LIFE STIMUL Project
Open tendering procedure for the
granting of 2020 field trials
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Appendix 1: RFI Request for Information
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Appendix 4: General Agreement Solvay
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Dear Suppliers,

Life STIMUL project consortium (Solvay group and Aegilops company) is launching a Request for Quotation (RFQ) for the granting of field trials. The elements regarding the Request for Quotation and the selection criteria are defined below.

1. Introduction to project consortium

Solvay group
Solvay is a multi-specialty chemical company. Solvay innovates and partners with customers in diverse global end markets. Its products and solutions are used in planes, cars, smart and medical devices batteries, in mineral and oil extraction and in agriculture among many other applications promoting sustainability. Novecare is one of the global business units of Solvay focusing on the development of leading edge technologies that affect the behavior of fluids to give them cleansing, softening, moisturizing, gelling, penetrating or dispersing properties. Its products are found in shampoos, detergents, paints, lubricants, plant protection, mining and oil extraction. Novecare is a major player in specialty surfactants.

Aegilops company
Aegilops is a French SME specialized in design and production of technological application agents for seeds treatment. Whereas large international companies work on elaborating new active substances to protect seeds from diseases and insects before being sowed, Aegilops work at solving issues met by seed producers and farmers in the application of such registrated substances and use of end product. The company is located at Val-de-Reuil (near Rouen, France).

1.1 Presentation of the Background / Context
For the agriculture market, the project consortium is developing a range of biostimulants for seed treatments application; in this context we are organizing field trials all over Europe to assess the performances of biostimulant products (LIFE STIMUL project). The purpose of the present Request for Quotation is the selection of contractors to perform field trials on biostimulants in Europe in 2020.
# 1.2 Technical specifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crops</th>
<th>Trial size</th>
<th>Number of trials per country</th>
<th>Technical assessments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Corn    | 7 treatments 4 replications | France - 8  Italy - 8 Romania - 8 | ● Plant count before harvest  
● Harvest data: yield  
● Nutrients content (N, P, K, Ca, Mg, S, B, Cu, Fe, Mn and Zn) on plant leaves for only 2 treatments |
| Soybean | 4 treatments 4 replications | France - 8  Italy - 8 | ● Plant count before harvest  
● Nodulations counts on 10 plants per microplot  
● Harvest data: yield  
● Nutrients content (N, P, K, Ca, Mg, S, B, Cu, Fe, Mn and Zn) on plant leaves for only 2 treatments |
| Sunflower | 4 treatments 4 replications | France - 6  Hungary - 6 Romania - 6 Bulgaria - 6 | ● Plant count before harvest  
● Harvest data: yield  
● Nutrients content (N, P, K, Ca, Mg, S, B, Cu, Fe, Mn and Zn) on plant leaves for only 2 treatments |
| Beetroot | 4 treatments 4 replications | France - 4  Germany - 4 | ● Emergence notation  
● Biomass volume  
● Harvest data: yield  
● Sugar content |

**Details regarding the trial design:**
- Randomized complete block
- Plot size: 4 rows (or 5 rows depending on the equipment) with 12 to 15 meter length.
- All assessments to be conducted only in the two (or three) middle rows per plot.

**Data to be recorded for each trial**

**Trial description**
- Plot size
- Trial location (include map, coordinates)
- Cultivar description and FAO number.
- Planting date, planting density, specify the row and plant spacing.

**Maintenance data**
Maintenance Fertilizer: product / dose / application date
Crop protection product: product / dose / application date
Irrigation programme: date / quantity (mm)

**Weather data**
- Weather data from the nearly meteorological station (precipitation, minimum and maximum temperature)
- Extreme weather conditions during the growing season (for example, hail, extreme temperatures, etc.).

**Previous crops and yield historic**
- Previous crops (2 years).
- Historic of the yields of the selected site and average yield of the year for the area (2 years).

**Soil analysis (realized BEFORE sowing)**
- Texture: soil type / % sand / % silt / % clay
- Chemical composition: P$_2$O$_5$, K$_2$O, MgO, CaO, Na$_2$O, N
- CEC analysis (en mg/kg)
- pH
- %OM

**Sowing conditions**
- Weather conditions: temperature, humidity, precipitation
- Soil condition: temperature, humidity

Field trials should be conducted under ARM with the following specifications:

- Study language: English
- Interim ARM DATA files should be sent to the customer within 20 days of any assessment.
- Final fully completed ARM DAT files to be sent within 1 month of the harvest.

**1.3 Request for Quotation Purpose**

This RFQ is an invitation to suppliers to submit to the project consortium a proposal regarding attribution of field trials. This scope includes:

- Ensuring all necessary government experimental testing permits are obtained
- Providing experienced Project Manager and technically competent trialists
- Conducting the trials in accordance with agreed protocol
- Provision of weather data for the duration of the trials
- Providing full study and interim records
- Providing field reports

The following criteria are considered to assess proposals:
- Service offer
- Price competitiveness
- Personnel expertise and experience
- Account management and delivery management
- Company financial strength

1.4 Contract duration
Supplier should provide fix and practical price offer for the duration of the trial period.

2. Requests for Quotation Management

2.1 RFQ Management / Solvay contacts
Clara VERNAY: clara.vernay@solvay.com

Address: 52 Rue de la Haie Coq – 93300 AUBERVILLIERS

Please send an email to Clara VERNAY to have access to the different appendices related to this RFQ.

Please provide your response to this RFQ with your offer by email, respecting the deadline requested. Email version will be considered to validate RFQ deadline compliance.

Offer shall comply with existing state of the art technology and trade practices. The suppliers shall guarantee the proposals are optimized compared to a group of similarly situated companies and contracts.

A Supplier representative should be nominated for the purpose of answering and submitting questions to Solvay, which may arise during the examination of the submitted information.

2.2 RFQ Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Documents</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</table>

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### Launch of the invitation to tender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supplier Offer Submission (RFQ pricing grid – Appendix 3)</td>
<td>17/01/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solvay decision process/ Shortlist</td>
<td>31/01/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd round of negotiation with short listed suppliers (RFI – Appendix 1, NDA – Appendix 2)</td>
<td>14/02/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final feedback to suppliers</td>
<td>28/02/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract negotiation</td>
<td>13/03/2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The project consortium reserves the right to terminate the process at any time if Service Providers do not respect their responsibilities or commitments.

### 2.3 Methodology to compare suppliers

To be objective on the selection process, Suppliers will be evaluated through a decision grid which is currently composed of 3 axis and multiple sub-criteria.

The main axis and pre-identified criteria follows:

- Competitiveness
- Quality
- Technical Value

### 3. Consortium Requirements regarding Supplier Offers

#### 3.1 Contractual aspect

Solvay and the Supplier shall enter into a contract, which will provide for the terms and conditions under which services will be provided by the Supplier. As all or part of the Supplier’s answer to the present RFQ is subject to be included in such contract, Supplier shall review contractual aspects in Appendix 4 and give validation.

#### 3.2 Supplier quality management system

The supplier shall provide his process to take in charge non conformities and claims coming from Solvay. This is a key factor of success, to make sure feedbacks from the users are taking in to account and answered through proactive solutions. This process will ensure a good the level of satisfaction to Solvay end user.
3.3 Corporate Social Responsibility and Code of Conduct

In doing business with Solvay, Suppliers agree to subscribe to principles consistent with the Solvay Way as detailed in the Solvay Supplier Code of Conduct, Appendix 5.

4. Financial Offer & Commercial Aspect

4.1 Supplier Pricing Offer

Supplier will describe its pricing offer through the RFQ Pricing Grid (Appendix 3). The bidder should provide the price per trials with the details of the cost of each technical assessment. Solvay is expecting fixed net price for the duration of the contract based on services quoted during the tender.

4.2 E procurement

E-procurement is an approach based on the establishment of a close relationship with end user. Supplier shall receive by email the order; in return Supplier shall be able to send to Solvay end user an acknowledgment of order and a confirmation of key elements with the Purchase order number. This implies the acceptance from the Service Provider of all of the Contractual and the Commercial Conditions.

4.3 Payment terms

All payments shall be effected by wire bank transfer and released as following. Invoices need to be address by PDF and not by paper to this email address: ptp-invoice.scanning@solvay.com

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PAYMENT TERMS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>45 days end of month from invoice date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 days net from invoice date</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Payment of the first invoice will be subject to reception of the order confirmation or acknowledgement of receipt of the Purchase Order without reserve and reception of all the documents in accordance with the Purchaser’s requirements before the start of the Services. Any invoice not stating the relevant Purchase Order number will be rejected and the corresponding payment will be deferred with no extra cost for the Purchaser.
4.4 Delivery time and terms
Supplier shall propose a deliver time in number of days which take into consideration the
buying channel. Supplier shall send by email reports which need to be delivered with a
maximum number of days to be determined with Solvay.

4.5 Expertise
Level of expertise:
Capacity of Suppliers to answer to Solvay needs and questions

Quality of service:
- Capacity to answer to end user service expectation
- Supplier awareness to anticipate delivery issues

Risk management:
Supplier capacity to:
- Answer to delivery time expectation
- Have a level of reactivity
- Communicate proactively to end user potential issues.

5. Answering the RFQ
Prefacing the proposal, Suppliers shall provide an Executive Summary, which gives in
brief, concise terms; a summary of their offer. The proposal itself shall be organized in
the following format and informational sequence:

| Description of proposal                  | - Description of the service |
|                                       | - Delivery time and terms |
| Financial Proposal                      | - Use pricing Grid enclosed |
|                                       | (Appendix 3) |
|                                       | - Description of the pricing |
|                                       | mechanism |
|                                       | - Repayment schedule proposition |

5.1 Authorized Negotiator
Suppliers will include the name, address, and telephone number of the person
authorized to negotiate contract terms and render binding decisions on contract matters.
5.2 RFP Costs
Note that Solvay will not take in charge any Suppliers’ costs (preparation expenses, submission costs, or any other expenses incurred for negotiations meetings or sites visits, etc…) generated during the RFQ process.

5.3 Modifications
The project consortium reserves the right to amend the RFQ and issue an addendum at any time as a result of questions, change in acquisition schedule, or other matters. The consortium agrees to notify all responding Suppliers of such changes. The consortium also reserves the right, without liability, to cancel or reissue the RFQ prior to the execution of a written contract. If requested, Suppliers will submit all changes in writing and with an authorized signature. The consortium will not be liable for any error in Supplier’s proposals. Except during negotiations initiated by the consortium, modifications to proposals WILL NOT be accepted after the deadline, without our agreement.

5.4 Errors
If any information listed in this document is unclear, or if respondents know them to be inaccurate, Suppliers shall inform the Solvay contact via the e-mail addresses provided. Solvay shall state the nature of the inaccuracy or lack of clarity in detail and suggest a resolution.

5.5 Right to Reject Proposals
Suppliers are expected to provide complete and thorough responses to all requirements herein. Failure to comply may result in the rejection of the Suppliers proposal. Neither receipt of a proposal nor failure to reject shall impose any legal obligation on Solvay.

5.6 Supplier Selection
Solvay is the owner of Supplier selection process & final decision. Solvay will provide overall information of the reasons behind decision, detail delivered in its own discretion.