

1) Ref: APB. We note the contractor is to provide an on demand APB. If the tenderer fails to provide an APB, or is not willing to provide this, will the tender be null and void?

A: APB are common options in the construction industry and for this tender it is an essential part of the return.

2) What is the address of the 7 SHL sites to be visited, and what is the relevance of the site visits if SHL is operating the facility and delivering the wood fuel to the relevant 7 sites.

A: We can offer a site visit to the proposed wood fuel hub if requested however the details of the other 7 biomass sites will not be provided as it isn't relevant to the tender.

3) If the tenderer can provide 3 examples as per Section 6, 6.1 but one example is an in-house, company owned design and build wood processing depot including chip drier element will this qualify for the purpose of a compliant example?

A: This type of example would be accepted as long the details of the outcome and performance can be provided, and third-party validation of the existence of the site and its performance can be provided.

4) Would Stockport Homes consider a drying floor option rather than a fully enclosed conveyor belt?

A: As this is a design and build contract we would consider anything which matches the performance indicated.

5) We are seeking to define the contract start date. This is the date you intend to formally confirm the tender award and so the date we can use to develop our proposed ordering and construction programme. We are assuming that is during week commencing 23rd April. Is that correct?

6) Clause 3.6 of the ITT refers to stage payments and says:

7) 'SHL shall pay correctly addressed and undisputed invoices within 14 days in accordance with the stage payments and dates noted below. Stage payments dates shall mean the date by which monies are cleared into the Contractors bank account.'

8) If the contract is awarded w/c 23rd April then shall we assume the first stage payment cleared into our account is 2 weeks later? This would mean w/c 7th May.

- 9) In terms of all subsequent stage payments shall we assume that we can submit invoices 2 weeks prior to the stage payment date stated in the ITT?

A: the below table is an extract from the ITT which I believe you are referring to. The dates are approximate and could move however the stage payments percentages are correct for each event. We have put a 2 weeks turnaround in the contract to give us a little bit of breathing space to process the payments (bear in mind this is normally 28 days). In terms of start dates etc. the closing date is the 9th April and we are planning a number of meetings that week to discuss the submissions (internally). I believe we will reach a decision that week and get notice out to the successful tenderer by W/C 16th April. We will agree at that point a mutual start date which will be asap (within reason).

Approx. dates	Milestone	% stage payment
16/04/18	Immediately prior to ordering of biomass boilers, chipper, drier, heat exchanger and conveyors	1. 19% ^[1]
04/06/18	On possession of the site	2. 9.5% ^[2]
29/06/18	Immediately prior to delivery of all equipment to site	3. 47.5% ^[3]
29/07/18	Part way through installation	4. 9.5% ^[4]
17/08/18	Contract completion	5. 12% ^[5]
17/02/19	At end of the 6 months defects liability and snagging period	6. 2.5%

- 10)The ITT refers to a 6 month 'defects liability and snagging period' in section 5.12. It says this shall include for a full service of all the equipment and products at the end of the 6 months period prior to the final handover of the site and equipment to the client (SHL). Appendix 2 the pricing schedule asks us to cost for a 12 month servicing/ maintenance period.

- 11)Can you please clarify if the period is 6 months or 12 months.

^[1] Under this schedule the client retains 5% of each of the first five payments (20%, 10%, 50%, 10% and 10% of total) and then releases half of this total retention (2.5% of the total retention) at payment 5 (Contract Completion) and the final half (2.5% of the total retention) 6 months after 'Contract Completion', when the 'Defects and Snagging' period is completed satisfactorily (see also Section 5.3)

^[2] Op cit 1 above

^[3] Op cit 1 above

^[4] Op cit 1 above

^[5] Op cit 1 above

A: The contract of works should include a 6 month service of the plant at hand over so we are receiving the goods in perfect working order.

In the pricing schedule we have asked for costs for 12 month servicing (as a side issue). The would be a separate contract should we wish to proceed with this aspect.

12)We are seeking a short extension of time to the tender return. The tender period includes Easter and we have not been able to secure full responses from a number of our sub-contractors and suppliers due to the Easter holidays. Specifically some of the sub-contractors we are using on the design side for M&E are on holiday this week and next. Other sub contractors are away until 3rd April and that leaves a short time to get firm quotes and put this in our bid in a fully risk free manner. If you feel an extension of time is justified then we are seeking a new date of close of play on 10th April 2018.

A: Comments noted. An extension of 24 hrs is granted and this has been clarified on the Contract Finder website. The new deadline for submission is Tuesday 10th April at 10am.