



ETC Information briefing

**23 January 2008, 13:00-16:00
(Fontana & 402)**

Draft summary record + additional information

I. Introduction

As foreseen in the Terms of Reference (TOR) published on the EEA website an information briefing took place at the EEA with representatives of interested candidates who had previously registered.

Following an introduction on the mandate and role of the EEA (see the presentation by Gordon McInnes on the EEA website), the following timetable was confirmed and specified.

1. Opening session: 28 April 2008, 11:00

Participation of representatives of *consortia* is allowed (one per *consortium*) at their own expense subject to registration by e-mail to: procurement@eea.europa.eu.

Deadline for registration: 21 April 2008

2. Deadline for submission of proposals: 21 April 2008 (as specified in invitation letter)

3. Evaluation of proposals: May 2008

4. Based on recommendations of evaluation committees, the EEA Management Board will designate new ETCs on 18 June 2008 following which *consortia* will be notified.

II. Requests for additional information

As already indicated in the invitation letter it was stressed that, with the exception of the information briefing, requests for additional information are to be made exclusively by e-mail to procurement@eea.europa.eu and will be answered on the EEA website <http://www.eea.europa.eu/tenders/openproposal.html>.

III. Common and specific issues raised and clarified (*in brackets, in italics*) during the information briefing

1. Common issues (both calls)

- share of EEA's operational budget dedicated to ETCs (*about half the operational budget*);
- process for evaluation of proposals (*evaluation committees including representatives from EEA Management Board, Scientific Committee, stakeholders and staff to make recommendations to EEA Management Board*);
- eligibility including eligibility of NGOs, partners of previous and current consortia running an ETC, etc. (*see 5.1 TOR; principles of non-discrimination and equal treatment apply*);
- Article II.10 Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) – Award of contracts (*standard clause; award of contracts is subject to applicable rules on public procurement*);
- point 13 invitation letter – mediation as dispute resolution mechanism in case of subcontracting (*standard clause; mere recommendation*);
- *rationale* behind co-financing of minimum 10% of eligible costs (*common objectives justifying the setting up of a partnership between the EEA and chosen consortium*);
- Annex I to the FPA (= TOR);
- selection criteria: CVs + letters of intent/experience 5.4 lit. c, point 1 TOR and Annex 1 thereto (*configuration to be proposed is choice of each consortium*);
- selection criteria: type of proof and description of the consortium's/partner's environmental policy required under 5.4 lit. c, point 6 TOR (*any suitable policy adopted*);
- exclusion criteria: notion of conflict of interest behind 5.3 (end) TOR (*broad, requiring case-by-case assessment; exclusion subject to procedure protecting a consortium's right to be heard*);

2. Specific issues – Biological Diversity

- lots-approach (*justified by (i) underlying balance of work between nature directives and ecosystem services specified in TOR requiring different expertise and (ii) relevant markets at different levels of maturity*);
- relationship between Lot 1 and Lot 2 (*procedurally separate as specified in TOR, in particular 1.1 (end) and 5.5 (end) TOR; configuration of subsequent inter-links between work to be carried out under Lot 1 and Lot 2 dependent on outcome; mandatory requirements under 4. TOR apply in any case*);
- flexibility around indicative budgets for Lot 1 and Lot 2 (*based on EEA Strategy and Annual Management Plans, indicative budgets specified in TOR represent best estimate subject to availability of funds from General Budget of the EU*);
- Lot 2 and relevance of Eureka!/goods and services/environmental and economic assessments (*reinforcement of assessment part, searching, selecting and testing methodologies – not necessarily strictly following MEA; (compared to Lot 1) work under Lot 2 is more science-oriented, applied ecosystems research, and meant to test different drivers (policy/information requirements)*);
- links between Eureka! and marine/overseas territories; climate change; biofuels (*indirect*);
- resolution methodologies for mapping (*to take into account the spatial dimension but conscious of complementarity with other ETCs, notably the ETC on Land Use and Spatial Information – ETC/LUSI*);
- Data Centre on Biological Diversity, BISE and SEIS (*to be supported under Lot 1*);

3. Specific issues – Sustainable Consumption and Production

A presentation on this Call by Lars Mortensen is available on the EEA website.

- relation between current ETC on Resource and Waste Management – ETC/RWM and ETC Sustainable Consumption and Production – ETC/SCP (*ETC/SCP to replace ETC/RWM covering the whole production-consumption life-cycle; relative importance of waste within the package of work*);
- flexibility around indicative budget (*based on EEA Strategy and Annual Management Plans indicative budget as specified in TOR represents best estimate subject to availability of funds from the General Budget of the EU*);
- ETC/SCP support to Eurostat Data Centres on Products, Waste and Resources (*through EEA*);

07-02-2008