

Request for Proposal

Sustainability Evaluation Tool

October 2022, Paris

1. Context

EIT Manufacturing (KIC) is focused on promoting entrepreneurship, innovation, and education in the domain of Manufacturing. EIT Manufacturing brings together leading organisations along the entire value chain from smaller companies to larger industry, excellent academic and research institutions, as well as public sector organisations, to promote the transformation of manufacturing towards the digital economy, towards the circular economy and the decarbonization of industry, by removing barriers to innovation, promoting talent and education, leveraging enabling technologies and exploiting big data.

EIT Manufacturing, an association under the French law 1901 created in 2019, is looking to implement a methodology to evaluate and report the potential social and environmental impact of innovation projects to be funded, starting with carbon footprint and avoided greenhouse gases.

2. Description

Within its Innovation pillar, EIT Manufacturing is running yearly calls for proposals to select high TRL innovation activities, led by pan-European consortia, in the area of manufacturing. The thematic topics of these activities are selected according to strategic priorities, and all activities should aim at bringing innovative solutions on the market by the end of their 1-2 years funding period.

As part of its innovation funding strategy, EIT Manufacturing would like to complement the evaluation of the economic sustainability of the innovations with an assessment of environmental and social sustainability. This should be done following the same process as for the economic counterpart: first define the relevant information that needs to be provided at application stage, then apply an evaluation methodology to assess this information, and finally provide a framework for reporting at the end of the funding period.

Regarding the environmental sustainability, the initial focus should be put on CO₂ equivalent emissions (CO₂eq) avoided or captured.

Though the ultimate goal will be to request the same level of detail for all applications, this will be done progressively in the coming years. In 2023, some innovations will have as a main goal to limit the environmental footprint, whereas others will focus on a different impact. The first version of the tool should take that difference into account and provide two different levels of details regarding the environmental sustainability assessment: a simple version to provide a rather qualitative assessment (will

the impact on CO₂eq emissions be positive or negative), and an elaborate version to prove a quantitative assessment of the CO₂eq emissions.

The total price of the complete offer should not exceed €60,000.

3. Deliverables

Phase 1 – To be delivered within 2 months – Precise budget requested

- Simple questionnaire related to social sustainability to be used in all applications
- Simple questionnaire related to environmental sustainability to be used in applications not primarily focused on the environmental impact
- Elaborate questionnaire related to environmental sustainability to be used in applications primarily focused on the environmental impact. This questionnaire should allow to assess the CO₂ impact of the solution developed

Phase 2 – To be delivered 1.5 months after phase 1 – Precise budget requested

- Easy-to-use evaluation tool based on the questionnaires.
- Training material for the tool
- Training sessions for EIT Manufacturing staff and independent evaluators

Phase 3 – To be delivered by Q3, 2023 – Indicative budget, capped

- Assessment methodology to be performed at the end of innovation activities
- Reporting framework and template

Phase 4 – Yearly recurrence – Indicative budget for 3 years, capped

- Feedback on deployed tools and methodologies
- Yearly update of tools and methodologies

4. Timeline

The indicative timeline for the call for proposals is as follows:

Activity	Responsible	Date
RFP opening	EIT Manufacturing	26/10/2022
Offer submission	Supplier	08/11/2022
Evaluation and notification of award	EIT Manufacturing	13/11/2022

Contract signature	EIT Manufacturing & selected supplier	18/11/2022
Project start (Kick off meeting)	EIT Manufacturing & selected supplier	19/11/2022

5. Evaluation Criteria and Award Notification

Received proposals submitted by the tenderers will be examined, evaluated, and compared in accordance with the following criteria and the contract shall be awarded to the highest ranked tenderer. The decision will be made according to the “Best Value for Money” principle.

- a. Price (30 %)
- b. Adequation of the proposal to the expressed need (40%)
- c. Respect of the timing of phases 1 and 2 (30%)

An Evaluation Committee of 3 people will be established. Each bid will be evaluated and ranked according to the criteria above.

The compliance with the principles of transparency, non-discrimination, equal treatment, and absence of conflict of interest will be ensured.

The successful and unsuccessful tenderers will be informed in writing (via email) about the result of the award procedure. In case the winning tenderer is unable to enter the contract, EIT Manufacturing may decide to contract the supplier receiving the second highest ranking.

Proposals must be submitted by e-mail within 7 days of the date of notification of the request for proposal. All proposals received after the deadline will be rejected.

In duly justified cases, however, no later than 2 calendar day before the original deadline, the submission deadline can be extended.

Upon request from the tenderer concerned, EIT Manufacturing will as quickly as possible, and in any event within 15 calendar days from receipt of a written request, inform:

- any unsuccessful candidate of the reasons for the rejection of its request to participate,
- any unsuccessful tenderer of the reasons for the rejection of its tender, including, if this is the case, its decision that the works, supplies or services do not meet the performance or functional requirements,
- any tenderer that has made an admissible tender of the characteristics and relative advantages of the tender selected as well as the name of the successful tenderer or the parties to the awarded contract,
- any tenderer that has made an admissible tender of the conduct and progress of negotiations and dialogue with tenderers.

Information referred to above may be withheld where the release of such information would be contrary to the public interest, would prejudice the legitimate commercial interests of an economic operator, or might prejudice fair competition between economic operators.

Should there be a suspicion that the provider will not be able to perform according to the price offered, EIT Manufacturing has the right to ask for explanations and may reject the tender where the evidence supplied does not satisfactorily account for the low level of price or cost proposed.

6. Complaint procedure

Tenderers believing that they have been harmed by an error or irregularity during the award process may file a complaint. Appeals shall be addressed to EIT Manufacturing **only** via the following email address innovation@eitmanufacturing.eu. The tenderers have 5 days to file their complaints from the date of receipt of notification of the results.

In your application to EIT Manufacturing the complainant shall explain what procedural aspects they consider having been violated along with any recommendations or remarks. Such claims need to be supported with data and facts and relevant documentation. An appeal whose sole purpose is to obtain a second evaluation for no reason other than that the complainant disagrees with the final award decision is to be rejected.

7. Negotiations & Clarifications

Negotiations can be held in the following cases:

- if it is identified that the scope of services issued by EIT Manufacturing is not detailed enough, incomplete or some areas are lacking crucial information to complete the procedure for direct awards;
- if EIT Manufacturing has the intention to reduce the offered prices to find the best value for money;
- if all submitted prices are above the planned budget and it is in everyone's interest to finish the procedure with success – in that case, price negotiation can take place. During a price negotiation, all tenderers are called to lower their prices by the same deadline in a written form;

EIT Manufacturing can organise as many rounds of negotiation as it is needed during the procedure in order to reach the highest quality of proposals and the best price.

Whenever possible, the negotiations should be carried out in writing, however, in special cases, video conference or even live negotiation can be organised. EIT Manufacturing also reserves the right to invite the tenderers to an individual meeting before the final award of contract in order to clarify details and ambiguities.

Upon receipt of the bids, they will be reviewed, and additional details may be requested from the tenderers as needed. The requests as well as the answers are to be submitted written by e-mail. Where information

or documentation to be submitted by tenderers is incomplete or erroneous or where specific documents are missing, EIT Manufacturing staff may request the party concerned to submit, supplement, clarify or complete the relevant information or documentation within 2 days.

Bid preparation costs are not reimbursable and must be borne by the tenderers.

EIT Manufacturing owns all bids received in this RFP. Proprietary information of vendors in the bids will be kept strictly confidential. The offers as well as the contract may be submitted for audits.

8. Contract

The final award does not yet constitute the Contract. The Contract will be concluded at the time of signature by the Supplier and EIT Manufacturing. The winning supplier will be sent the contract to be signed (indicating the deadline by which the signed contract should be returned to EIT Manufacturing).

The invoicing will be based on a mutually agreed schedule; it will be detailed in the contract. The contract that will be awarded will have a maximum duration of 3 years. The tenderer agrees that the total value of the contract to be signed with EIT Manufacturing for 3 years will in no way exceed the bid (the amount contained in the offer) of the tenderer.

The awarded supplier will be requested to sign Standard Contractual Clauses (SCC) if no other GDPR compliant safeguards exist, and the supplier is located in a country for which the EU commission has not issued an adequacy decision.

9. Cancellation of the proposal procedure

In the event of cancellation of the proposal procedure, EIT Manufacturing will notify tenderers of the cancellation. In no event shall EIT Manufacturing be liable for any damages whatsoever including, without limitation, damages for loss of profits, in any way connected with the cancellation of a proposal procedure, even if EIT Manufacturing has been advised of the possibility of damages.

The tenderer shall take all measures to prevent any situation where the impartial and objective implementation of the contract is compromised for reasons involving economic interest, political or national affinity, family or emotional ties or any other shared interest ('conflict of interests'). S/he should inform the EIT Manufacturing team immediately if there is any change in the above circumstances at any stage during the implementation of the tasks.

The supplier cannot be a EIT Manufacturing Partner or Activity Partner. Any bid from such an economic operator will be rejected.

Tenderers will be excluded if:

- a) they are being wound up, are having their affairs administered by the courts, have entered into an arrangement with creditors, have suspended business activities, are the subject of proceedings

- concerning those matters, or are in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations; they have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgment which has the force of res judicata;
- b) they have been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the EIT Manufacturing can justify;
 - c) they have not fulfilled obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which they are established or any other country of the EU;
 - d) they have been the subject of a judgment which has the force of res judicata for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organization or any other illegal activity detrimental to the EU' financial interests;
 - e) following a procurement procedure or grant award procedure financed by the EU budget, they have been declared in serious breach of contract for failure to comply with their contractual obligations.

The tenderers must not be in a situation of a conflict of interest, and they have sufficient economic and financial capacity, technical and professional capacity and legal and regulatory capacity to perform the requested services. A declaration of honour regarding the above shall be signed by the tenderer. Additional evidence or declarations might be requested by the contracting authority.

EIT Manufacturing reserves the right to suspend or cancel the procedure, where the award procedure proves to have been subject to substantial errors, irregularities, conflict of interest or fraud. If substantial errors, irregularities, conflict of interest or fraud are discovered after the award of the Contract, EIT Manufacturing may refrain from concluding the Contract.