

Closing Date:	09/06/2011	11:00am
Our Reference:	T09/2011	



Subject:

Call for Tenders for the Monitoring of Nutrient Status and Eutrophication Status of Selected Coastal Areas

Tender Document:

This is available for download free of charge from:
www.mepa.org.mt

Terms of Reference

1. Background and Scope

Council Directive 91/676/EEC (the Nitrates Directive) aims to protect waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources through a number of measures that are incumbent on Member States. These measures include a monitoring program of surface waters and groundwaters. Surface waters to be monitored under the Nitrates Directive include inland freshwaters as well as coastal waters that are considered to be vulnerable to nitrate pollution from agricultural sources. The Directive also requires an assessment of eutrophication status of surface waters.

The scope of this tender is to monitor nitrate concentration and the level of eutrophication in a number of coastal areas in accordance to the requirements of the Nitrates Directive.

2. Objectives

This tender is for surveys of water quality for the purposes of assessing the level of nutrient enrichment and eutrophication at three coastal inlets and bays as follows:

- i. Is-Salini
- ii. Il-bajja tax- Xlendi, Ghawdex
- iii. Il-bajja ta' Marsaxlokk

There will be one monitoring site in each location. The location of the monitoring sites and monitoring stations within each bay will be determined by the consultants in consultation with MEPA following an evaluation of the areas that are potentially affected by land-based sources of pollution within the bays.

3. Results to be achieved

By Month 15 from the date of contract signature the consultant shall deliver a report (digital and hard copy) detailing the assessment methodologies adopted in the surveys, the results of laboratory analysis (including all primary and secondary data as relevant) and an interpretation of results as described in Section 4 of the TOR.

4. Activities to be performed

TASK 1: Consultants are required to carry out field surveys at the three monitoring sites to measure in the water column at predetermined depths and on a monthly basis:

- i. Temperature
- ii. Salinity
- iii. Transparency
- iv. pH
- v. Dissolved oxygen
- vi. Nutrient status (nitrates, nitrites, total N, orthophosphates, total P, ammonium, orthosilicate)
- vii. Chlorophyll a

At least two repeat samples are required for each parameter at each coastal monitoring site. In addition to the monthly monitoring events, the consultants shall monitor the sites as soon as possible following one period of exceptional rainfall during September - December 2011. Furthermore, a more intensive sampling effort (e.g. every two weeks) is required at the onset of and during algal blooms.

Consultants shall ensure that the sampling and analytical methodologies as well as the interpretation of results is according to the technical specifications laid down in Schedule XI of L.N. 194 of 2004 as amended by L.N. 24 of 2011.

Data collection shall cover 12 consecutive months and surveys shall commence as soon as possible after the contract is awarded.

TASK 2: The consultants shall undertake an assessment of nutrient enrichment and eutrophication conditions at the three sites, based on the data collected in the field and other information as necessary. There is no standard national assessment method and classification system for assessing eutrophication in local waters. It is therefore suggested to use the trophic index method (TRIX) for Mediterranean coastal waters as described in ¹Giovanardi, F. and Vollenweider, A. Trophic conditions of marine coastal waters: experience in applying the trophic index TRIX to two areas of the Adriatic and Tyrrhenian Seas.

The first assessment results are required by the end of May 2012.

5. Location of engagement

The field studies shall be conducted in Malta. Sample analysis may be carried out in appropriately accredited laboratories in Malta or another EU country. MEPA will provide facilities for meetings between its officers and the consultants. The Consultants are expected to work from their own premises, when not engaged in the field, where they should have access to videoconferencing facilities to be used as necessary for communications with MEPA representatives.

6. Languages

The report and all presentation materials shall be prepared in the English language.

7. Reporting

The senior MEPA official responsible for this contract is Dr. Petra Bianchi, Director of Environment. The Assignment Leader for this Contract is Mr. Michael J. Sant, The Consultants will be required to report to the Assignment Leader and to the Director of Environment Protection in the format agreed with them.

8. Qualifications / Skills / Experience

The Consultants must demonstrate experience in undertaking water quality surveys of coastal waters according to the standards for water quality analysis described in LN 24 of 2011. The consultants should also have a track record in project management as well as excellent coordinating, reporting and communication skills.

9. Special Conditions

9.1 The maximum budget allocated to this contract is **€30,000** (excluding VAT). Offers exceeding this amount will not be considered.

9.2 This contract is being offered on a global (lump sum) price basis.

¹ Journal of Limnology, Volume 63, No.2, pp 199-218, Year: 2004.

9.3 Payment corresponding to 100% of the contract value will be made within 45 days from the receipt of an invoice submitted upon MEPA's written acceptance of the completion of the services stipulated in this TOR.

9.4 This contract shall be completed within 15 months from the date of signature. However a database containing all primary and secondary data must be submitted to MEPA by April 2012.

9.5 Variant solutions will not be taken into consideration during the evaluation of the bids.

9.6 The Consultant will also be required to sign a confidentiality/ non-disclosure agreement prior to the commencement of his / her engagement.

10. Submission requirements

Interested and suitably qualified entities are invited to submit the following:

- A. A quotation for the provision of above stated services on a global price contract basis. The global price offer must be quoted net of VAT.
- B. An Organisation and Methodology describing how the bidder intends to deliver the requested tasks, if it is awarded the contract.
- C. Detailed CVs of the experts (Europass format) that may be mobilized for the performance of this Contract.
- D. Brief description of the entity's background, relevant past assignments and portfolio of recent work.

The offer should be deposited in sealed envelopes entitled '**Monitoring of Nutrient Status and Eutrophication Status of Selected Coastal Areas**' and referenced '**T09/2011**' to the tender box at the MEPA premises in Floriana, by Thursday 9th June 2011 before 11.00a.m. A soft copy of the tender offer should be provided within the sealed envelope. Any technical questions concerning this call for tenders should be addressed to the Director of Corporate Services, Ing Ray Piscopo on email ray.piscopo@mepa.org.mt by not later than Wednesday 1st June 2011.

Late or incomplete submissions will not be considered. Diversion from the specification will render the offer null and void.

11. Criteria for the evaluation of offers

The offers will be evaluated on the basis of the most economically advantageous tender approach. The following criteria will be used in the evaluation of submissions:

1. Quality of the technical proposal in terms of methodology and approach (30%);
2. Past experience of the contractor in similar assignments (30%);
3. Qualifications and experience of the key experts (20%)
4. Financial offer (20%).

The total attainable score is 100 points.

To be considered for this contract, bidders must score at least 65 points.

MEPA reserves the right to refuse any offer, even the most advantageous.