

Request for Expression of Interest

Title	Non-medical masks
Reference Number	[2021 EOI BP 08 Non Medical Masks]
Published Date	09/04/2021
Closing Date	21/05/2021
Contact Address for EOI response	WHEIPC@who.int

1. Description of Requirements

World Health Organization (WHO) invites Expressions of Interest (REOI) from interested suppliers to present their qualifications and capabilities to provide non-medical (fabric) masks which must meet technical specifications as detailed in this document.

Vendors should meet or exceed the following essential parameters for non-medical masks:

- a. Achievement of the essential parameters outlined in either of the following voluntary standards plus the completion of human fit testing of the mask design for a wide variety of face shapes to meet global community use. High breathability while meeting the designated filtration levels is preferred:

1. [AFNOR S76](#) or [CEN CWA 17553](#): Level 70% and Level 90% (highest filtration)
2. [ASTM F3502](#): Level 1 and Level 2 (highest filtration and highest breathability)

AND/OR meeting or exceeding the minimum or preferred thresholds listed in the Annex of WHO's technical guidance document at link, [Mask use in the context of COVID-19: interim guidance](#) (1 December 2020)

Essential Parameters of Non-Medical Masks (1 December 2020)

Essential Parameters	Minimum threshold	Preferred threshold
1. Filtration*		
1.1. Filtration efficiency	70% @ 3µm	>70% @ 3µm, without compromising breathability
1.2. Challenge particle	Solid: sodium chloride (NaCl), Talcum powder, Holi powder, dolomite, Polystyrene Latex spheres Liquid: DEHS Di-Ethyl-Hexyl-Sebacat, paraffin oil	Based on availability
1.3. Particle size	Choose either sizes: 3 µm, 1 µm, or smaller	Range of particle sizes
2. Breathability		
2.1. Breathing resistance**	≤60 Pa/cm ²	Adult: ≤ 40 Pa/cm ² Paediatric: ≤ 20 Pa/cm ²
3. Fit		
3.1. Coverage/seal	Full coverage of nose and mouth, consistent, snug perimeter fit at the nose bridge, cheeks, chin and lateral sides of the face; adequate surface area to minimize breathing resistance and minimize side leakage	Seal as good as FFR (respirator): Fit factor of 100 for N95 Maximum Total Inward Leakage of 25% (FFP1 requirement) ASTM F3502 optional fit performance
3.2. Sizing	Adult and child	Sizing for adults and children (ages 3-5, 6-9, 10-12, >12)
3.3 Strap strength	N/A	> 44.5 N
4. Washing		
4.1 Number of wash cycles	At least 5 wash cycles (ISO6330:2012, minimum 30min at 60°C) without degradation of <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the mask shape and integrity (fabric, fit, strap) 2. the essential parameters listed above (min. threshold) for filtration and breathability 	

* Smaller particle may result in lower filtration.

*** High resistance can cause bypass of the mask. Unfiltered air will leak out the sides or around the nose as they are paths of least resistance.*

- b. In addition, WHO seeks confirmation from supplier that the following features/materials are not used in manufactured non-medical masks:

- NO** exhalation valves or areas of the mask's design where filtration is compromised or reduced on exhalation
- NO** use of non-woven meltblown polypropylene textiles (this resource is in short supply for production of personal protective equipment, however non-woven spunbond polypropylene may be used as a suitable alternative)
- NO** antimicrobial coatings or impregnation of antimicrobial chemicals or ions within the mask
- NO** design accessories or attachments (pins, beads) |

This REOI is intended to create a Supplier On Record Listing of capable sources; and to determine whether or not there is sufficient market interest. The REOI aims to gain a better understanding of the non-medical masks available from qualified vendors. In the event there is sufficient interest in this requirement, WHO may, but is not obligated to invite selected vendors to participate in a formal solicitation, via a Request for Proposals (RFP), at a later stage, for the above requirements.

2. Minimum Criteria for Vendors

Companies can only participate in this Request for EOI from WHO after completing their basic registration (free of charge) at the United Nations Global Marketplace (www.ungm.org).

Non-medical mask manufacturers may be located within any [WHO member state](#), however EOI submissions are requested to be submitted in English or French.

Documented receipts of quality, environmental and social accountability management certifications achieved by the manufacturer should be provided in submission if available (e.g. SA8000:2014, ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 etc). |

3. Expression of Interest Instructions

Vendors interested in fulfilling the requirements are requested to express their interest by submitting the following documents, completed in full, **together with their Expression of Interest in response to points 1. and 2. above**, to the Contact Address (as stated above) not later than the Closing Date (as stated above):

1. A **Vendor Information Form**, using the template provided in [Annex A](#), providing information on the vendor as an entity (legal and organizational), and describing concisely and briefly the vendor's expertise and experience relevant to the requirements and criteria described above.
2. A **self-declaration form**, using the form provided in [Annex B](#).
3. Submission of documentation of **validated laboratory reports** performed externally to the manufacturer detailing validation of all of the essential parameters listed in point 1 description of requirements.
4. Submission of documentation of **all materials, textiles, and additives (if applicable) as well as production methods, packaging, and labelling** used in the production of the non-medical masks.
5. Submission of **information on the business as well as a list of key personnel / experts of the vendor** is requested.

Submitted Expressions of Interest should contain pricing information.

Any information considered by interested entities as confidential must be clearly marked "confidential".

Incomplete Expressions of Interest will, in principle, be disregarded, unless WHO decides otherwise, in its sole discretion.

4. Disclaimer

This Request for Expression of Interest is not a solicitation and replying to it does not guarantee that a vendor will be invited to any solicitation by WHO. No further details of the planned solicitation will be made available to vendors prior to the issuance of solicitation documents. In the event of a solicitation for the subject matter described herein, any Request for Proposal and any subsequent purchase order or contract will be issued in accordance with WHO's rules and procedures.

Any and all costs and expenses incurred in relation to, or ensuing from, the submission of an Expression of Interest will exclusively be borne by the applicant. The application and selection process set forth in this document will not be subject to claims for financial compensation of any kind whatsoever.

WHO is acting in good faith by issuing this Request for Expression of Interest, however, this Request for Expression of Interest does not entail any commitment on the part of WHO, either financial or otherwise. It is important that suppliers understand that this Request for Expressions of Interest and their participation by responding is not interpreted or construed as a solicitation for tenders or proposals. The primary purpose of this Request for Expressions of Interest is to assist with potential future selection.

WHO reserves the right to send solicitation documents to vendors identified by WHO through means other than this Request for Expression of Interest; reject any or all Expression(s) of Interest, without incurring any obligation to inform the affected applicant(s) of that decision or the grounds thereof; and/or change or cancel the procurement process at any time, including during the Request for Expression of Interest or formal solicitation processes.

* * *

Annex A – Vendor Information Form

 To be returned to WHEIPC@who.int
NOTICE:

- Companies can only participate in solicitations of WHO after completing their basic registration (free of charge) at the United Nations Global Marketplace (www.ungm.org).
- As you express interest in the planned solicitation by submitting this response form, please verify that your company is registered under its full legal name on the United Nations Global Marketplace (www.ungm.org) and that your application has been submitted to WHO.

Company Information to be provided by the Vendor expressing interest			
UNGM Vendor ID Number:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Legal Company Name: <i>(Not trade name or DBA name)</i>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Company Contact:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Address:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
City:	<input type="text"/>	State:	<input type="text"/>
Zip:	<input type="text"/>	Country:	<input type="text"/>
Telephone Number:	<input type="text"/>	Fax Number:	<input type="text"/>
Email Address:	<input type="text"/>	Company Website:	<input type="text"/>
<u>Corporate information:</u>			
Company mission statement	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Service commitment to customers and measurements used	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Organization structure (include description of those parts of your organization that would be involved in the performance of the work)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Relevant experience (how could your expertise contribute to WHO's needs for the purpose of this EOI) – <i>Please attach reference and contact details</i>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Staffing information	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	

Entity Name:	<input type="text"/>
Mailing Address:	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Name and Title of duly authorized representative:	<input type="text"/>
Date:	<input type="text"/>
Signature:	<input type="text"/>

Annex B - Vendor's Self Declaration Form

 To be returned to WHEIPC@who.int

<Full legal name of Vendor> (the "Vendor") hereby declares to the World Health Organization (WHO) that:

- a. it is not bankrupt or being wound up, having its affairs administered by the courts, has not entered into an arrangement with creditors, has not suspended business activities, is not the subject of proceedings concerning the foregoing matters, and is not in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;
- b. it is solvent and, in a position, to continue doing business for the period stipulated in the contract after contract signature, if awarded a contract by WHO;
- c. it or persons having powers of representation, decision making or control over the Company have not been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a final judgment;
- d. it or persons having powers of representation, decision making or control over the Company have not been the subject of a final judgment or of a final administrative decision for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organization, money laundering, terrorist-related offences, child labour, human trafficking or any other illegal activity;
- e. it is in compliance with all its obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions and the payment of taxes in accordance with the national legislation or regulations of the country in which the Company is established;
- f. it is not subject to an administrative penalty for misrepresenting any information required as a condition of participation in a procurement procedure or failing to supply such information;
- g. it has declared to WHO any circumstances that could give rise to a conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest in relation to the current procurement action;
- h. it has not granted and will not grant, has not sought and will not seek, has not attempted and will not attempt to obtain, and has not accepted and will not accept any direct or indirect benefit (financial or otherwise) arising from a procurement contract or the award thereof;
- i. It adheres to the UN Supplier Code of Conduct;
- j. it has zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse and has appropriate procedures in place to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse.

The Company understands that a false statement or failure to disclose any relevant information which may impact upon WHO's decision to award a contract may result in the disqualification of the Company from the bidding exercise and/or the withdrawal of any proposal of a contract with WHO. Furthermore, in case a contract has already been awarded, WHO shall be entitled to rescind the contract with immediate effect, in addition to any other remedies which WHO may have by contract or by law.

Entity Name:
Mailing Address:
Name and Title of duly authorized representative:
Date:
Signature:	