



QUESTION AND ANSWER NUMBER 1

SOLICITATION 5000040608

Question 1:

Our laboratory can only perform some of the analysis. Can we still bid on this RFSO?

Answer 1:

As stated in Annex "B", Basis of Payment, Contractors must bid on all analyte groups to be considered compliant. This is because only one Standing Offer will be awarded, and all listed analyses will be required.

Question 2:

We are located in Saskatoon. The 48 hour shipment timeframe is valid from most locations on the West Coast of Canada, but not all. What are the sampling locations?

Answer 2:

The Environment and Climate Change Canada location from which all samples will be shipped is:

2645 Dollarton Highway
North Vancouver, British Columbia V7H 1B1

Question 3:

On the pricing tables on pages 22 through 25 of the RFP, should we assume that the 'Total Price for [selected contract period]' in each table is the respective sum of both the total Water and total Sediment columns?

Answer 3:

Yes, the Total Price is the sum of the Total Water and Total Sediment columns. The quantities indicated are for evaluation purposes only during the solicitation process and do not represent the actual quantities required.

Question 4:

With respect to lab receipt within 48 hours, please confirm that samples are being shipped to the contracted laboratory from North Vancouver. Therefore any shipments are derived from Canada and will have no issues relating to customs clearance for delivery to a laboratory within Canada.

Answer 4:

Yes, the Total Price is the sum of the Total Water and Total Sediment columns. The quantities indicated are for evaluation purposes only during the solicitation process and do not represent the actual quantities required.



Question 5:

Regarding PR3 on page 28 of the Request for Proposals: Please define what is included in Performance Evaluation Testing (PET) samples. Is this limited to single or double blind samples submitted external to the laboratory? Is this limited to samples provided by ISO/IEC 17043 PT (Performance Test) providers or CALA approved PT providers?

Answer 5:

The Performance Evaluation Testing (PET) or Proficiency Testing (PT) samples must be blind samples provided to the laboratory by an accredited Performance Test provider external to the laboratory that administers the Performance Testing and evaluates the results. The Canadian Association for Laboratory Accreditation (CALA) PT program has been accredited by the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA) and also conforms with the ISO/IEC 17043 standard and is an example of an acceptable PET/PT provider. Performance tests administered by other external, similarly accredited PET/PT providers are also acceptable.

Question 6:

Re PR5 on Page 29 of the RFP: Please define the terms such as surrogate method spikes and lab spikes to ensure a level playing field on responses. What is needed for the laboratory to provide in order to score 0.5 or 1 or 3 points?

- a. The definition of a surrogate can be ambiguous. In this case, is the definition of a surrogate, a target added to the sample prior to extraction which is used in whole or in part to monitor extraction efficiency regardless of its additional intended use (such as an internal standard for quantification of target analytes as per isotope dilution technique)?
- b. What is the definition of the method spike? Is this intended to represent a blank matrix spike (blank media spiked with unlabeled target analyte - often called a laboratory control sample)?
- c. What is the definition of a lab spike? Is this intended to be a matrix spike?

Answer 6:

The Performance Evaluation Testing (PET) or Proficiency Testing (PT) samples must be blind samples provided to the Please see Amendment 3 for PR5 language clarification and point ratings.

Question 7:

Re PR5 on Page 29 of the RFP:

PR5 includes the following pre-ambled statement: "Preference will be given for methodologies that use **13C or other stable isotope labelled surrogates...**"

While the scoring description lists only a 13C scoring item (i.e. appearing not to include other non-13C isotopically labelled alternates). Can ECCC confirm that other appropriately employed isotope dilution target analogues such as perdeutero-PAHs (e.g Phenanthrene-d10 re isotope dilution for phenanthrene) will be scored equivalent to carbon-13 labeled analogue options?

Answer 7:



Yes, other appropriately employed isotope dilution target analogues will be scored equivalent to carbon-13 labeled analogue options.

Question 8:

For the category “General Pesticides” found in Annex B, there is a limited description of a particularly large compound grouping. What classes of analytes are desired here? Is EPA 1699 a suitable reference point which includes extended OC pesticides, OP pesticides, Triazine pesticides, pyrethroids, and Organonitrogen compounds?

Answer 8:

Because Organochlorines may be requested frequently as a stand-alone analysis, they were broken out into their own table for pricing purposes (Table 10). In the interest of a level playing field, the List-specific requirements on Table 4, General Pesticides, have been amended. Please see Amendment 3 for details.

Question 9:

For the category “Toxaphene” what form of toxaphene is implied. Technical toxaphene is generally an analyte within the OC pesticide category and would fall under the price and method specifications of the OC pesticide method. Specific toxaphene parlars and chlorobornanes have separate methods and would be a separate and distinct analysis from OC pesticides.

Answer 9:

Both options are desired. Please see Amendment 3 for clarifications.