MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, WATERS AND FORESTS

Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests – Project Management Unit
"Prevention and Reduction of Pollution in Rural Areas in Romania", IBRD Loan no. 9505-RO

Ref.: 10/RFB/2025 - Procurement of mobile inspection centers, utility vehicles for sample collection and transportation and specific equipment for their endowment and testing equipment for the National Phytosanitary Authority

CLARIFICATIONS ADDRESS NO. 1 to the Bidding documents 10/RFB/2025

No.	Request for clarification	Clarification Response	Clarification or Amendment to the Bidding Document
1.	Regarding Section ll - Bid Data Sheet (BDS), it is specified: The number and identification of lots (contracts) comprising this RFB is: this RFB comprises a single lot: Laboratory equipment for microplastics analysis The tems and the quantities comprising this RFB is: 1. µ-FTIR microscope/ spectrometer (3 pcs); 2. IR/Raman system (1 pc); 3. Gas chromatograph coupled with mass spectrometer (gc-ms) and pyrolysis system (2 pcs); 4. Microplastics sampling equipment- sedimentation box type (4 pcs); 5. Microplastics sampling equipment- fractionated filtration system type (4 pcs.). Bidders are invited to bid for the single lot." We kindly request to clarify the current structure of the tender, which comprises a single lot including all requested equipment. The technologies involved are fundamentally different and belong to distinct areas of expertise: spectroscopy methods (µ-FTIR microscopy, IR/Raman), thermoanalytical methods (gas chromatography coupled with mass spectrometry and pyrolysis) and sample preparation and treatment methods (microplastics sampling equipment – sedimentation box type, microplastics sampling equipment – fractionated filtration system type).	Accepted.	Please see amendment no. 2

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	No single manufacturer offers all these technologies within its portfolio and maintaining them in one lot significantly restricts participation by suppliers who specialize in only one technique. This limitation reduces competition and may prevent the contracting authority from obtaining the best technical and financial solutions for each category. Dividing the procurement into separate lots based on technology and equipment type would encourage broader participation from specialized suppliers, promote fair competition and ensure that the contracting authority benefits from the most advanced and cost-effective solutions for each technology. This approach aligns with best practices in public procurement, which aim to maximize efficiency, transparency and equal access for all qualified bidders. In this context, we kindly request that the tender be divided into lots according to the technology and equipment requested. Furthermore, if the division into lots is accepted, please specify the value of the bid security required for each lot, according to the estimated value.		
2.	For item "1.3 Gas chromatograph coupled with mass spectrometer (GC-MS) and pyrolysis system – 2 pcs: Regarding Section Vll - Schedule of Requirements, 3. Technical Specifications, General Requirements for all the equipment, it is requested: 1) The offered equipment must have the CE Marking (CE Mark Payment for Goods supplied from abroad Directive. The Bidder must include as part of its Bid the copy of CE certificate from notified bodies and the producer's Declaration of Conformity with 93/42/CEE Directives for the offered equipment. Also, at 1.3 Gas chromatograph coupled with mass spectrometer (GC-MS) and pyrolysis system – 2 pcs, Section Vll - Schedule of Requirements, 3. SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS - Standard/Regulation/Law, it is requested: 1.3.124 CE Mark and/or declaration of conformity of the Manufacturer according to the provisions of applicable EU Directives (e.g., 2014/35/EU, 2014/30/EU, 2011/65/EU).	Accepted.	Clarification

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	We would like to specify that the equipments Gas chromatograph coupled with mass spectrometer (GC-MS) and pyrolysis system – 2 pcs are not medical devices and therefore Directive 93/42/EEC regarding medical devices does not apply and herefore is not necessary to present the CE Certificate issued by a notified body for this type of equipment. The equipment offered has the CE Mark and the manufacturer offers a Declaration of Conformity in accordance with: ▫ Low Voltage Directive 2014/35/EU; ▫ EMC Directive 2014/30/EU; ▫ RoHs 2011/65/EU Directive on the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment; Therefore, please confirm that for the equipments from point 1.3 Gas chromatograph coupled with mass spectrometer (GC-MS) and pyrolysis system – 2 pcs the requested document as part of Bid is the Declaration of conformity from the manufacturer according to the provisions of the Directives mentioned above, relevant for this type of equipment. Also, please confirm that you agree that the equipments from point 1.3 Gas chromatograph coupled with mass spectrometer (GC-MS) and pyrolysis system – 2 pcs have the CE Mark and/or declaration of conformity of the Manufacturer according to the provisions of Low Voltage Directive 2014/35/EU, EMC Directive 2014/30/EU, RoHs 2011/65/EU Directive.		
3.	For item "1.3 Gas chromatograph coupled with mass spectrometer (GC-MS) and pyrolysis system – 2 pcs: Regarding Section Vll - Schedule of Requirements, 3. Technical Specifications, Mass Spectrometer (MS), it is requested: "1.3.32 The mass spectrometer shall be a chemically inert, thermally stabilized quadrupole type." We would like to respectfully point out that the requirement for a "thermally stabilized quadrupole" represents a specific construction detail unique to a single manufacturer. Including this condition may restrict competition and limit the participation of other qualified suppliers, potentially conflicting with the principles of fair and open procurement.	We accept to remove this requirement.	Please see amendment no. 2

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	It is important to note that other manufacturers can achieve the required performance levels without the need to incorporate additional devices to thermally stabilize the quadrupole, which are more prone to malfunctions and may involve extra maintenance costs. Therefore, this requirement appears to be a design constraint rather than a functional necessity. We kindly request that this construction detail be removed from the specification, provided that all required performance characteristics and functional requirements are fully met by the proposed equipment. This approach will ensure compliance with the technical objectives while allowing for constructive solutions that are equal or superior in performance, without favoring any particular brand.		
4.	For item "1.3 Gas chromatograph coupled with mass spectrometer (GC-MS) and pyrolysis system – 2 pcs: Regarding Section Vll - Schedule of Requirements, 3. Technical Specifications, Mass Spectrometer (MS), it is requested: "1.3.35 Electron energy selectable from 10 eV up to at least 200 eV." We would like to point out that all available spectra libraries are acquired at an electron energy of 70 eV. This value was not chosen arbitrarily but represents an optimal setting for the ionization and fragmentation of compounds amenable to gas chromatographic analysis (up to approximately 1050 Da). At ionization energies above 120–150 eV, molecules undergo excessive fragmentation, resulting in spectra with fragments that no longer carry relevant qualitative information. Therefore, higher energies (e.g., 200 eV) do not provide analytical benefits and may even compromise the interpretability of spectra. Please also note that electron energy values determine only the type of molecular bonds fragmented, and do not influence ionization efficiency or ionization rate. These are governed by a separate parameter — the ionization current. Based on the above scientific and practical considerations, we kindly request that the specification be amended to accept equipment offering selectable electron energies from 10 eV up to at least 150 eV, which is more than double the standard value (70 eV) and fully sufficient to ensure	The specification shall be revised to accept equipment that provides selectable electron energies from 10 eV to at least 150 eV.	Please see amendment no. 2

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	optimal analytical performance and compatibility with existing mass spectral libraries.		
5.	Regarding Technical Requirement 1.3.36 Technical requirement: 1.3.36 – "The system must allow filament replacement of the ionization source without breaking the vacuum." We would like to bring to your attention that this requested feature is met only by a single GC-MS manufacturer, namely Thermo Scientific, and it is not a standard function available across GC-MS systems on the market. Most GC-MS systems are equipped with two filaments, which can be switched electronically via software during intensive use, without requiring the system to be vented. In general, GC-MS instruments allow safe filament replacement; however, this normally requires venting and re-evacuating the vacuum chamber – a standard, quick procedure that has no impact on the analytical performance of the equipment. Maintaining this requirement in its current form significantly restricts competition and contravenes the principles of non-discrimination and transparency applicable to procurement procedures financed by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD). For these reasons, we kindly request that this requirement be removed, as it does not influence the analytical performance of the system but reflects a constructive feature specific to only one manufacturer.	We accept to remove this requirement	Please see amendment no. 2
6.	Request for Lot Division Considering the current structure of the procurement package, in which all equipment items are grouped into a single lot, we would like to highlight that: • The requested equipment belongs to different technical domains, • They are manufactured by different suppliers, • Grouping all items into a single lot significantly restricts competition, reducing the number of eligible bidders. According to the World Bank Procurement Regulations, dividing the procurement into multiple lots is recommended when it:	Yes, accepted.	Please see amendment no. 2

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	• increases competition, • attracts more bidders, • reduces the risk of monopoly, • maximizes value for money. Maintaining a single-lot structure in this case may lead to the exclusion of bidders specialized in individual categories of equipment and may inadvertently favor a very limited group of integrators, which contradicts the principles of openness, competition, non-discrimination, and equal treatment. Therefore, we respectfully request the division of the procurement into separate lots, corresponding to the distinct categories of equipment, so that each specialized supplier can compete fairly and effectively.		
7.	**IR/Raman system** **The system shall identify and quantify microplastic particles down to 10 µm in IR mode and 1 µm in Raman mode.** Infrared (IR) microscopy is capable of identifying particles down to around 10 µm, while Raman microscopy has a theoretical lower limit of 1 µm, though this is technically challenging to achieve in practice, as it requires specific conditions, such as high-throughput systems or advanced settings. Please be so kind and confirm whether a system with a guaranteed spatial resolution of 3 µm or better in plane direction will be accepted. In our opinion, a commercial **IR/Raman** system with better guaranteed specification does not exist.	The specification shall be revised to accept equipment that provides a spatial resolution of maximum 3 µm.	Please see amendment no. 2
8.	**Binocular head + color video camera** In our opinion, a commercial **IR/Raman** system including both options for image acquisition does not exist. We do offer a system that is based on a powerful color video camera and is meeting all other performance specifications. Please confirm whether this solution will be accepted.	The specification shall be revised to accept equipment that provides “Binocular head and/or color video camera”.	Please see amendment no. 2

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9.	**Confocal research-grade microscope, high stability (imaging, mapping, depth profiling)** Please see the prior question. In case a system based on a color video camera only will be considered acceptable, please delete this specification entirely.	We accept to remove this requirement.	Please see amendment no. 2
10.	**The system shall be equipped with at least two laser sources (532 nm and 785 nm), with the option for additional integration.** As a reputable manufacturer of spectroscopy equipment, we do not see the need of adding additional lasers to a system dedicated to microplastics application. Please be so kind and confirm whether **an IR/Raman system with 2 laser sources (532 nm and 785 nm) will be considered acceptable.**	The following statement "with the option for additional integration" will be deleted from the requirement.	Please see amendment no. 2
11.	**Gas chromatograph coupled with mass spectrometer (GC-MS) and pyrolysis system** **The system must allow filament replacement of the ionization source without breaking the vacuum** Such a requirement does not make really sense in case of a system equipped with a powerful pumping system. For modern systems, the time needed to reach the vacuum again is less than 2 hours and considering that replacement of a filament occurs maybe once in a year, we think this should be acceptable. In addition, only one manufacturer is offering such a feature. Please be so kind and confirm whether this request should be deleted.	We accept to remove this requirement.	Please see amendment no. 2