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| **Questions** | **Answers** |
| *Is this tender for the autoclaves alone or is it to include all that is listed in the Equipment List under the Statement of Requirements*? | **The Tender is for all the listed equipment including the Autoclaves.** |
| *Is this inclusive of both LTE Autoclaves?* | **Yes, it is inclusive of both LTE Autoclaves** |
| *Are both Autoclaves and Incubators part of this tender?* | **Yes, they are part of the same tender as they are mostly LTE equipment** |
| *Will an empty calibration cycle (at each temperature) be sufficient, or will a full load of fluid/media be used as part of the validation? If so, what is the maximum volume of fluid/media in any one duran/bottle?**What are the average cycle time durations for each temperature range that require testing (with a full load)?* | **The calibration must be set at the temperatures that we use it at. We use one Autoclave at two temperatures, 121oC for 15 mins and at 130oC for 30mins. One temperature is for the Media we make the other is for a back up to the other autoclave as this is the temperature we must sterilise any waste we produce. The Other Autoclave is calibrated at 130oC for 30mins as that is our main waste sterilisation autoclave. It is also Calibrated at 121oC for 15mins to back up our Media Autoclave. It is not good laboratory practice to use the Media Autoclave as a waste Autoclave, but when situations arise where that is not always practicable, we use the Media Autoclave for our waste, but clean it down afterwards. The Calibrations is set up with 1 litre Durans for the Media but for the waste, the temperature probe is placed inside a metal bucket which is used in waste sterilisation. This is to make sure that the temperature reaches the desired temperature inside the bucket not on the outside where I believe the temperature will differ somewhat.**  |
| *Are annual services required on all of the above or just autoclaves for this tender? And will we be deemed non-compliant if we cannot offer maintenance on all equipment?* | **Annual Services are required on the Autoclaves, Incubators , Drying cabinets and Fridges.****Tenders will be deemed non-compliant if maintenance on all equipment cannot be offered**. |
| *Are hydraulic tests required on the jacket of the vessel? If so, how often will this test be performed?**Is access allowed to both machines at the same time to carry out any of the works (calibration/service/insurance inspection), or is one to be left in service until completion of works on the other?* | **Both the Autoclaves are pressure vessels and therefore must be checked annually. It is in fact a safety inspection rather than a Insurance inspection. I believe it is required by law to have this done. I have tried on many occasions to try and marry up the service visit with the safety inspection ( organised by DIO ) but to no avail. So instead of paying our engineer twice to come out to us, I would like the “extra” call out to dismantle the Autoclaves in readiness for the safety inspection to be part of the Contract. I am not too sure what is involved though I know they check the pressure release valves to insure they work.** |
| *Are serviceable parts to be included in the contract price as an ‘all inclusive’ arrangement or can additional charges be made separately for parts used during servicing?* | **This may  be awkward because no one would know what part would need replacing. So perhaps we should be charged for additional parts as when required. But not get charged for travelling time and call outs etc.** |
| *Could you please confirm if the tender is for the two LTE Autoclaves alone as this makes no mention of other equipment mentioned in the Equipment List?* | **This tender is for the Service and Calibration of Two Autoclaves and an Annual service for our Incubators, Fridges and Drying Cabinets** |