**Clarifications**

**Question 1.1 within the RFQ –** The phrasing of this question has been improved; all submissions should now include responses to this updated question (Detailed below).

Q1.1 Demonstrate a clear understanding of the nature of the requirement (tasks 1 to 4) and how you would go about a methodological review of the existing method in Annex 5 within eCognition as well as options for alternative applications and software.

------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**Question -** Is the use of Trimble's eCognition software mandatory for this project or would you consider alternative software if the same process/methodology can be followed

**Answer -** Annex 5 sets out the current method for how Urban Habitat Maps are generated. This uses eCognition software. This contract is essentially to assess potential improvements in Urban Habitat Mapping either using the existing software application or with alternatives. We believe the ability to follow Annex 5 is key to being able to undertake the review and trial of improvements asked for in Core Tasks 2 and 3. But in the context of delivering these tasks, the potential for alternative software is something we would wish to explore. However, Task 3 requires a comparative assessment and Task 4 is designed to assess the impact methodological change would have on accuracy.

------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**Question -** If you would accept an alternative approach would you score equitably against this approach and experience of using alternative software on similar projects/with similar outcomes?

**Answer -** Experience of using “alternative” software is relevant to the project but the ability to assess potential for improvement using the existing method is also essential. Use of eCognition is a requirement for Q 1.2 of the evaluation but use of other potential applications is relevant to Q 1.1

------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**Question -** Would a proposal using open-source software be acceptable if this is still able apply the methodology outlined in Annex 5 whilst also providing scope for improving accuracy and processing performance?

**Answer -** Annex 5 sets out how the existing method delivers Urban Habitat maps. The main purpose of this contract will be to review if either improvements could be made to the existing method, or if alternative methods might deliver an improved product. The use of alternative software is relevant with respect to this but the requirement (Annex 3) to be able to undertake the existing method is considered essential in being able to undertake the core tasks 2 and 3 of assessing potential improvements and to be able to compare sample outputs.