



16th January 2026

REFERENCE NUMBER: SPD3/2025/072

TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF LABORATORY EQUIPMENT AT THE GOVERNMENT EXPERIMENTAL FARM, MINISTRY FOR GOZO AND PLANNING, AS PART OF THE LIFE IPE MT 00008 PROJECT

Clarification No. 1

Question 1: Lot 8 item 1 - Heated Water bath. Is the CA requesting a heating and cooling water bath or just heating? Stated temperature is $5\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 1\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ to $95\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 1\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$, to achieve a temperature below $20\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ (ambient temperature) a cooling module is required. Kindly clarify if the offered model should be able to heat and cool or heat only.

Answer 1: The required water bath should provide heating only, with no cooling function. However, as per Clause 9.1(i) of Section 3 in the tender document, 'The temperature range of the water bath must be between $5\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 1\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ to $95\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 1\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$.'

Question 2: Could the Contracting Authority kindly confirm whether the CHNS-O analyser is to be supplied inclusive of all gas cylinders required for operation under both helium and argon atmospheres?

Answer 2: As per Clause 2.1(q) in Section 3 of the tender document, the required CHNS-O analyser is to be supplied with all gas cylinders required for operation under both helium and argon atmospheres.

Question 3: Could you kindly clarify the delivery locations for the lots? The delivery section indicates that lots may initially be delivered to the University of Malta (UoM), Malta, and subsequently transferred to Gozo. Could you please confirm whether this applies to all lots, or only to specific ones? Further Information is essential, as delivery and commissioning in Gozo would involve additional costs, and we need to ensure that our submission accurately reflects the required scope of works.

Answer 3: All equipment for all lots is to be delivered, installed, and commissioned at the University of Malta (UoM). The Contractor may



be required to decommission and relocate equipment to new premises in Gozo, as indicated in Schedule B of the Financial Bid Forms. The Contractor is required to factor in the costs associated with Schedule B, including extended warranty, additional calibration and maintenance visits, and decommissioning and relocation to new premises in Gozo. The Contracting Authority may choose to apply Schedule B terms, including equipment decommissioning, relocation, reinstallation, and recommissioning, at its discretion.

Question 4: Could you kindly specify whether the autoclave is required to be bench-top front-loading or top-loading? That said, since the autoclave volume is relatively small, the most common models of this size are bench-top front-loading autoclaves.

Answer 4: The autoclave may be either front-loading or top-loading as long as it is in accordance with the specifications in Section 3 of the tender document.

Question 5: As per the tender requirements, the autoclave is specified to have an automatic door. Could you kindly clarify whether this could be an automatic lock release mechanism instead? Most autoclaves of this relatively small volume do not come with a fully automatic door mechanism, so your guidance will help us ensure compliance with the tender specifications.

Answer 5: As per Clause 8.1(i) in Section 3 of the tender document, the autoclave must have an automatic door structure. This refers to an automatic door release mechanism.

Question 6: In the tender specifications for the autoclave, it is stated that the unit should have a touchscreen interface. Would it be acceptable for the autoclave to have a screen with keypad instead? A combined screen and keypad interface would be more practical, as using a touchscreen while wearing gloves can sometimes cause malfunctions. We would appreciate your guidance to ensure our submission complies with the tender requirements.

Answer 6: As per Clause 8.1(f) of Section 3 in the tender document, 'The Autoclave must have a digital touch screen that can display temperature, pressure, time, operation status, and other information.'



Question 7: Due to the number of lots and complexity of the tender we would greatly appreciate if you could grant an extension of deadline for submission of tender.

Answer 7: The deadline for the submission of tenders is being extended by an additional 15 days and therefore the following timetable supersedes the one in the published tender document:

	DATE	TIME*
Deadline for request for any additional information from the Contracting Authority. Clarifications by registered users to be sent online through www.etenders.gov.mt	14/1/2026	09:30hrs
Last date on which additional information can be issued by the Contracting Authority	19/1/2026	09:30hrs
Deadline for Submission of Tenders (unless otherwise modified in terms of Clause 10.1 of the General Rules Governing Tendering)	13/2/2026	09:30hrs
Tender Opening Session (unless otherwise modified in terms of Clause 10.1 of the General Rules Governing Tendering)	13/2/2026	10:00hrs

* All times Central European Time (CET)/Central European Summer Time (CEST) as applicable

Question 8: Could you kindly specify the sample size that will be used with the CHNS-O Analyzer? The tender requirements indicate that the analyzer must have a sample capacity of up to 100 mg, depending on carbon content. Would an analyzer with a maximum sample capacity of 100 mg be acceptable?

Answer 8: As per Clause 2.1(i) of Section 3 in the tender document, 'The analyser must have a sample capacity of up to 100 mg depending on carbon content.' Therefore, an analyser with a maximum sample capacity of 100 mg would be acceptable.

Question 9: Could you kindly provide information on the expected workload for the CHNS-O Analyzer? This information is essential, as it will allow us to ensure that the required consumables are supplied within the appropriate timeframe.

Answer 9: As per Specifications in Clause 2.1 in Section 3 of the tender document, the Supplier shall provide a kit for 1,000 analyses for CHNS



and O, and that the expiry date for the kits shall be at least two (2) years from the date of delivery.

Question 10: Considering that this tender was submitted in the first few days of 2026, and many distributors and suppliers were unavailable due to the holiday period, we would greatly appreciate it if you could extend the deadlines for both the clarification period and tender submission by possibly two weeks. We sincerely appreciate your consideration of this request.

Answer 10: Please refer to Answer 7 above.

Question 11: With reference to the CHNS-O Analyzer, could you kindly reconfirm the operating carbon range when using helium?

Answer 11: There is a typo in the tender specifications. The operating carbon range when using helium should be 0.001 – 20 mg and therefore Clause 2.1(l) of Section 3 in the tender document should read as following:

l) The analyser must be able to operate within the following analytical ranges:

Element	With Helium	With Argon
Carbon	0.001 – 20 mg	0.01 – 20 mg
Hydrogen	0.001 – 5 mg	0.01 – 5 mg
Nitrogen	0.001 – 20 mg	0.01 – 20 mg
Sulphur	0.01 – 6 mg	N/A
Oxygen	0.005 - 6 mg	N/A

Item 8 in the Technical Questionnaire should read as follows:

		<p>The analyser must be able to operate within the following analytical ranges:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Element</th> <th>With Helium</th> <th>With Argon</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Carbon</td> <td>0.001 – 20 mg</td> <td>0.01 – 20 mg</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Element	With Helium	With Argon	Carbon	0.001 – 20 mg	0.01 – 20 mg		
Element	With Helium	With Argon								
Carbon	0.001 – 20 mg	0.01 – 20 mg								



8	Section 3 - Technical Specifications	Hydrogen	0.001 – 5 mg	0.01 – 5 mg	____ I / We Confirm	
		Nitrogen	0.001 – 20 mg	0.01 – 20 mg		
		Sulphur	0.01 – 6 mg	N/A		
		Oxygen	0.005 - 6 mg	N/A		

All other tender documents, conditions and requirements, which are not superseded by this clarification remain in place.
