



**NET  
ZERO  
CITIES**

# **NZC CESF Procurement RFP**

**CESF Procurement Document template to be published  
internally or externally for the purposes of procuring expert  
support for cities**

**SGA-MCCC-020-Turin**

Date: 02 October 2025

**Authors:** Luisa Carretti (Climate-KIC)



Funded by  
the European Union

## Table of contents

1	Overview .....	4
1.1	Executive Summary .....	4
1.2	Timelines .....	4
1.3	About Climate-KIC .....	5
1.4	About NetZeroCities .....	5
1.4.1	NZC Climate City Contracts (CCC) .....	5
1.4.2	NZC Pilot Cities Programme .....	5
2	Confidentiality .....	6
3	Specification .....	7
3.1	Scope .....	8
3.2	Required Experience and Capabilities .....	9
3.3	Methodology .....	9
3.4	Objectives .....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
3.5	Deliverables .....	9
3.6	Eligibility .....	10
3.7	Sustainability .....	10
4	Contracting (third parties) .....	12
4.1	Payment & Invoicing .....	12
4.2	Contract Management .....	12
5	Award Criteria .....	13
5.1	Evaluation across quality criteria .....	13
5.2	Evaluation Criteria .....	13
5.2.1	Expertise / Experience (30%) .....	13
5.2.2	Capacity to Deliver (30%) .....	13
5.2.3	Price Criteria (40%) .....	14
6	Instruction to Bidders .....	15
6.1	Responding with your proposal .....	15
6.2	Quotation requirements .....	15
6.3	Terms of this RFP .....	17



## Abbreviations and acronyms

Acronym	Description
NZC	NetZeroCities
CESF	City Expert Support Facility
CCC	Climate City Contracts
RFP	Request for Proposal
GARAC	Grant and Resource Allocation Committee
CoP	Community of Practice

# Request for Proposal

**For:** Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) engagement services

**Date:** 25.09.2025

## 1 Overview

### 1.1 Executive Summary

This is a Request for Proposal (RFP) that details Climate-KIC's requirements for services to support cities in the NetZeroCities programme, through the NZC City Expert Support Facility. Please treat this document in accordance with the confidentiality obligations detailed further in this document.

Services and/or goods requested	Expert services to support the City of Turin in engaging small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the initial implementation phase of its labelling framework.
The legal entity requesting these goods and/or services	Stitching Climate-KIC International Foundation
Services and/or goods will be delivered to the following locations	Services will be delivered remotely to the following locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turin</li> </ul> Some onsite services are required at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turin</li> </ul>
Climate-KIC Contract Manager for submitting proposals and inquiries	Luisa Carretti CESF Manager <a href="mailto:CESF@netzerocities.eu">CESF@netzerocities.eu</a>
Proposed contract term for successful candidates	8 months

Table 1: Procurement executive summary

### 1.2 Timelines

Climate-KIC has set the following indicative timelines for this RFP:

Planned Date*	Milestones
03.10.2025	RFP issued to bidders
17.10.2025	Deadline to submit questions
24.10.2025	Bidders submit proposals / <b>Submission Deadline</b>
31.10.2025	Assessment results announcement (subject to finished evaluations and selection of a winner)
November 2025	Proposed contract start date

*Climate-KIC reserves the right to amend this timetable during the RFP.*

Table 2: Timeline table

Should you have any inquiries regarding the Request for Proposal (RFP), please submit them via email to [CESF@netzerocities.eu](mailto:CESF@netzerocities.eu) by the deadline specified in the table above. We aim to respond in a timely manner wherever possible. To proceed, please submit a proposal following the requirements at Section 6.2 by the Submission Deadline stated at Section 1.2. NetZeroCities team will assess bids and notify bidders following the timeline at Section 1.2.

## 1.3 About Climate-KIC

Climate-KIC is Europe's leading climate innovation agency and community, supporting cities, regions, countries and industries to meet their climate ambitions through systems innovation and place-based transformations.

Together with our partners, we generate, implement and integrate climate solutions by mobilising finance, testing business models, and opening pathways for institutional change and behavioural change. We orchestrate large-scale demonstrations that show what is possible when cycles of innovation and learning are deliberately designed to trigger exponential decarbonisation and build resilient communities. Climate-KIC is the project lead for NetZeroCities (NZC).

## 1.4 About NetZeroCities

**NetZeroCities (NZC)** is a project designed to help cities overcome the current structural, institutional, and cultural barriers they face to achieve climate neutrality by 2030. NZC recognises the need for cities to develop specific strategies that are tailored to suit local and regional contexts, and supports them by developing, promoting, and integrating new and existing tools, resources, and expertise into an online platform accessible to all cities (**Mission Platform**). The project – designed to **support cities that are part of the EU's Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe supported Mission "100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030"** – tailors advanced capabilities related to systemic change, citizen engagement and democratic, participatory governance, capital and financial structuring, and social innovation, to ensure cities have access to expertise needed to address their challenges in becoming climate neutral.

### 1.4.1 NZC Climate City Contracts (CCC)

The **NZC Mission Platform** provides support in the co-creation of Climate City Contracts with local stakeholders and citizens. Drawing up, signing, and implementing Climate City Contracts is a central feature of the [EU Mission on 100 Climate Neutral and Smart Cities](#) by 2030. While not legally binding, these contracts represent a clear and highly visible political commitment. This commitment extends not only to the EC, national and regional authorities, but also to the citizens they serve. These contracts outline the city's path to achieve climate neutrality by 2030, accompanied by a comprehensive investment strategy.

### 1.4.2 NZC Pilot Cities Programme

The **NZC Pilot Cities Programme** supports large scale piloting activities to exploit, deploy, and scale R&I and systemic solutions combining social, cultural, technological, nature-based, regulatory, and financial innovation, and new business and governance models to underpin the climate transition. As such, the NZC Pilot Cities Programme and its subgrant-funded activities are an opportunity for Mission Cities to put into practise elements of their developing and/or finalised Climate City Contracts and the plans contained in them and learn by doing so in the process.

#### NZC Community of Practice

The [NZC Community of Practice \(CoP\)](#) is a collaborative space on the Mission Platform, which gathers city officials, experts and practitioners from public organizations, private organisations or public-private organisations directly involved in climate neutrality programmes, activities or solutions. Through this community, we recognize that there are already many existing resources, knowledge, and solutions available, and we aim to foster their connection to cities to help them achieve their climate goals. Through the online portal group and monthly webinars, the CoP encourages the sharing of challenges, questions, and solutions related to climate neutrality, facilitating discussions that inspire innovative collaborations and drive city strategies for achieving climate goals.

The CoP plays a complementary role in the context of the City Expert Support Facility. While participation in the CoP is not required to submit an offer and has no influence on the evaluation process, it may provide added value for suppliers in other contexts. It provides a space where city needs can be openly shared and discussed, and where suppliers can stay engaged, respond to emerging

opportunities, and contribute their expertise. For more information on how to join the CoP and present your services, please contact [helena.suarezgroen@lgi.earth](mailto:helena.suarezgroen@lgi.earth).

## 2 Confidentiality

All information provided in this Request for Proposal (hereinafter “RFP”) document and any information that may be subsequently disclosed during discussions, correspondence, and negotiations, is confidential and must not be disclosed to any other party or used for any other purpose whatsoever without the prior written permission of Climate-KIC (hereinafter “Climate-KIC”).

The Supplier must not disclose any such information, materials, specifications, or other documents to any third parties or to any other part of the Supplier's group or use them for any purpose other than for the preparation and submission of a response to this RFP. The Supplier must not make any press announcements or publicise in any way Climate-KIC's name, this document, the quotation process or any subsequent agreement without the prior written consent of Climate-KIC.

Climate-KIC may require the execution of Non-Disclosure Agreement as part of this RFP or for future commercial engagements. As part of preparation for the submission of the response and in any subsequent negotiations, the Supplier is allowed to disclose confidential information to others within the Supplier organisation, external advisors, or subcontractors, provided that the confidentiality conditions are adhered to.

Employees of either party who have access to confidential information must be notified of their obligations with regard to confidentiality and of the disciplinary proceedings which will result if confidentiality conditions are breached.

The scoring information (includes price) and the successful proposal will be shared with the City that is the beneficiary of the contract prior to contract execution. The unsuccessful proposals may also be shared with the city for feedback. Please make Climate-KIC aware if there are any potential issues with the dissemination of your proposal for the purposes of informing the city of the outcome.

## 3 Specification

### 3.1 Background

The City of Turin is advancing the implementation of its Climate City Contract (CCC) and has developed a structured labelling process to formalize and expand alliances with local stakeholders, including public companies, large corporations, SMEs, startups, trade associations, non-profits, academic institutions, and research centers. The aim of the labelling initiative is to recognize organizations that contribute to emissions reductions within the city.

While the city has successfully engaged startups and youth-driven initiatives, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) remain underrepresented in local climate governance. These stakeholders have traditionally been more difficult to engage due to a lack of direct relationships and because support to SMEs is typically managed at the regional level.

The labelling process recognizes organizations that contribute, directly or indirectly, to emissions reductions within the city's boundaries. It distinguishes two levels of commitment based on the type and measurability of actions undertaken by stakeholders:

- The MEMBER level is awarded to all organizations that have implemented (since 2019), are implementing and/or are committed to implementing by 2030 actions aimed at reducing climate-changing emissions, the impact of which is not directly quantified or quantifiable according to accounting methods based on national or international regulations. These actions nonetheless contribute to Turin's collective pursuit of climate neutrality under its Climate City Contract (CCC) and within the framework of the EU Mission on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities.
- The PARTNER Level is awarded to all entities that have implemented (since 2019), are implementing and/or are committed to implementing by 2030 actions aimed at reducing climate-changing emissions, the impact of which has been quantified using methodologies based on national or international regulations already adopted, or can be quantified, following the provision of all data necessary for the assessment, through methods to be identified by the City in collaboration with the partners identified for this purpose. Partner organizations are recognized as active contributors to Turin's CCC and as Mission-aligned stakeholders supporting the city's climate neutrality ambition.

The city now seeks expert support to activate and engage private companies, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Past engagement efforts focused on startups and youth-driven initiatives, areas where the City already has strong networks. However, SMEs typically operate outside these ecosystems, and the City lacks established relationships with them.

The support requested is therefore critical to broaden ownership of the city's climate neutrality ambition and bring private actors not currently involved in the Climate City Contract (CCC), particularly those who may not immediately perceive a tangible benefit from participating in climate action. To reach these stakeholders, especially small and medium-sized enterprises, the city needs a well-crafted communication and outreach strategy, capable of clearly conveying the advantages of the labelling initiative in ways that resonate with their interests and concerns.

The assignment will be carried out in close collaboration with relevant departments of the City of Turin. Key external stakeholders include potential intermediary organizations such as trade associations (e.g. Unione degli Industriali) and early adopters of the labelling such as IREN, Politecnico di Torino, and the University of Turin. The work is time-sensitive, as the labelling process has just been officially launched in September 2025, following a soft launch conducted in July 2025.

## 3.2 Scope

Climate KIC, acting on behalf of NetZeroCities is requesting quotation for expert services to support the City of Turin in engaging small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the initial implementation phase of its labelling framework.

The selected provider will support the city in building trust-based relationships with SMEs, developing tailored communications and engagement tools, and facilitating direct dialogue with stakeholders. The supplier is expected to work closely with the city team to refine the outreach and positioning of the labelling process.

The proposal should consider the following:

- Local understanding of Turin's economic and stakeholder landscape;
- Experience in communicating the non-financial benefits of climate action to SMEs;
- Close collaboration with the municipality and key intermediaries;
- Alignment with Turin's internal timeline to test the labelling process and present initial results;
- Clear acknowledgement of Turin's role as a Mission City and integration of outreach activities into the broader objectives of the EU Cities Mission and the implementation of the CCC.

Delivery Timeline: Start in November 2025, final delivery by June 2026

### Key tasks:

- Identify and establish working relationships with key SME intermediaries (e.g. Unione degli Industriali), positioning them as multipliers for Turin's Mission-aligned climate neutrality pathway. An ideal success factor would be to have recruited at least 30 enterprises for the labelling framework, with 20 of these at Partner level, each committing to measurable climate action in line with the city's Climate City Contract (CCC).
- Develop a comprehensive communication and outreach strategy tailored to different types of SMEs, clearly highlighting the link between climate action, business objectives, and the city's Mission-aligned climate neutrality pathway.
- Create communication materials for distribution via broker organizations, explicitly showcasing the benefits and visibility associated with the labelling scheme.
- Update the City's climate neutrality webpage ([La Città di Torino verso la neutralità climatica | Torino Vivibile](#)), ensuring the inclusion of accessible public messaging about SME commitments under the Mission framework.
- Co-design communication and engagement channels for different SME types, in close collaboration with the City of Turin, NetZeroCities and relevant intermediaries.
- Organize and moderate targeted, in-person stakeholder meetings with different categories of SMEs, structured to reinforce their role as Mission-aligned contributors to the city's climate neutrality ambition.

The services will be delivered to meet the following milestones:

Milestone	Time frame
Start of support	November 2025
Development of communications and outreach strategy and materials	November – February 2025
3-4 in-person stakeholder engagement events and moderation. Number to be defined with the city of Turin depending on the communications and outreach strategy developed	March - May 2026
Synthesis of results and recommendations for the future	June 2026

The selected bidder is expected to engage with experts from the NetZeroCities consortium as well as engaging with the City and its key stakeholders. NetZeroCities experts (who are resourced already and



do not have to be represented in a financial offer) are to be engaged (together with the City) to align the outreach strategy with broader strategic approaches and to consider relevant good practices from other cities.

### 3.3 Required Experience and Capabilities

The supplier will ensure sufficient financial, economic, technical, and professional capacity to deliver the services in an efficient and effective manner.

The team or individuals delivering the services should be able to demonstrate the following experience and capabilities:

- Local experience in engagement of private companies in the city of Turin and Piedmont and communication, ideally involving SMEs;
- Understanding of urban climate governance and pathways to climate neutrality, including the alignment of business objectives with Mission-level climate action;
- Demonstrated capacity to develop clear, audience-friendly communication and outreach strategies and materials;
- Experience organizing and moderating participatory events in which commitment to shared objectives is a core element;
- Project delivery within defined timeframes;
- Full proficiency in Italian (spoken and written).

### 3.4 Methodology

The service provider is asked to adopt a suitable and professionally accepted methodology to deliver the services. The methodology should:

- Be co-designed with the City of Turin and adapted to its political, economic, and social context;
- Emphasize co-creation with local actors, especially intermediary institutions and SMEs, with support for target-setting, employee engagement, and participation in Turin's climate strategy and implementation;
- Reflect the city's climate neutrality ambition and broader CCC implementation strategy;
- Use accessible and persuasive messaging to build trust and encourage SME participation.

### 3.5 Deliverables

The following deliverables are requested:

#### **Deliverable 1: SME Engagement Package**

Requirements:

- Communication and outreach strategy tailored to different types of SMEs, identifying the most effective outreach channels (e.g., business associations, trade groups, chambers of commerce, innovation clusters) to ensure broad and targeted engagement;
- Set of communication materials for distribution through broker organizations, designed to highlight both business benefits and the Mission-level significance of SMEs' commitments;
- Updated web content for Turin's climate neutrality page, including accessible public messaging that showcases SME participation and their climate action commitments as part of Turin's Mission journey.

#### **Deliverable 2: Post-events Stakeholder Engagement Report**

## Requirements:

- Summary of each stakeholder engagement event, which includes the programme, session outline, summary notes, participant feedback and recommendations for follow-up actions. It is expected for the supplier to organise at least one in-person event for each type of SME identified in collaboration with the city of Turin, in total 3-4 events.

**Deliverable 3 (mandatory for all CESF suppliers): CESF Delivery Report**

## Requirements:

- Upon completion of the delivery of support, the appointed provider must submit the CESF Delivery Report. This report should be validated by the city of Turin, as described in the Assignment contracted. It should serve as a brief but comprehensive report summarizing the entire process, outcomes and learnings, and any identified follow-up actions, next steps and/or deployment of/connectivity to NetZeroCities and Mission Platform services and offers.

Reports will be requested to be written at a suitably professional standard using a recognised (or specified) referencing style upon request. The reports are to be provided for unrestricted use by Climate-KIC and free from all third-party copyright restrictions. Climate-KIC will receive ownership of such work products and may make them available to other parties, publish online, or other at our discretion.

### 3.6 Eligibility

Climate-KIC reserve the right to reject proposals where the proposed supplier:

- Has insufficient technical, professional or financial capacity to deliver the services.
- Has been bankrupt or insolvent (last 7 years)
- Is sanctioned by a relevant authority
- Does not comply or has previously not complied with our [Ethical Standards for Contractual Counterparties](#)
- Has been convicted of crime, links to terrorism, breach of tax or social security obligations
- Is an individual prior employee of Climate-KIC or group entity (discretionary basis)
- Will continue to be a full-time employee of an EIT grant recipient or Climate-KIC partner during the contract term (discretionary basis)
- **Has a price more than the Public Procurement Directive threshold, currently EURO 221,000. Bids of this size cannot be accepted under this procurement process.**

If any of these scenarios apply, please make Climate-KIC aware in your submission.

### 3.7 Sustainability

In order to uphold our commitment to sustainability, Climate-KIC aims to minimise any negative impact we may have on the natural and built environment by effectively managing our resources.

In the efforts to procure in a sustainable manner with minimal impact, the following requests are made of the bidder:

- Where practical, the services are to be delivered digitally following a paperless policy
- For events and workshops, please strictly minimise the generation of waste. We ask our service providers to consider the greenhouse gas emissions from transport to our/city/partner offices and events. Cycling, walking, public transport and rail are preferable over air travel wherever possible.

- We love to hear what suppliers are doing to minimise impact. Feel encouraged to share your approach and policies if applicable.

## 4 Contracting (third parties)

The below is applicable for External Parties only, i.e. not a NZC Partner.

### 4.1 Payment & Invoicing

- Payments will be made following provision of a correctly rendered undisputed digital (via email) invoice to Climate-KIC. Climate-KIC contract manager will inform the successful bidder where to submit invoices.
- Payment terms associated with delivery of the services are strictly linked to the completion of the Assignment. The entire fee will be paid in one tranche at the end of the Assignment, upon presentation and acceptance by Climate-KIC of the Final Delivery Report (CESF Report).
- If the bidder is requesting any form of payment prior to delivery of goods and/or services, this must be raised with Climate-KIC. Interim invoicing may be considered on a case-by-case basis. In such cases, each payment must be directly tied to the satisfactory completion and acceptance of one or more agreed Deliverables, duly documented and approved by Climate-KIC.
- Climate-KIC can provide a purchase order number to be referenced on invoices.
- Where Climate-KIC is requesting services over longer periods of time, bidders can invoice in a pay as we go model (e.g. a consolidated invoice based on work completed or completion of deliverables - to be clarified during contracting).
- Requests for deposit payments are generally not accepted.
- If submitting invoices for subscription services, please ensure these fees are itemised and priced at line level.

### 4.2 Contract Management

A one-off agreement is proposed for award of work.

Climate-KIC can share their standard terms and conditions and will consider the bidder's own terms and conditions on the basis that the bidder can incorporate the following:

- Climate-KIC requires that that service providers provide an indemnity to Climate-KIC for breach of third-party intellectual property rights;
- In addition, Climate-KIC will ask that service providers comply with the Ethical Standards for Climate-KIC Contractual Counterparties available at <https://www.climate-kic.org/policies>
- Service providers are required to comply with Climate-KIC's standard data protection clauses (can be provided in advance on request) and provide an indemnity for any breach;
- The liability of the service provider to Climate-KIC (and affiliates) to be uncapped in respect of breach of data protection clauses. For all other heads, liability of the service provider to Climate-KIC (and affiliates) may be capped at a reasonable multiple of fees not less than 2X. If applicable, Climate-KIC liability to service provider also be similarly capped;
- No indemnities extended by Climate-KIC to service providers.

## 5 Award Criteria

### 5.1 Evaluation across quality criteria

To ensure consistency across quality criteria evaluation, each criterion shall be scored on a scale of 0-5 using the following methodology. This score is to then be adjusted to align with the % weighting of the specific area being evaluated.

For example, if the specific criterion has a weighting of 15% and the supplier scores a 4 out of 5, the supplier will receive a weighted score of 12% for that specific criterion.

Score Awarded	Definitions	Commentary
0	An unacceptable response	No response at all or insufficient information provided in the response such that the solution is totally un-assessable and/or incomprehensible.
1	A poor response	Substantially unacceptable submission which fails in several significant areas to set out a solution that addresses and meets the requirements: little or no detail may (and, where evidence is required or necessary, no evidence) have been provided to support and demonstrate that the Bidder will be able to provide the services and/or considerable reservations as to the Bidder's proposals in respect of relevant ability, understanding, expertise, skills and/or resources to deliver the requirements.
2	A below expectation response	Weak submission which does not set out a solution that fully addresses and meets the requirements: response may be basic/ minimal with little or no detail (and, where evidence is required or necessary, with insufficient evidence) provided to support the solution and demonstrate that the Bidder will be able to provide the services and/or some reservations as to the Bidder's solution in respect of relevant ability, understanding, expertise, skills and/or resources to deliver the requirements.
3	A satisfactory response that meets expectations	Submission sets out a solution that largely addresses and meets the requirements, with some detail (or, where evidence is required or necessary, some relevant evidence) provided to support the solution; minor reservations or weakness in a few areas of the solution in respect of relevant ability, understanding, expertise, skills and/or resources to deliver the requirements.
4	A good response	Submission sets out a robust solution that fully addresses and meets the requirements, with full details (and, where evidence is required or necessary, full and relevant evidence) provided to support the solution; provides full confidence as to the relevant ability, understanding, expertise, skills and/or resources to deliver the requirements.
5	A very good response	Submission sets out a robust solution (as for a 4 score – above) and, in addition, provides or proposes additional value and/or elements of the solution which exceed the requirements in substance and outcomes in a manner acceptable to Climate-KIC; provides full confidence as to the relevant ability, understanding, expertise, skills and/or resources not only to deliver the requirements, but also exceed it as described.

Table 3 - Quality Criteria scoring table

### 5.2 Evaluation Criteria

#### 5.2.1 Expertise / Experience (30%)

Expertise and Experience as a criterion determines whether or not the proposed supplier is able to actually deliver the services. The questions to be asked and evaluated in this criterion are:

1. Relevant Experience – does the suppliers response show a history of delivering on projects like the package currently being evaluated? (20%).
2. Relevant Expertise – do the individuals proposed for the delivery of this work have the relevant qualifications required to deliver this work? (10%)

#### 5.2.2 Capacity to Deliver (30%)

Once it has been established that the supplier has the relevant expertise and experience, the next criteria examines whether the supplier has the capacity to take on the work. This criterion is to be addressed via the following questions:

1. Current Workload – The suppliers shall provide the current list of projects being delivered by the individuals proposed for this package, this shall include the effort required for existing work as a % of their time (20%).

2. Management Measures – The supplier shall provide detail into how they manage capacity issues as well as provide any additional resources or measures they have in place in the event of capacity issues, or if there is a need for scope increases or acceleration (10%).

### 5.2.3 Price Criteria (40%)

Price will consist of 40% of the evaluation weightings. The evaluation method will ensure that the lowest price total of the Pricing Schedule achieves the maximum available marks, with other Bidders scores calculated proportionately. The scoring methodology will be applied per pricing schedule section and combined to identify the overall lowest price submission. The lowest price submission will achieve the maximum available score with the other Bidders prices scoring points inversely proportionate to the lowest.

1. Pricing evaluation will follow the universally accepted formula of (Lowest Price / Tendered Price x Price Criteria Points (40)).
2. An example of how this formula operates in practice can be found below:

Description	Formula	Tenderer		
		T1	T2	T3
Tendered Price	A	€500	€490	€510
Lowest Price	B	€490		
Calculation	$C = B/A$	0.98	1.00	0.96
Convert to Points	$D = C \times 40^*$	39.20	40.00	38.43

\* The conversion to points will be based on the weighting attributed to price in the total evaluation.

Table 4 - Example scoring methodology for price lots

## 6 Instruction to Bidders

### 6.1 Responding with your proposal

Climate-KIC are requesting the following are submitted to bid on this contract:

1. **A Proposal** that sufficiently details the bidder's solution and responds to the prompts and requests contained in this RFP. The bidder is, amongst other items, also kindly asked to provide:
  - their trading name, VAT or tax identification number (if applicable) and registered trading address (*please note, address is not required for an individual*).
  - website links to examples of work previously performed by the bidder if applicable (e.g. portfolios, work products or other).
  - professional references that can be reached by Climate-KIC to verify previous services delivery.
2. **A Quotation** that meets the requirements described at Section 6.2
3. **Resumes** of individuals that will be assigned to conduct the services described in this document.
4. The total submission (including attachments) must not exceed 30 pages total.

Climate-KIC reserves the right to reject RFP responses that do not confirm with these guidelines. All responses shall be made to the Contract Manager via electronic copy, at [CESF@netzerocities.eu](mailto:CESF@netzerocities.eu)

### 6.2 Quotation requirements

1. Please provide a fully itemised quotation in Euros, detailing all applicable costs related to the assignment. The quotation must specify:
  - Whether prices are inclusive or exclusive of VAT.
  - The supplier's VAT number, including country code, if applicable.
  - Whether the reverse charge mechanism is expected to apply.
2. To enable Climate-KIC to assess the financial and tax implications of your bid, please also confirm the following:
  - If you do not intend to charge VAT, briefly confirm whether the reverse charge mechanism applies and provide a short explanation (e.g., intra-EU B2B supply of services under Article 196 of the EU VAT Directive).
  - If you do intend to charge VAT, specify the VAT rate and, if you are based in a different EU country than the Netherlands, briefly explain why the reverse charge mechanism does not apply under your national legislation.
3. Please note: The correct application of VAT and related legislation is the sole responsibility of the supplier. Climate-KIC reserves the right to request supporting documentation or legal clarification regarding VAT treatment at the contracting stage.
4. Suppliers must complete a main quotation by creating a summary table and listing each deliverable (refer to Section 3, 3.5) involved. Each row of the table should correspond to a clearly defined deliverable as listed in the Scope of Work. For each cost item/deliverable, in the same line/row or below after listing the cost for each deliverable, the supplier must indicate the quantity (days/week/month) and the subtotal. The supplier may also include the name of the personnel involved in the specific deliverable, (refer to Section 3, 3.5), whose specific personal costs will be highlighted in the separate weekly or monthly resource plan, broken down by role, number of days and daily rates (as described in the above point 5). The rates and prices indicated in the quote and associated with each deliverable are fixed and not subject to revision for the entire duration of the contract. Please check below "Table 5" which is a simple and non-exhaustive example of the main quote table.
5. Please provide a resource-based quotation in the form of a rate card, specifying the roles and corresponding daily or hourly rates for all personnel involved in delivering the services (e.g., Project Manager, Technical Expert, Analyst, Lawyer, etc.). Avoid average or blended rates. Refer to Table 6 below as a simple, non-exhaustive example of the rate card format.

In addition, include a weekly or monthly resource plan, broken down by:

- Role
- Number of days (or hours)
- Daily (or hourly) rates

Clearly indicate the delivery schedule and the allocation of human resources throughout the project life cycle, referencing the expected deliverables as outlined in the RFP.

If you are proposing optional services or value-added components, clearly distinguish these from the core offer. Price them separately and label them as “optional”.

6. Travel and subsistence for this assignment are expected to be minimal and must be clearly itemised in the quotation. While no travel is currently foreseen, suppliers are required to estimate and include in their quote any potential costs related to travel or accommodation that may arise during the implementation of the assignment. This includes potential domestic and international travel. Please note that time spent travelling is not considered billable. Suppliers are encouraged to propose remote collaboration and digital engagement methods wherever possible to minimise environmental and financial impact.
7. Please submit your quote on official company letterhead or a formal company document, in English. The quote should be submitted in PDF format. The quote shall include company name, address and VAT/TAX code, contact details, date of submission, name and role of the authorized signatory.
8. The quotation should remain valid at least 90 calendar days from the submission deadline.
9. Climate-KIC encourages environmentally sustainable business practices. Within the quote, where possible, suppliers are encouraged to indicate any sustainable approaches (i.e. digital documentation, remote collaboration) that can reduce the environmental impact during the provision of services.
10. The bidder shall explicitly declare any current or past institutional, commercial, financial, or organizational relationship with the City/Municipality for which the tender is issued, including but not limited to: a) Membership or affiliation in the bidder's organization b) Any contractual, financial, or in-kind support received from or provided to the Municipality c) Involvement in previous or ongoing projects funded or coordinated by the Municipality d) Participation in governance, technical, or advisory bodies.

**Table 5: Provided quotations to include the following details**

Item and unit cost (in Euros excluding VAT)
<b>Deliverable 1 of ... as per Section 3.5</b>
<b>Deliverable 2 of ... as per Section 3.5</b>
<b>Deliverable 3 of ... as per Section 3.5</b>
License fees (per user per month/annum, and in aggregate) if applicable
TOTAL (excl. VAT)
TOTAL (incl. VAT, if applicable)
<b>Rate card for services (per day/hour, in Euros excluding VAT):</b>
Assistant – XX / day
Officer – XX / day
Specialist - XX / day
Project coordinator – XX / day
Consultant – XX/day
Principal consultant – XX/day
Partner – XX/day
...

**Table 6: Example resource-based quotation for proposed labour**



Section	Area	Resource	Task	Quantity (days)	Resource day rate (EUR excl. VAT)	Subtotal cost (EUR excl. VAT)
Service delivery	Workshop facilitation	e.g. Facilitator	e.g. Workshop preparation and delivery	e.g. 3	e.g. € XX.00	e.g. € XX.00
		e.g. Facilitator's assistant	e.g. Workshop delivery support	e.g. 1	e.g. € XX.00	e.g. € XX.00
...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Grand total (excl. VAT)						€ XX.00
Grand total (incl. VAT – if applicable)						€ XX.00

### 6.3 Terms of this RFP

1. Your proposal should be submitted according to the instructions as detailed in this section and should be valid for a period of at least ninety (90) days from the bid due date. Any proposal submitted outside the scope defined may be rejected without provision for re-submission.
2. Any further information pertaining to this RFP, of whatever nature, must be directed to the Contract Manager detailed in Section 1.1. If a point of clarification materially affects the RFP, our response will be circulated to all bidders, otherwise the response will only be sent to the bidder seeking clarification.
3. If any doubt exists concerning any element of this RFP, a clear statement should be made on the assumptions taken to arrive at your quoted costs, or alternatively contact us prior to submitting your proposal to seek clarification.
4. Entering into contractual arrangements with Climate-KIC in connection with this RFP does not guarantee work will be awarded.
5. Climate-KIC/GARAC reserves the right to reject any proposal(s) received after the submission date/time.
6. Climate-KIC/GARAC reserves the right to undertake post-bid negotiations with none, all or a shortlist of bidders.
7. Climate-KIC/GARAC, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the proposals received and not to award any business and shall not be bound to give reasons for any decision. Only the execution of a written agreement between a Climate-KIC entity and a supplier(s) will obligate a Climate-KIC entity in accordance with the terms and conditions contained in such agreement.
8. Climate-KIC reserves the right to procure services from alternative suppliers(s) where the successful bidder is, or becomes, uncompetitive within the market. However, issues over pricing and specification will be resolved through discussion and mutual agreement between Climate-KIC and the supplier.
9. Bidders are required to email soft copies of their proposal to the Contract Manager detailed in Section 1.1 based on the timeline at Section 0.
10. As per above and where applicable, bidders must acknowledge receipt of this RFP by return email to the Contract Manager detailed in Section 1.1 confirming whether they intend to submit a proposal by the Submission Deadline.
11. This RFP does not commit or obligate any Climate-KIC company to pay any expenses incurred by you in the preparation of your Proposal. All such expenses are solely at the risk of the bidder and by submitting a proposal you automatically agree that proposal becomes the property of Climate-KIC.
12. Proposals are to be kept as clear and concise as possible and should be sequenced and numbered in accordance with the format of this RFP.
13. The formatting of this document and the attached response document should not be altered.
14. Whilst this RFP confers no legal rights on its addressees, it is not intended that any other persons acquire rights or obligations in respect of or arising under it.

15. Unsuccessful bidders agree, by the submission of their proposals, to return to Climate-KIC this RFP and any and all papers, records, data and materials supplied to them in connection with it, including all copies made by them.
16. This RFP is for consideration in whole and not in part or parts unless otherwise indicated.
17. All efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy and validity of information contained in this RFP. However, Climate-KIC does not warrant the information accurate or comprehensive.