

**Request for Proposals: Author contributions to WHO Expert Committee on Drug
Dependence (ECDD) Pre-Reviews of Cannabis-Related Substances**

Request for Proposals (RFP)

Bid Reference

HQ/HIS/EMP/2017/004

Unit Name

Essential Medicines and Health Products



The World Health Organization (WHO) is seeking offers for contributions to the authorship of Pre-Review reports on cannabis-related substances for the 40th Expert Committee on Drug Dependence (ECDD). Your institution and/or any individual is invited to submit a proposal for the work in response to this Request for Proposals (RFP).

WHO is a public international organization, consisting of 194 Member States, and a Specialized Agency of the United Nations with the mandate to act as the directing and coordinating authority on international health work. As such, WHO is dependent on the budgetary and extra-budgetary contributions it receives for the implementation of its activities. Bidders are, therefore, requested to propose the best and most cost-effective solution to meet WHO requirements, while ensuring a high level of service.

- WHO requires the successful bidder, the provider, to carry out the preparation of Pre-Reviews of cannabis-related substances according to the Guidance on the WHO Review of Psychoactive Substances for International Control document (http://www.who.int/medicines/areas/quality_safety/GLS_WHORev_PsychoactSubst_IntC_2010.pdf?ua=1).
- The standard Pre-Review template comprises 19 headings. However, for the purpose of these commissioned Pre-Review reports, the standard headings have been grouped by scientific topic to cover A) Chemistry B) Pharmacology C) Toxicology D) Epidemiology and E) Therapeutic Use. Further information on the specific contents of each scientific topic can be found in the Terms of Reference (Annexes A-E)
- Interested providers are invited to submit Pre-Review proposals for one or more of these scientific topics
- One Pre-Review proposal must be submitted for each of the above scientific topics that the interested provider wishes to apply for.
- For each scientific topic, the provider will produce **four separate** Pre-Review reports in total for the following cannabis-related substances.
 - Cannabis plant and cannabis resin
 - Extracts and tinctures of cannabis
 - Delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)
 - Isomers of THC

The provider shall be a not for profit, research, or academic institution operating in the field of drug dependence, with proven expertise in research and evidence synthesis.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- **Please send an Acknowledgement Form to ecddsecretariat@who.int no later than 5th November 2017 to indicate whether you wish to submit a proposal**
- **Proposals for the Pre-Reviews will be accepted until 12th November 2017**
- **Final Pre-Review Reports will be due by 15th March 2018**

Bidders should follow the instructions set forth below in the submission of their proposal to WHO.

The proposal and all correspondence and documents relating thereto shall be prepared and submitted in the English language.

The proposal should be concisely presented and structured to include the following information:



- **Identify the proposed area/s of work from the following scientific topics (As defined in the Terms of Reference):**
 - Chemistry
 - Pharmacology
 - Toxicology/ Adverse Effects
 - Epidemiology
 - Therapeutic Use
- **Approach/Methodology** for searching the literature and synthesizing the evidence base. Specify a plan for how aggregate data across substances will be reported against substance-specific data.
- **Proposed time line** for completion of each Pre-Review report.
- **Financial proposal** as per the template attached in the Acceptance Form or any other form of financial proposal.

Information which the bidder considers confidential, if any, should be clearly marked as such.

The bidder shall submit the complete proposal to WHO in writing no later than 12th November 2017 at 18:00 hours Geneva (CET) time ("the closing date"), by email at the following address:

ecddsecretariat@who.int.

Each proposal shall be marked Ref: **HQ/HIS/EMP/2017/004** and be signed by a person or persons duly authorized to represent the bidder, to submit a proposal and to bind the bidder to the terms of this RFP.

WHO may, at its own discretion, extend the closing date for the submission of proposals by notifying all bidders thereof in writing.

Any proposal received by WHO after the closing date for submission of proposals may be rejected.

The offer outlined in the proposal must be valid for a minimum period of 90 calendar days after the closing date. A proposal valid for a shorter period may be rejected by WHO. In exceptional circumstances, WHO may solicit the bidder's consent to an extension of the period of validity. The request and the responses thereto shall be made in writing. Any bidder granting such an extension will not, however, be permitted to otherwise modify its proposal.

The bidder may withdraw its proposal any time after the proposal's submission and before the above mentioned closing date, provided that written notice of the withdrawal is received by WHO via email as provided above, before the closing date.

No proposal may be modified after its submission, unless WHO has issued an amendment to the RFP allowing such modifications.

No proposal may be withdrawn in the interval between the closing date and the expiration of the period of proposal validity specified by the bidder in the proposal (subject always to the minimum period of validity referred to above).

WHO may, at any time before the closing date, for any reason, whether on its own initiative or in response to a clarification requested by a (prospective) bidder, modify the RFP by written amendment. Amendments could, *inter alia*, include modification of the project scope or requirements, the project timeline expectations and/or extension of the closing date for submission.



All prospective bidders that have received the RFP will be notified in writing of all amendments to the RFP and will, where applicable, be invited to amend their proposal accordingly.

Before conducting the technical and financial evaluation of the proposals it has received, WHO will perform a preliminary examination of these proposals to determine whether they are complete, whether any computational errors have been made, whether the documents have been properly signed, and whether the proposals are generally in order. Proposals which are not in order as aforesaid may be rejected.

Please note that WHO is not bound to select any bidder and may reject all proposals. Furthermore, since a contract would be awarded in respect of the proposal which is considered most responsive to the needs of the project concerned, due consideration being given to WHO's general principles, including economy and efficiency, WHO does not bind itself in any way to select the bidder offering the lowest price.

WHO may, at its discretion, ask any bidder for clarification of any part of its proposal. The request for clarification and the response shall be in writing. No change in price or substance of the proposal shall be sought, offered or permitted during this exchange.

WHO reserves the right to:

- a) Award the contract to a bidder of its choice, even if its bid is not the lowest;
- b) Award separate contracts for parts of the work, components or items, to one or more bidders of its choice, even if their bids are not the lowest;
- c) Accept or reject any proposal, and to annul the solicitation process and reject all proposals at any time prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders and without any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for WHO's action;
- d) Award the contract on the basis of the Organization's particular objectives to a bidder whose proposal is considered to be the most responsive to the needs of the Organization and the activity concerned;
- e) Not award any contract at all.

WHO has the right to eliminate bids for technical or other reasons throughout the evaluation/selection process. WHO shall not in any way be obliged to reveal, or discuss with any bidder, how a proposal was assessed, or to provide any other information relating to the evaluation/selection process or to state the reasons for elimination to any bidder.

NOTE: WHO is acting in good faith by issuing this RFP. However, this document does not oblige WHO to contract for the performance of any work, nor for the supply of any products or services.

At any time during the evaluation/selection process, WHO reserves the right to modify the scope of the work, services and/or goods called for under this RFP. WHO shall notify the change to only those bidders who have not been officially eliminated due to technical reasons at that point in time.

WHO reserves the right at the time of award of contract to extend, reduce or otherwise revise the scope of the work, services and/or goods called for under this RFP without any change in the base price or other terms and conditions offered by the selected bidder.

WHO also reserves the right to enter into negotiations with one or more bidders of its choice, including but not limited to negotiation of the terms of the proposal(s), the price quoted in such



proposal(s) and/or the deletion of certain parts of the work, components or items called for under this RFP.

Within 30 days of receipt of the contract, the successful bidder shall sign and date the contract provided to it by WHO, and return it to WHO according to the instructions provided at that time. If the bidder does not accept the contract terms without changes, then WHO has the right not to proceed with the selected bidder and instead contract with another bidder of its choice.

All bidders must adhere to the UN Supplier Code of Conduct, which is available at the following link: https://www.un.org/Depts/ptd/sites/www.un.org.Depts.ptd/files/files/attachment/page/2014/February%202014/conduct_english.pdf

WHO reserves the right to publish (e.g. on the procurement page of its internet site) or otherwise make public the contractor's name and address, information regarding the contract, including a description of the goods or services provided under the contract and the contract value.

Any and all of the contractor's (general and/or special) conditions of contract are hereby explicitly excluded from the contract, i.e., regardless of whether such conditions are included in the contractor's offer, or printed or referred to on the contractor's letterhead, invoices and/or other material, documentation or communications.

We look forward to receiving your response to this RFP.

Yours sincerely,
Dr Gilles Forte
Coordinator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P.P. D. Forte", written over the printed name and title.