

Question/ Answer

Procurement procedure: OP/03/2017 Framework contract supply of High Capacity Skimmers

Question 01 (dated 12/05/2017, 09:31):

“It was shown during the Deepwater Horizon oil spill that oil skimmers were not achieving the oil recovery rates advertised. The ASTM committee worked for three years to develop a simple test procedure to validate a skimming systems oil recovery rate, ASTM F2709 was released in 2008. This test procedure has now been fully recognized in the industry with many manufacturers sending their equipment to test facilities such as Ohmsett in the USA for validation. Does EMSA require the skimmer system to be tested according to this standard?”

Answer to question 01 (published on 17/05/2017)

EMSA does not require the system to be tested following a specific standard.

According to point 1.1.3 of the Bid template (enclosure 2 to the Invitation to tender), the Agency does require the offer to include records of sea trials or real operations. Records must detail operational conditions (e.g. location, weather and sea conditions, air and sea temperature). Thereby, any offer should include records of test and a detailed description of the standards used for that test.

Question 02 (dated 15/05/2017, 08:59):

I have gone through the requirements that we must comply and one principal point that I see is the ATEX requirement;

“The complete system is ATEX certified to operate in Zone 2 according to Directive 94/9/EC and Directive 2014/34/EU (equipment Group II category 3) or equivalent.”

According to the attached presentation I found:

- Exemptions to the ATEX Directive:
 - Medical devices intended for use in a medical environment.
 - Equipment and protective systems where the explosion hazards result exclusively from the presence of explosive substances or unstable chemical substances.
 - Equipment intended for use in domestic and non-commercial environments.
 - Personal protective equipment covered by directive 89/686/EEC.
 - Seagoing vessels and mobile offshore units (such as semi-submersible platforms, drilling jack up platforms), already covered by the IMO convention. Fixed platforms, FPSO and other units not intended for navigation on high seas are not exempt from ATEX.

My question is:

Does ATEX requirement apply as this equipment is going on ships?

Answer to question 02 (published on 19/05/2017)

As per point 1.2.3 of Enclosure 2 - Bid Template, the complete system is requested to be ATEX certified to operate in Zone 2 according to Directive 94/9/EC and Directive 2014/34/EU (equipment Group II category 3) or equivalent. In this regard, please note that although the directive does not apply to seagoing vessels, it does cover all equipment that is intended for use in potentially explosive atmospheres. Therefore, as the equipment is to be fully autonomous, and it is not meant to be associated / installed to a specific vessel, the ATEX compliance (i.e. equipment Group II category 3) is a minimum requirement for this procurement procedure.

Question 03 (dated 15/05/2017, 09:02):

The tender specifies the following parameters – umbilical with 5 inch diameter, 70m long handling oil up to 30,000 cst at flow rate of 125 cubic meters per hour with a pump(s) producing a max of 7 bar. When pumping fluid through a pipe or hose you can calculate the pipe friction (pipe loss) - the amount of pressure you need to move the fluid. Using the following calculator (others are available): <http://www.freecalc.com/fricfram.htm> you would need min 110 bar pump pressure. It is physically impossible to pump with these parameters. This is without allowing for any bends in the hose or hose fittings or elbows or using flexible pipe (instead of straight steel pipe). The only way to reduce pipe friction is to reduce the flow rate, shorten the hose, increase the diameter or reduce the viscosity. As per our previous questions ASTM F2709 tests a skimmers system to skim and pump oil, you measure what comes out of the pipe. As well as 2709 certification we would like to propose that the length of the umbilical is reduced to suit the max pressure of the pump and be within pipe friction parameters.

Answer to question 03 (published on 19/05/2017)

As per point 1.3.2 of Enclosure 2 - Bid Template, EMSA requested minimum requirements in terms of:

- the type of product to be recovered, and
- the minimum pumping capacity.

In this regard, please note that the two requirements are not to be met jointly but individually, meaning that the requested minimum pumping capacity (i.e. 125m³/h at 7 bar) is not specifically for a product with a viscosity of 30,000CsT.

Please also note that under point 2 of Enclosure 2 - Bid Template, these two requirements are evaluated as two separate quality criteria (i.e. Q2 and Q3).

Question 04 (dated 16/05/2017, 15:40):

Will the Skimmer systems be located on vessel or in a vessels depot? When shipping the systems, will it be a vessel that will be the recipient of the skimmer?

Answer to question 04 (published on 19/05/2017)

EMSA may decide to order high capacity skimmers to be delivered to any of the Agency's pollution response arrangements located within the territory of the European Union. The exact place of delivery will be identified only if an actual order is placed through the signature of a specific contract as indicated in point 2.3.2 of the Tender Specifications (Enclosure 1 to the Invitation to tender).

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Requests for additional information regarding this tender should be sent by e-mail to the following address OPEN032017@emsa.europa.eu. Requests for additional information received less than six working days before the closing date for submission of tenders will not be processed.

The deadline for submission of the bids of this tender is **29 May 2017**.

The responsibility for monitoring the Agency's website for replies to queries and/or further information remains with potential applicants.