's offices in Brussels unless both parties agree to a telephone conference. An inception report, based on the contractor's initial offer and detailing the specific methodology to be followed and stakeholders to be consulted is to be prepared following the inception meeting. Frequent contact with the Commission will take place during the performance of the study in order to provide for a smooth and effective exchange as necessary.

3.3. Duration of the tasks

The tasks should be completed within 9 (nine) of the signature of the contract. The execution of the tasks may not start before the contract has been signed.

3.4. Place of performance

The place of performance of the tasks shall be the contractor's premises or any other place indicated in the tender, with the exception of the Commission's premises.

3.5. Deliverables

The deliverables shall be:

- i. **Inception report** with a final agreed detailed methodology and work plan shall be submitted to the Commission no later than 6 weeks after the signature of the contract.
- ii. **Interim progress report**, which will contain the outcome of tasks 1 2, shall be submitted to the Commission five months after the signature of the contract.

- iii. **Final study report**, which shall also contain the outcome of task 3, in addition to the above, shall be submitted to the Commission at the end of the tasks (i.e. at nine months).
Along with the final study report the contractor shall deliver a **presentation** (with MS-Office 2010 PowerPoint) describing the main findings of the study **and an infographic**.

The deliverables shall be written in English.

After approval by the Commission, the final study report shall be submitted both on paper (one copy) and electronically (CD/USB with a pdf document and a Word document under MS-Office 2010 version).

4. CONTENT, STRUCTURE AND GRAPHIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE FINAL DELIVERABLES

The contractor must deliver the study and other deliverables as indicated below.

4.1. Content

4.1.1. Final study report

The final study report must include:

- an abstract of no more than 200 words and an executive summary of maximum 6 pages, both in English and French;
- specific identifiers which must be incorporated on the cover page provided by the Contracting Authority;
- the following disclaimer:

“The information and views set out in this [report/study/article/publication...] are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the Commission. The Commission does not guarantee the accuracy of the data included in this study. Neither the Commission nor any person acting on the Commission’s behalf may be held responsible for the use which may be made of the information contained therein.”

4.1.2. Publishable executive summary

The publishable executive summary must be provided in both in English and French and must include:

- specific identifiers which must be incorporated on the cover page provided by the Contracting Authority;
- the following disclaimer:

“The information and views set out in this [report/study/article/publication...] are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the Commission. The Commission does not guarantee the accuracy of the data included in this study.”

Neither the Commission nor any person acting on the Commission's behalf may be held responsible for the use which may be made of the information contained therein."

4.1.3. Requirements for publication on Internet

The Commission is committed to making online information as accessible as possible to the largest possible number of users including those with visual, auditory, cognitive or physical disabilities, and those not having the latest technologies. The Commission supports the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 of the W3C.

For full details on the Commission policy on accessibility for information providers, see: http://ec.europa.eu/ipg/standards/accessibility/index_en.htm

For the publishable versions of the study, abstract and executive summary, the contractor must respect the W3C guidelines for accessible pdf documents as provided at: <http://www.w3.org/WAI/>.

4.2. Structure

The final study report shall include at least the following separate chapters:

- a) Description of the current market situation in the European Union with regard to printer cartridges:
 - (i) Overview of the current market situation (and past evolution)
 - (ii) Data on the potential to reuse (re-fill) printer cartridges
 - (iii) Data on re-use and information on the reuse sector.
- b) Analysis of the current practices applied and evaluation of their efficiency:
 - (i) Description and assessment of the measures taken by Member States to implement Article 4 of the WEEE Directive.
 - (ii) Description and assessment of the measures taken by producers to facilitate re-use or eliminate obstacles to the re-usability of used cartridges.
 - (iii) Presentation of good practices
- c) Proposals/ Recommendations

4.3. Graphic requirements

The contractor must deliver the study and all publishable deliverables in full compliance with the corporate visual identity of the European Commission, by applying the graphic rules set out in the European Commission's Visual Identity Manual, including its logo. The graphic rules, the Manual and further information are available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/communication/services/visual_identity/index_en.htm

A simple Word template will be provided to the contractor after contract signature. The contractor must fill in the cover page in accordance with the instructions provided in the template. The use of templates for studies is exclusive to European Commission's contractors. No template will be provided to tenderers while preparing their tenders.

ANNEX 1 - ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION FORM

(To be signed by the tenderer only or the lead tenderer in the case of joint bids)

Organisation or individual:

NAME:

ADDRESS:

Address where contract should be sent to (if different from above):

.....

PERSON AUTHORISED TO SIGN CONTRACT:

Name and position:

PERSON FOR ROUTINE CONTACT:

Name and position:

ADDRESS:

Telephone and E-mail:

Signature of Tenderer

ANNEX 2 – QUESTIONNAIRE FOR JOINT BIDS AND SUBCONTRACTING

(To be completed and signed by the lead tenderer)

Joint bid (refer to paragraph 1.4)

1. Does your bid involve more than one tenderer? Yes No

Questions 2 - 4 shall be answered only if you have answered yes to question 1.

2. Please fill in the name of the company having power of attorney for the group of tenderers and acting as a co-ordinator:

3. Please fill in the names of the other companies taking part in the joint offer:

4. If a consortium or similar entity exists, please fill in the name and the legal status of the entity:

Subcontracting (refer to paragraph 1.5)

5. Does your bid involve subcontracting? Yes No

If the answer is yes, please complete question 6, and the next page per sub-contractor.

6.

List of sub-contractors:

Percentage of subcontracting:

.....

.....

.....

.....

Reasons, roles, activities and responsibilities of sub-contractors.

Please complete this page for each sub-contractor (one page per sub-contractor):

Name of the sub-contractor:

.....

Official legal form:

.....

Country of registration:

.....

Statutory registration number:

.....

(Internet address, if applicable):

.....

Official address in full:

.....

.....

Contact person:

.....

Telephone number:

.....

Reasons for subcontracting:

.....

Role, activities and responsibilities of the sub-contractor:

.....

The volume or the proportion of the sub-contracting:

.....

Do you intend to rely on capacities from the sub-contractor in order to fulfil the selection criteria? If yes, specify which selection criterion - financial and economic capacity or technical and professional capacity - and be aware that the tenderer must provide the documents which make it possible to assess the selection criteria.

.....

Tenderer:

Date:

Signature:

ANNEX 3 – FINANCIAL OFFER TEMPLATE

(To be completed and signed by the tenderer only or the lead tenderer in the case of joint bids)

(for guidance purposes only)

Price and Estimated budget breakdown

Calculation of the costs (incl. travel, overheads, consumables and any other related costs)

Type of service provider	Position within the project team	Number of working days	Allocation of tasks	Proportion of the contract in %	Costs in €
Lead contractor					

	<i>Sub-total</i>	.....		.....	.....
Sub-contractor 1					

	<i>Sub-total</i>	.....		.....	.....
Sub-contractor 2					

	<i>Sub-total</i>	.....		.....	.....
Sub-contractor 3					

	<i>Sub-total</i>	.....		.....	.....
Travel/other costs¹ (if applicable)					
	Total	.....		.....	.....

Signature of Tenderer

.....

Date

.....

¹ Will be reimbursed on a lump-sum basis.

ANNEX 4 - LEGAL ENTITY AND FINANCIAL IDENTIFICATION FORMS

These forms can be downloaded from

http://ec.europa.eu/budget/contracts_grants/info_contracts/legal_entities/legal_entities_en.cfm
m (Legal entity form)

(To be signed by the tenderer and all members of the group in the case of joint tender (not necessary for subcontractors))

http://ec.europa.eu/budget/contracts_grants/info_contracts/financial_id/financial_id_en.cfm
(financial identification form)

(One form per offer to be signed by the tenderer or lead tender in the case the of joint tender)

**ANNEX 5 - DECLARATION ON HONOUR ON
EXCLUSION CRITERIA AND SELECTION CRITERIA**

(To be completed by the tenderer, all members of a joint tender and any subcontractor whose capacity is necessary to fulfil the selection criteria)

Comments [*in grey italics in square brackets*] are to be deleted and/or replaced by appropriate data.

The undersigned [*insert name of the signatory of this form*], representing:

<i>(only for natural persons)</i> himself or herself	<i>(only for legal persons)</i> the following legal person:
ID or passport number: (‘the person’)	Full official name: Official legal form: Statutory registration number: Full official address: VAT registration number: (‘the person’)

I – SITUATION OF EXCLUSION CONCERNING THE PERSON

(1) declares that the above-mentioned person is in one of the following situations:	YES	NO
a) it is bankrupt, subject to insolvency or winding up procedures, its assets are being administered by a liquidator or by a court, it is in an arrangement with creditors, its business activities are suspended or it is in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for under national legislation or regulations;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) it has been established by a final judgement or a final administrative decision that the person is in breach of its obligations relating to the payment of taxes or social security contributions in accordance with the law of the country in which it is established, with those of the country in which the contracting authority is located or those of the country of the performance of the contract;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) it has been established by a final judgement or a final administrative decision that the person is guilty of grave professional misconduct by having violated applicable laws or regulations or ethical standards of the profession to which the person belongs, or by having engaged in any wrongful conduct which has an impact on its professional credibility where such conduct denotes wrongful intent or gross negligence, including, in particular, any of the following:		

(i) fraudulently or negligently misrepresenting information required for the verification of the absence of grounds for exclusion or the fulfilment of selection criteria or in the performance of a contract;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(ii) entering into agreement with other persons with the aim of distorting competition;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(iii) violating intellectual property rights;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(iv) attempting to influence the decision-making process of the contracting authority during the award procedure;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(v) attempting to obtain confidential information that may confer upon it undue advantages in the award procedure;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) it has been established by a final judgement that the person is guilty of the following:		
(i) fraud, within the meaning of Article 1 of the Convention on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests, drawn up by the Council Act of 26 July 1995;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(ii) corruption, as defined in Article 3 of the Convention on the fight against corruption involving officials of the European Communities or officials of EU Member States, drawn up by the Council Act of 26 May 1997, and in Article 2(1) of Council Framework Decision 2003/568/JHA, as well as corruption as defined in the legal provisions of the country where the contracting authority is located, the country in which the person is established or the country of the performance of the contract;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(iii) participation in a criminal organisation, as defined in Article 2 of Council Framework Decision 2008/841/JHA;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(iv) money laundering or terrorist financing, as defined in Article 1 of Directive 2005/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(v) terrorist-related offences or offences linked to terrorist activities, as defined in Articles 1 and 3 of Council Framework Decision 2002/475/JHA, respectively, or inciting, aiding, abetting or attempting to commit such offences, as referred to in Article 4 of that Decision;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(vi) child labour or other forms of trafficking in human beings as defined in Article 2 of Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) the person has shown significant deficiencies in complying with the main obligations in the performance of a contract financed by the Union's budget, which has led to its early termination or to the application of liquidated damages or other contractual penalties, or which has been discovered following checks, audits or investigations by an Authorising Officer, OLAF or the Court of Auditors;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) it has been established by a final judgment or final administrative decision that the person has committed an irregularity within the meaning of Article 1(2) of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) for the situations of grave professional misconduct, fraud, corruption, other criminal offences, significant deficiencies in the performance of the contract or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<p>irregularity, the applicant is subject to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. facts established in the context of audits or investigations carried out by the Court of Auditors, OLAF or internal audit, or any other check, audit or control performed under the responsibility of an authorising officer of an EU institution, of a European office or of an EU agency or body; ii. non-final administrative decisions which may include disciplinary measures taken by the competent supervisory body responsible for the verification of the application of standards of professional ethics; iii. decisions of the ECB, the EIB, the European Investment Fund or international organisations; iv. decisions of the Commission relating to the infringement of the Union's competition rules or of a national competent authority relating to the infringement of Union or national competition law; or v. decisions of exclusion by an authorising officer of an EU institution, of a European office or of an EU agency or body. 		
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II – SITUATIONS OF EXCLUSION CONCERNING NATURAL PERSONS WITH POWER OF REPRESENTATION, DECISION-MAKING OR CONTROL OVER THE LEGAL PERSON

Not applicable to natural persons, Member States and local authorities

(2) declares that a natural person who is a member of the administrative, management or supervisory body of the above-mentioned legal person, or who has powers of representation, decision or control with regard to the above-mentioned legal person (this covers company directors, members of management or supervisory bodies, and cases where one natural person holds a majority of shares) is in one of the following situations:	YES	NO	N/A
Situation (c) above (grave professional misconduct)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Situation (d) above (fraud, corruption or other criminal offence)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Situation (e) above (significant deficiencies in performance of a contract)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Situation (f) above (irregularity)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

III – SITUATIONS OF EXCLUSION CONCERNING NATURAL OR LEGAL PERSONS ASSUMING UNLIMITED LIABILITY FOR THE DEBTS OF THE LEGAL PERSON

(3) declares that a natural or legal person that assumes unlimited liability for the debts of the above-mentioned legal person is in one of the following situations:	YES	NO	N/A
Situation (a) above (bankruptcy)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Situation (b) above (breach in payment of taxes or social security contributions)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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IV – GROUNDS FOR REJECTION FROM THIS PROCEDURE

(4) declares that the above-mentioned person:	YES	NO
h) has distorted competition by being previously involved in the preparation of procurement documents for this procurement procedure.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

V – REMEDIAL MEASURES

If the person declares one of the situations of exclusion listed above, it must indicate measures it has taken to remedy the exclusion situation, thus demonstrating its reliability. This may include e.g. technical, organisational and personnel measures to prevent further occurrence, compensation of damage or payment of fines. The relevant documentary evidence which illustrates the remedial measures taken must be provided in annex to this declaration. This does not apply for situations referred in point (d) of this declaration.

VI – EVIDENCE UPON REQUEST

Upon request and within the time limit set by the contracting authority the person must provide information on the persons that are members of the administrative, management or supervisory body. It must also provide the following evidence concerning the person itself and concerning the natural or legal persons which assume unlimited liability for the debt of the person:

For situations described in (a), (c), (d) or (f), production of a recent extract from the judicial record is required or, failing that, an equivalent document recently issued by a judicial or administrative authority in the country of establishment of the person showing that those requirements are satisfied.

For the situation described in point (a) or (b), production of recent certificates issued by the competent authorities of the State concerned are required. These documents must provide evidence covering all taxes and social security contributions for which the person is liable, including for example, VAT, income tax (natural persons only), company tax (legal persons only) and social security contributions. Where any document described above is not issued in the country concerned, it may be replaced by a sworn statement made before a judicial authority or notary or, failing that, a solemn statement made before an administrative authority or a qualified professional body in its country of establishment.

The person is not required to submit the evidence if it has already been submitted for another procurement procedure. The documents must have been issued no more than one year before the date of their request by the contracting authority and must still be valid at that date.

The signatory declares that the person has already provided the documentary evidence for a previous procedure and confirms that there has been no change in its situation:

Document	Full reference to previous procedure
<i>Insert as many lines as necessary.</i>	

VII – SELECTION CRITERIA

(5) declares that the above-mentioned person complies with the selection criteria applicable to it individually as provided in the tender specifications:	YES	NO	N/A
(a) It has the legal and regulatory capacity to pursue the professional activity needed for performing the contract as required in section 2.3.2 of the tender specifications;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(b) It fulfills the applicable economic and financial criteria indicated in section 2.3.3 of the tender specifications;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(c) It fulfills the applicable technical and professional criteria indicated in section 2.3.4 of the tender specifications.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

(6) if the above-mentioned person is the sole tenderer or the leader in case of joint tender , declares that:	YES	NO	N/A
(d) the tenderer, including all members of the group in case of joint tender and including subcontractors if applicable, complies with all the selection criteria for which a consolidated assessment will be made as provided in the tender specifications.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

VII – EVIDENCE FOR SELECTION

The signatory declares that the above-mentioned person is able to provide the necessary supporting documents listed in the relevant sections of the tender specifications and which are not available electronically upon request and without delay.

The person is not required to submit the evidence if it has already been submitted for another procurement procedure. The documents must have been issued no more than one year before the date of their request by the contracting authority and must still be valid at that date.

The signatory declares that the person has already provided the documentary evidence for a previous procedure and confirms that there has been no change in its situation:

Document	Full reference to previous procedure
<i>Insert as many lines as necessary.</i>	

The above-mentioned person may be subject to rejection from this procedure and to administrative sanctions (exclusion or financial penalty) if any of the declarations or information provided as a condition for participating in this procedure prove to be false.

Full name

Date

Signature

ANNEX 6 - ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
ENVIRONMENT
Directorate B - Circular Economy & Green Growth
Unit B.3 - Waste Management & Secondary Materials

(Please fill in your address)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF YOUR TENDER

Our reference: [ENV/B.3/ETU/2016/00XXMV]

Your reference:

We wish to confirm the receipt and opening of your offer¹. Your offer will now be evaluated by the Commission and its experts. You will be informed of the result in due course.

We thank you for your interest.

J.Garcia-Burgues
Head of Unit

¹ Your personal contact data has been recorded in a database used by the Markets Team of unit SRD.2 for the administrative management of offers. The Commission is bound by Regulation 45/2001 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions and bodies. For more information, and to exercise your rights to access and eventually correct data concerning you, please don't hesitate to contact us.