**Provision of Specialist Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Clothing**

**Supplier Day**

**Monday 27th January 2020**

**at Maidstone Masonic Centre,**

**Courtenay Rd, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6LF**

**Supplier Questions and Answers Session**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **No.** | **Provider Questions and FRS Responses**  |
| **Q.1** | You have stated that there are a large volume of suppliers potentially interested in bidding for this tender. If the majority of tenderers are applying for certifications at the same time, and there are only a few in the UK, certification labs may be inundated and tenderers may not be able to get it done within your deadline. Could we potentially get another 2 or 3 months extensions to the timescale?  |
| **Q.1 Response** | There are laboratories worldwide, not only in the UK. We believe we have given adequate notice to all suppliers and taken into consideration supplier questionnaire feedback. Fire fighter safety is paramount to us, and therefore we need this certification prior to commencement of wearer trials (Currently by 12 noon 17th July 2020).  |
|  |  |
| **Q.2** | Does this deadline apply to EN 1159 – 2?  |
| **Q.2 Response** | Yes |
|  |  |
| **Q.3** | With regards to the chemical hazardous material, there are very specific requirements. Is there an option to do a double glove arrangement?  |
| **Q.3 Response** | It will be down to individual tenderers to submit a response as to how they believe requirements can be best met.. The items will be evaluated by wearers based on comfort and fit and also the ability to undertake various tasks. |
|  |  |
| **Q.4** | Will Brexit come into the testing aspect as well? Does this affect standards etc?  |
| **Q.4 Response** | BSI have issued guidance around what will happen with regards to Brexit and all UK based test houses are getting the required documentation via European test houses.  |
|  |  |
| **Q.5** | With regards to the helmets required under group 4 (water rescue), please confirm the PAS spec and EN standard. Is this either or, or does it need to be both? |
| **Q.5 Response** | We are looking for 2 specific helmets so it may be either. |
|  |  |
| **Q.6** | Why have you not gone down ISO standards for water rescue helmets?  |
| **Q.6 Response** | We believe the ISO standard attends to address the requirements for water rescue PPE. We foresee future development of those ensemble type garments but likely to be in 2/3 years |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **No.** | **Subsequent Questions Received** |
| **Q.7** | We were advised that the specification for the water rescue boot was to be an EN ISO 2345 safety boot but that it needed to have a non snag capability, quick release and a drainage solution, Please clarify this as they are to be worn with a dry suit with a waterproof sock ?   |
| **Q.7 Response** | The boot will now need to comply to EN ISO 20347.  This is a specialist ankle boot to be worn with dry suits. |
|  |  |
| **Q.8** | There is no mention of the height of the boots in the lots. Please clarify the height of the boot or whether you will accept shoes or mid cut boots ?   |
| **Q.8 Response** | This will be an ankle boot as per EN ISO 20347 |
|  |  |
| **Q.9** | We have been in discussion with BSI with regards to the testing of our (Group 1, Lot 1 - EN 943-2) Gas Tight Suits to the ISO 11999-2 standard. BSI advised that the wearer’s equipment needed to be measured will be difficult to define due to the variety on the market, plus there is no ISO 17491-5:2013 test chamber that they know of in the UK, certainly not accredited. Would it be possible for a BSI auditor to attend the proposed fitting days in order to have a test report written to show that our suits (and only our suits) are suitable for ISO 11999-2 standard? |
| **Q.9 Response** | We have looked closely at this requirement and can advise that the compatibility testing requirement will now come from EN 943-2, Section 8.  Likewise compatibility for Liquid and Spray tight suit will be from EN 14605, Section 4.3. This therefore negates the need for a BSI auditor to attend fitting days. A detailed test report will be required. |
|  |  |
| **Q.10** | We are able to supply EN ISO 20347 rated work boots - Is there no scope for work boots or is the requirement strictly for safety boots?   |
| **Q.10 Response** | This is a specialist ankle boot to be worn with dry suits.  Work boots will be included within Group 5 – Generic lot, This will be tendered separately as a Dynamic Purchasing System, timescales to be confirmed. |