

Ref: TIP/TEN/023

20th January 2012

Dear Potential Supplier,

Please find enclosed an invitation to tender. This tendering procedure will be operated in an open and competitive manner in order to encourage high-quality proposals and the most effective delivery of the Programme.

In preparation for the tender, the Programme Team will:

- Identify the budget;
- Publish the invitation and/or prepare a tender list;
- Prepare Invitation to Tender pro-forma and Standard Terms and Conditions;
- Publish, promote and circulate Invitations to Tender and Standard Terms and Conditions to potential providers.

In evaluating the tender, the Programme Team along with other relevant expertise will:

- Open and process tenders within five working days of the deadline date;
- Return late tenders unopened;
- Evaluate the eligibility of the tenders;
- Assess the providers' capability;
- Score eligible tenders in accordance with agreed scoring criteria.
- Notify the Steering Group of eligible tenders and preferred provider over a value of £20,000;

Following evaluation, and subject to the contract going ahead, the Programme Team will:

- Inform the preferred providers and conduct post-tender negotiations where necessary;
- Notify unsuccessful providers;
- Supply the chosen providers with letters of intent;
- Contract with providers.

Applicants whose proposals are unsuccessful have the 10 day standstill period from notification to apply for clarification/advice of the criteria used to make the selection.

Enclosed are conditions for this invitation to tender and a questionnaire for application to the Textile Centre of Excellence's Approved Supplier Register, which also forms part of the evaluation process.

Yours sincerely,

Dan Green
Textile Innovation Programme

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Invitation to Tender

Brief:

Multiple Laser Surface Enhancement (MLSE)

Textile Centre of Excellence houses a new Multi Layer Surface Enhancement textile processing technology, a brand new manufacturing process that has a wide range of applications. The project will build on a 'proven working prototype' by designing and producing modular processing units for integration into existing textile processing lines. The project will work with a primary client group of Yorkshire based textile scourers, dyers, spinners, weavers and finishers to demonstrate both the significant economic and massive environmental benefits to be gained from this unique high technology approach, where materials are treated with a combination of gases and photonic energy (light) for superior performance.

Processing and production of multi-functional textiles using laser/plasma technologies will significantly reduce the use of water, CFCs and other chemicals. This brand new process has a wide range of applications including:

- cleaning raw wool using no water or chemicals;
- preparing materials for dyeing processes at much lower temperatures and reducing the use of chemical dyes by 30%;
- producing hydrophobic material without the use of Teflon/CFCs;
- producing fire retardant materials without the use of any chemicals or water;
- producing anti-microbial fabrics purely from the use of carbon gases and photonic energy.

The MLSE system introduces opportunities for material processing where the use of water and chemicals is either removed completely or vastly reduced.

This new technology presents a massive opportunity for replication across the EU Textile sector leading to significant commercial and economic benefits to the industry across the EU.

The MLSE technology has been developed over the last 2 years and has involved an investment of over £1m. It has involved an extensive partnership between industry and academia. The technology has been successfully piloted by companies in the Yorkshire region.

The Textile Centre of Excellence has recently completed the initial phase of the MLSE project. This included the equipment design and development, US-based testing, shipping and installation, calibration and initial materials processing. We have made good progress with developing our understanding of the capabilities of the atmospheric plasma and current laser equipment and the specific contribution of various pre-cursor treatments. However, while we have achieved encouraging results in a number of areas our progress has been hampered by recurrent problems with the performance of the laser system and its interface with our Enercon Plasma unit. A key objective of this project is the development of an industry-standard unit that is capable of performing consistently in an industrial environment.

We therefore have an immediate requirement to procure and install new upgraded laser equipment that will provide us with the system we need to meet that objective.

Laser Specification Requirements:

The new laser equipment must be capable of full, immediate and effective integration to our existing equipment/system to ensure a single step dry laser atmospheric process for imparting onto textiles, fabrics or fibres treatments and/or coatings which will give the Textile Futures project a state-of-the-art processing capability and a platform for the implementation for an array of breakthrough applications.

It is expected that the laser delivers a high quality beam, highly stable pulse energy, with a short pulse length and high peak power performance. The laser needs to effectively mix with the plasma to help deliver Hydrophobic, Hydrophilic, Anti-Microbial and Fire Retardant treatments.

Our Technology Partners for the project have indicated that an Excimer Laser is envisaged as the most compatible for the current system and have requested the following outline specification requirements.

Wavelength (nm)	308
Stabilised Pulse Energy Range (mj)	550 -650
Maximised Stabilised Average Power (W)	130
Maximum Repetition Rate (Hz)	200
Energy Stability (sigma, %)	≤1.5
Pulse Duration (FWHM)(ns)	22
Average Beam Dimensions (V x H, FWHM, mm ² , typ.)	35 x 12.5
Beam Divergence (V x H, FWHM, mrad)	≤4.5 x 1.5
Dynamic Gas Lifetime – (at maximum stabilised energy) (mio pulses)	>30

The laser must be built in complete adherence of all UK Health & Safety requirements and the appropriate evidence of compliance must be provided. The project will also include the development of diagnostic control and monitoring systems and the respondents will be expected to include details of equipment support, installation, warranties and the provision of training and technical support as part of their submission.

Additional Requirements

The laser should have proven reliability particularly in high volume usage and supporting evidence should be provided to demonstrate its performance.

All respondents will be required to submit an Approved Supplier Questionnaire which will be assessed by Textile Centre of Excellence prior to evaluation of the tender response. Please contact us on the email address provided to request the documentation from us.

The estimated Budget for the purchase is approximately £230,000 - £300,000 + VAT

All tender responses should include full specification details of the laser and examples of its effectiveness and how this would meet our requirements.

All tender responses should include a full and clear breakdown of all costs.

These should include (this list is not exhaustive) Manufacture and Testing, Shipping, Installation, Training, Warranties, Ongoing Service and Maintenance – Costs for Year 1 and expected costs/offer beyond that period.

All tender responses should include clear timescales for manufacture, testing, delivery and installation. Our expectation is that it will take weeks not months to deliver and commission.

Any questions received will be answered where it is possible to do so. However in the interest of transparency and fairness we note that we are obliged to share any responses openly with other potential respondents.

- (1) All candidates will be required to produce a certificate or declaration demonstrating that they are not bankrupt or the subject of an administration order, are not being wound-up, have not granted a trust deed, are not the subject of a petition presented for sequestration of their estate, have not had a receiver, manager or administrator appointed and are not otherwise apparently insolvent.
- (2) All candidates will be required to produce a certificate or declaration demonstrating that the candidate, their directors, or any other person who has powers of representation, decision or control of the candidate has not been convicted of conspiracy, corruption, bribery, or money laundering. Failure to provide such a declaration will result in the candidate being declared ineligible and they will not be selected to participate in this procurement process.
- (3) All candidates will be required to produce a certificate or declaration demonstrating that they have not been convicted of a criminal offence relating to the conduct of their business or profession.
- (4) All candidates will be required to produce a certificate or declaration demonstrating that they have not committed an act of grave misconduct in the course of their business or profession.
- (5) Any candidate found to be guilty of serious misrepresentation in providing any information required, may be declared ineligible and not selected to continue with this procurement process.
- (6) All candidates will be required to produce a certificate or declaration demonstrating that they have fulfilled obligations relating to the payment of taxes under the law of any part of the United Kingdom or of the relevant State in which the economic operator is established.

Additional information can also be found on the OJEU/My Tenders Notice.

The documents relating to the tender will be available on request and our website at:

<http://www.textile-training.com/projects/techtext.aspx> and these will include our invitation to tender letter and the Approved Supplier Questionnaire.

Respondents will be assessed on their fundamental ability to meet all the criteria as outlined in above in our proposal brief.

Tender Information:

- Applications/responses must be printed on client's headed paper and signed by an appropriate person.
- **Applications/responses should be submitted either by post or by courier to arrive no later than noon on 5th March 2012. Under no circumstances will applications received after the deadline be accepted.**
- The requirements of the funding state that applications should arrive in a sealed envelope without reference to client identity to offer equality for the judging panel. However, please do include the tender reference number on the envelope (you will find this at the top of the invitation to tender and it will begin with 'TIP/TEN'). Please send your applications marked **CONFIDENTIAL** to:

Dan Green, Textile Centre of Excellence
Textile House, Red Doles Lane, Huddersfield, HD2 1YF

- If you require any further information, please contact Jamie Keenan at the above address.

Email: dangreen@textile-training.com

Tel: 01484 346500

Fax: 01484 346501

Conditions for Invitation to Tender

Note: This list is not exhaustive. Further guidance can be found at

<http://www.yorkshire-forward.com/sites/default/files/documents/ERDF Procurement Guidance.pdf>

1. Submission of a tender implies acceptance of the terms and conditions laid down in the documents making up this invitation to tender.
2. Submission of a tender entails the waiver by respondents of their own conditions of sale or service. Submission of a tender shall bind the respondent during performance of the contract, should it be awarded to him.
3. Before submitting a tender, respondents must take all the steps required to gain a proper understanding of the scale and nature of the subject of the invitation to tender and of any potential difficulties. By the fact of submitting a tender, respondents shall acknowledge that they know the risks and problems linked to the performance of the contract.
4. The period of validity of tenders, during which respondents are required to maintain all the conditions in their tenders, is 120 days from the closing date for the submission of tenders.
5. Huddersfield Textile Training Ltd or its associated company Huddersfield and District Textile Training Co. Ltd does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender, and reserves the right to accept or reject a tender either in whole or in part, or to annul the tender and not award any contract. The company will not be responsible for any costs incurred by the respondent.
6. Tender evaluation will be carried out by the authorised Project Manager in consultation and approved by the Managing Director or a member of the Senior Management Team in his absence, within 15 working days of the deadline date.
7. Where European Union Funding or Yorkshire Forward Regional Development Agency is being accessed for the procurement or part procurement of good or services – all tenders will be subject to the rules for procurement as defined by the European Union and Yorkshire Forward RDA. Thresholds for which are detailed below.

Contract Value	Contract Type	Procurement Process	Details
£1 - £2,500	Services, Supplies, Works	Value for Money test	Vfm consideration when placing an order/ sourcing an item or service.
£2,501 - £20,000	Services, Supplies, Works	Minimum of 3 written quotes (evaluation to determine Vfm)	Closed Invitation to Quote
£20,001 - £139,893	Services, Supplies	Competitive Tender	The norm is to advertise all contracts above £20k in the public domain however this is a mandatory requirement above £50k. By exception to the norm a closed Invitation to Tender can be issued to no less than 5 companies for contracts valued £20k - £50k.
£20,001 - £3,497,313	Works	Competitive Tender	
> £139,893/ £3,497,313	Services, Supplies, Works	EU Procurement (OJEU Open, Restricted,	Openly advertised in the official Journal of the European Union via

		Competitive Dialogue or Negotiated)	SiMAP. An assessment should be undertaken as to which of the procedures is most appropriate.
£1 - £250,000	Services, Supplies, Works	Single Tender	Only by exception

N.B. all thresholds exclude VAT but include expenses.

CONFIDENTIAL

