



SMEP Procurement Call C_005c: Expression of Interest Questions and Answers Log

Pollution mitigation interventions in the tanneries and leather sector, in target countries: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania

Information Webinar: 10 August 2023

This document will be updated on an ongoing basis while the Expression of Interest remains open and includes:

- Questions that were posted at the information sharing webinar on 10 August **2023**.
- Questions that have arisen in email exchanges with the SMEP Procurement team and informal meetings with the SMEP Procurement Team.

For more information on the call, see the manufacturing procurement page on the SMEP website by following [this link](#). If you have any specific questions not addressed in this document, please contact the SMEP team at procurement@smepprogramme.org.

The Q&A is arranged into the following categories:

SECTION A: General Context

SECTION B: Scope of Work

SECTION A: General Context

What is the SMEP Programme?

The Sustainable Manufacturing and Environmental Pollution Programme is funding research and related interventions aimed at reducing the environmental and socio-economic impacts of the manufacturing sector, as well as addressing some of the most pressing challenges associated with plastic pollution. Programme interventions aim to accelerate the development and uptake of solutions with potential for impact in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

Who is sponsoring this initiative?

The programme is funded by the UK government's Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) (UK Aid), with technical assistance provided by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

Who is managing the programme?

The Programme Management Agent (PMA) reports to a Steering Committee (Programme Management Agent, UNCTAD and FCDO) and receives technical guidance from an Independent Technical Advisory Panel. The PMA comprises a consortium partnership between Pegasys, SouthSouthNorth (SSN) and the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD).

What assistance can successful applicants expect?

In addition to funding awards, the programme endeavours to offer access to technical, regulatory and IP advice and access to relevant networks.

SECTION B: Specific questions on scope of work under current terms of reference

Submitting a concept: Who, what, when, and how?

Basic Information

When is the deadline to submit?

Deadline for response to Expression of Interest: **Monday, 11 September 2023, by 13:00h00 GMT.**

How do I access the Registration of Interest?

Stakeholders interested in receiving information on the SMEP Programme's procurement and funding opportunities are invited to register their interest on the online [Registration of Interest](#) (RoI) platform.

I registered my organisation on the SMEP RoI last year. Do I need to renew my registration for this call?

You only need to register once and will not be required to renew your registration for new calls. However, please update your original RoI submission as required via this [link](#). When completing an RoI, you will receive an RoI number via the email address provided.

Is there a specific number of applications to be funded in this call?

The number of organisations to be funded by this call would be dependent on the size of the contracts. We expect between 3-6 contracts depending on the quality of submissions and the budgets for advanced projects.

Would more than one concept be acceptable from the same organisation?

Organisations are welcome to submit multiple applications. However, no more than one concept will be accepted per organisation for advancing to the proposal stage. SMEP can only contract one organisation per concept.

Can we focus on multiple thematic areas in the concept note?

Yes, multiple thematic areas are welcome

May you please provide detailed feedback on the outcomes of the applications made upon the completion of the evaluation process? This, unfortunately, has not been done in the past.

The programme usually receives a high number of very competitive applications. Unfortunately, the PMA does not have the capacity to give individual feedback on each application.

Does the project idea have to be new from scratch, or any existing idea can be replicated in a targeted country with significant mitigation potential and the potential to scale up

We welcome existing ideas that are new to the context or target country.

What kind of organisations are eligible to apply?

There is no restriction on organisation type. However, organisations must meet due diligence criteria, show relevant skills, and, ideally, have a track record aligned with the work requirements. Partnerships between different types of organisations will be accommodated.

Are applicants required to develop carbon credits?

Concepts that can show potential for GHG emissions are encouraged. If you can show value through the potential for carbon credits please provide this information in the application.

Context: FCDO receives a portion of funding based on the climate mitigation potential of the SMEP projects

Can you please share a link to the portal?

The [Submission portal link](#) (and other important links) are provided in the [Terms of Reference](#) and on the [SMEP Procurement page](#).

Can applicants add members to the portal with view/edit access on the form?

Please give team members that need access to the submission portal your organisation's login details (SMEPXXX) and chosen password. Only one username is provided per applicant.

Do all subcontractors need to be identified at the EoI stage?

Subcontractors can be changed or added as needed at the Proposal stage.

Can the funding be used for all Capex?

Capital expenditure is accepted if it is towards piloting or research activities. It will not cover routine replacements or machinery upgrades. Please also refer to the [Model Grant Framework Agreement](#) and study the relevant clauses on project assets.

Is co-funding a pre-condition, or is it not relevant?

Co-funding is not a requirement but is welcomed. Applicants are asked to disclose co-funding in the EoI application. Where co-financing is part of an applicant's motivation, in-kind contributions do count.

Geographical scope

Do you consider geographical representativeness in your evaluation? Is the application open worldwide?

Yes. Projects will be considered if they have application in the target areas. However, the project solution can originate from countries other than the target regions. If piloting is proposed, the project must be piloted in one of the target countries. Please note that final decision-making will also consider the geographical spread of the SMEP programme as a whole at that time.

How many projects would be awarded in one country?

There is no specific limit to this, as the final selection will be determined by the quality of the submissions, their potential impact and scalability, etc. Please do note that final decision-making will also take into consideration the geographical spread of the SMEP programme as a whole at that time. Please refer to the call criteria outlined in the Terms of Reference for more details.

Is it possible to target multiple countries in one concept note?

Yes.

Tanzania is listed as one of the priority countries in the brochure headline but omitted as a focus country in the brochure content.

Tanzania is a target country for this call; we have noted the error where Tanzania was omitted as a focus country in the Brochure. We apologise for the confusion and will amend the Brochure.

Is co-funding a pre-condition, or is it not relevant? What is the percentage of co-financing needed?

Co-funding is not a requirement but is welcomed. Applicants are asked to disclose co-funding in the EoI application. Where co-financing is part of an applicant's motivation, in-kind contributions do count.