



Republic of Serbia  
**MINISTRY OF FINANCE**  
**Department for Contracting and**  
**Financing of EU Funded**  
**Programmes**  
**(CFCU)**  
23/02/2026, Belgrade

**CONTRACTING AUTHORITY'S CLARIFICATIONS no. 3**

**Construction Works for Wastewater Collection and Treatment System in the City of**  
**Čačak**

**Publication ref.: EC-ENEST/BEG/2025/EA-OP/0094**

<b>no.</b>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>
<b>1.</b>	<p>In Volume 1, ITT chapter 12.2.2. are defined requirements for Technical and professional capacity of the candidate, while in chapter 12.2.3. are given requirements in case of using capacity providing entities.</p> <p>Please clarify if the Tenderer can rely on capacity provider legal entity for fulfilling technical and professional capacity without forming consortium or JV?</p> <p>Additionally, it is stated in ITT in 12.2.3. that „With regard to technical and professional criteria, a tenderer may only rely on the capacities of other entities where the latter will perform the works for which these capacities are required.“</p> <p>Please clarify if it is specified and limited which works and in which portion (%) does capacity providing legal entity of the Tenderer must perform during the contract in case Tenderer is using references of such entity?</p>	<p>The Tenderer may rely on the capacities of other entities, regardless of the legal nature of the links it has with them. In such cases, there is no obligation for the Tenderer to form a consortium or a joint venture with the capacity-providing entity(ies).</p> <p>However, the Tenderer must prove to the Contracting Authority that it will have at its disposal the resources necessary for the performance of the contract. For this purpose, the Tenderer shall submit, together with the tender, a written commitment from the capacity-providing entity(ies) confirming that the required resources will be placed at the Tenderer's disposal for the performance of the contract.</p> <p>Furthermore, PRAG Annex d4c_tenderform_en, page 3, footnote 3, explicitly states that a capacity-providing entity/subcontractor is not considered a member for the purposes of this tender procedure.</p> <p>With regard to the performance of the</p>

		contract, neither PRAG nor the applicable procedural rules specify or limit the type or the percentage of works that must be performed by the capacity-providing entity. The only requirement is that, where the Tenderer relies on the technical and professional capacities of another entity, that entity shall perform the works for which those capacities are required.
2.	We would like to kindly request a confirmation of receipt for email sent on 12.11.2025. concerning the questions related to the tender: Construction Works for Wastewater Collection and Treatment System in the City of Čačak, publication ref. EC-ENEST/BEG/2025/EA-OP/0094.	With reference to the requests referring to questions which have been already submitted, please bear in mind that the Contracting Authority cannot immediately and separately respond to tenderers. The Contracting Authority intends to publish clarifications by grouping the received questions periodically and in any case as soon as it is possible and within the deadlines given in the tender documentation. Please regularly check the F&T Portal at <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home">https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home</a> and CFCU website at <a href="http://www.cfcu.gov.rs/tenderi.php">http://www.cfcu.gov.rs/tenderi.php</a> .
3.	In Volume 1, ITT chapter 12.2.2. are defined requirements for Technical and professional capacity of the candidate, while in chapter 12.2.3. are given requirements in case of using capacity providing entities. Please clarify if the Tenderer can rely on capacity provider legal entity for fulfilling technical and professional capacity without forming consortium or JV? Additionally, it is stated in ITT in 12.2.3. that „With regard to technical and professional criteria, a tenderer may only rely on the capacities of other entities where the latter will perform the works for which these capacities are required.“ Please clarify if it is specified and limited which works and in which portion (%) does capacity providing legal entity of the Tenderer must perform during the	Please refer to Answer no.1.

	contract in case Tenderer is using references of such entity?	
4.	<p>Polymer concentrate pumps In the Volume 3.4 Chapter 3.4.21.4 Integrated Polymer Preparation &amp; Dosing Plant Regarding polymer concentrate pumps is stated “Concentrate transfer pump shall be a stainless steel direct driven centrifugal pump mounted onto the base frame. The pump shall be complete with all necessary pipework and valves to discharge into the suction connection of the transfer pump.”</p> <p>Please confirm that Bidder is allowed to offer progressive cavity pumps which are more appropriate for such a high viscous fluid (polymer concentrate)</p>	Confirmed. The Tenderers are allowed to offer a progressive cavity pump for transfer of Polymer concentrate from IBC container to Polymer Preparation & Dosing Plant.
5.	<p>Scum from PST In Volume 3.2, Chapter 3.2.1.15 Primary Sedimentation Tank (PST). regarding pumping of floating material and scum is stated: “Scum shall be discontinuously discharged from a separate pumping pit by submersible pumps.“, but it is not mentioned where the scum shall be pumped.</p> <p>Please confirm that Bidders can foresee pumping of scum to the mixed sludge tank, so that it will be finally treated in the anaerobic digesters.</p>	Confirmed. Please refer to Volume 3.2, Chapter 3.2.2.24 Primary Sedimentation Tank. Floating materials and scum shall be conducted to the pump sump and from there pumped into sludge blending tank.
6.	<p>PST – surface load In Volume 3, 3.2.2.24 Primary Sedimentation Tank (PST), Table 3.2.2-15: Design Criteria for Primary Sedimentation Tank; the Maximum Surface Load is defined with 3m/h, but the corresponding flow needs to be clarified.</p> <p>According to DWA–A 131 (2016): The decisive factor for sufficient separation of particulate matter is the surface overflow rate, which, for primary settling tanks for the relevant dimensioning case, should be around <math>q_{A,PST} = 2,5 \text{ m/h}</math> to <math>4 \text{ m/h}</math> in relation to</p>	We confirm. The maximum surface load to the Primary sedimentation tanks refers to the maximum dry weather flow (QMDWF) of 431 l/s in Phase I, i.e., 566 l/s in Phase II, as presented in Table 3.2.2-3 Basic Criteria.

	<p>the 1 hour peak outflow in dry weather conditions.</p> <p>Please confirm that the defined maximum surface load of 3m/h is considered for the Maximum dry weather flow , QMDWF of 4311/s (Phase I) and 5661/s (Phase II) as defined in Volume 3, 3.2.2.15 Wastewater Quantities, Table 3.2.2-3: Basic Criteria.</p>	
7.	<p>Supernatant / Return flows</p> <p>According to Vol 3, 3.2.2.28 Supernatant Pumping Station, „All the supernatant produced shall be directed to a reinforced concrete storage sump sufficient for production of supernatant over a 24h period.”</p> <p>The quality of supernatant is depending on the specific sludge treatment process (gravity thickening, mechanical thickening, dewatering after anaerobic digestion), not all supernatants are high loaded. Collecting and storing all supernatants together is technically not necessary and does increase construction and operation costs (due to high storage volumes required). The Bidder therefore suggests to only store high-loaded supernatants, that is from the secondary (digested) sludge thickener and from dewatering after anaerobic digestion. Please confirm.</p>	<p>Not confirmed. All the supernatant generated within the WWTP shall be directed to a supernatant pumping station in accordance with Volume 3, Chapter 3.2.2.28.</p>
8.	<p>Primary sludge pumping room</p> <p>According to Vol 3, 3.2.2.24 Primary Sedimentation Tank (PST), the primary sludge pump room shall be classified as ATEX Zone 1, with all equipment installed suitable for that zone classification. Appropriate instrumentation, alarms and ventilation shall be provided as well.</p> <p>This appears to be excessive and increases costs unnecessarily as there is no open surface with primary sludge or the like (primary sludge is only inside pipes and pumps). Having a gas warning system including appropriate ventilation</p>	<p>For the primary sludge pumping station, the Bidder shall consider ATEX provisions as specified in Volume 3.2, Chapter 3.2.2.24.</p>

	and power cut-off for the entire room as safety measure deletes the need for Ex-Zone 1 equipment (pumps, flowmeters, etc.) in the Bidders opinion. Please clarify.	
<b>9.</b>	<p>Question: Design criteria for Activated Sludge Tanks</p> <p>Various design criteria for the Activated Sludge Tanks are given in Vol 3, 3.2.2.25.2. Some of these criteria are ambiguous for the Bidder:</p> <p>a) The oxygen demand and selection of aeration equipment shall be based on different situations, including a “prognosis for consideration of operational requirements (extraordinary peaks, revisions, etc.). Please give more information and clarify what must be considered here in detail, providing an equal and fair basis for all Bidders.</p> <p>b) Operation control of the denitrification process shall be achieved by means of a combined Redox/DO control. Please note that a Redox control for denitrification is only applicable for SBR systems or alternating / intermittent denitrification systems. It is not possible to control pre-anoxic denitrification with a Redox measurement. Therefore, please confirm that Redox control is not applicable for pre-anoxic denitrification systems.</p>	<p>a) The Bidder shall consider peak factors for oxygen demand for carbon removal and nitrification in accordance with DWA-A 131, Edition 2016, Table 7. In addition, in the case of intermittent aeration, non-aerated periods must be taken into account using an increase factor.</p> <p>b) Maintenance of the ORP in the pre-denitrification tank is the minimum requirement. The Tenderer may propose more advanced control systems, including measurement of NO<sub>3</sub>-N concentration.</p>
<b>10.</b>	<p>Screenings pressing efficiency</p> <p>According to Vol 3, 3.2.2.22.4 Coarse screens and 3.2.2.22.7 Fine Screens, the minimum pressing efficiency for screenings shall be 50% weight reduction. Common requirements for screenings pressing are a percentage of volume reduction or a maximum water content (in weight percentage). Therefore, the Bidder assumes that 50% volume reduction is meant here. Please confirm.</p>	Confirmed. 50% volume reduction shall be achieved.
<b>11.</b>	<p>No. of CHP units</p> <p>In Volume 3.2, Clause 3.2.2.35 is stated</p>	The number and capacity of the CHP unit(s) shall correspond to the maximum biogas

	<p>„The capacity and number of the CHP units shall correspond to the production capacity of biogas in Phase I“</p> <p>In Volume 3.2, Clause 3.2.2.35, Table 3.2.2-28 Design Criteria for Co-generation Units is stated that number of units without standby is 1 for Phase I, and 2 for Phase II</p> <p>Please clarify if a standby CHP unit shall be provided.</p>	<p>production capacity in Phase I, and shall be capable of stable operation under conditions of reduced biogas production and reduced energy demand, while ensuring continuous supply of the WWTP base electrical load, including only one blower at its nominal capacity. The selected CHP configuration (number and unit size) shall ensure operational redundancy through multiple units rather than a dedicated cold stand-by unit.</p>
<p><b>12.</b></p>	<p>Hot water boiler</p> <p>Regarding the number of boilers in Volume 3.2 Clause 3.2.2.36 Hot Water Boiler, table 3.2.2-29 is stated that the no of units shall be proposed by the Contractor.</p> <p>In Volume 3.4 , Clause 3.4.27.4 Hot Water Boiler, is stated that „One boiler shall be on hot stand-by, maintaining its internal temperature and be available to provide support should the duty boiler be unable to provide the called for heat. The boilers shall be rotated at least once every 24 hours.</p> <p>Please clarify minimal number of boilers that has to be offered, and their minimum capacity.</p>	<p>The capacity of hot water boiler shall be determined by the Contractor, based on the heat demand resulting from its proposed technical solution. The number of boiler units shall be proposed by the Contractor in accordance with Volume 3.2, Chapter 3.2.2.36, Table 3.2.2.-29.</p> <p>A hot water boiler(s) shall be of sufficient capacity to cover the heat demand required to maintain the anaerobic digestion process during the Digester start-up and in the event of CHP failure, as well as to provide heating for the administrative building and workshops during the winter period.</p>
<p><b>13.</b></p>	<p>Anaerobic digester equipment</p> <p>In Volume 3.2, Clause 3.2.2.32 Anaerobic Mesophilic Digestion, Table 3.2.2-24 is stated that two pressure relief &amp; vacuum braker valves (duty + standby) and two flame arresters (duty + standby) has to be foreseen.</p> <p>Increasing the number of those type of safety units will not increse the safety, on the contrary, could cause operational problems. E.g., safety valve is simple vessel with water inside which keeps counter pressure. If pressure in the digestor increases above the water level in safety valve, it will spill the water inside the valve and release all the gas collected in digester. Flame arrester is always placed before gas consumer</p>	<p>Not confirmed. A duty/standby arrangement of pressure relief valves with flame arresters, as stipulated in Table 3.2.2-23, shall be provided to enable safe changeover during maintenance, with minimum disruption to biogas production.</p>

	(flare, boiler burner...) and never on the outlet of gas producer (digester). Please confirm that 1 safety valve and 1 flame arrester is to be forseen for each digester.	
<b>14.</b>	<p>OPEX load and flow According to Volume 4, Schedule 4.2.6.1 Guaranteed Energy Consumption Costs, the Bidder shall declare guaranteed values for three load possibilities for BOD (100%, 80% and 60% of the plant BOD design flow). No reference is made to the corresponding incoming wastewater flow rates.</p> <p>a) Please confirm that the daily wastewater flow to be considered for energy consumption shall be reduced in the same way as the BOD load: 100% BOD load (5,760 kg/d) and 100% Average daily dry weather flow (22,378 m<sup>3</sup>/d) 80% BOD load (4,608 kg/d) and 80% Average daily dry weather flow (17,902.4 m<sup>3</sup>/d) 60% BOD load (3,456 kg/d) and 60% Average daily dry weather flow (13,426.8 m<sup>3</sup>/d)</p> <p>b) Please confirm that the guaranteed yearly energy consumption costs to be used for tender evaluation shall be based on the stated average daily dry weather flow (22,378 m<sup>3</sup>/d for 100% BOD load).</p> <p>c) As the storm water pumping station is not use during dry weather inflow conditions, the electricity consumption of it is not part of the guaranteed yearly energy consumption. Please confirm.</p> <p>d) Please confirm that the guaranteed yearly energy consumption shall be calculated for flood levels below the 1:100 years return period.</p>	<p>a) Confirmed. The organic load scenarios correspond to 100%, 80% and 60% of the average daily flow of the influent wastewater.</p> <p>b) Confirmed. The guaranteed yearly energy consumption costs to be used for tender evaluation shall be based on the stated average daily dry weather flow (22,378 m<sup>3</sup>/d for 100% BOD load).</p> <p>c) Confirmed. Electricity consumption of the stormwater pumping station shall not be taken into account in the guaranteed annual consumption.</p> <p>d) Confirmed. The guaranteed annual electricity consumption shall be calculated assuming flood levels not exceeding the 1:100-year return period.</p>
<b>15.</b>	Guaranteed OPEX electricity	The introduction of external and road

	<p>consumptions  Volume 4, Schedule 4.2.6.1 requests to give guarantee figures for electricity consumption for „External lighting and road lighting“ (Pos. 5) as well as „Administration Building and workshops“ (Pos. 6). However, these consumptions are not process-related at all and depend more on the actual season of the year (especially for lighting, which is heavily depending on the natural daylight duration). Efficiency requirements for lighting installations etc. are anyway defined in Volume 3.5. Therefore, please confirm that external and road lighting and admin building and workshops electricity consumptions can be excluded from the guaranteed operational costs.</p>	<p>lighting and electricity consumption of administrative building and workshop contributes to the assessment of overall energy efficiency within the WWTP. Therefore, the guaranteed annual electricity consumption shall be in accordance with Volume 4, Schedule 4.2.6.1. No modification to the Schedule shall be allowed.</p>
<p><b>16.</b></p>	<p><b>Guaranteed OPEX</b>  According to Volume 4, Schedule 4.2.6.1 Guaranteed Energy Consumption Costs, the calculation of the energy consumption shall be based on the template table provided in Volume 3 and forms provided in Volume 1, Section 4. In Volume 1, Section 4, form 4.6.11.1 / table A1 the total daily and annual electricity consumption shall be stated. In Volume 3, table 3.2.2-39 electrical energy consumption is requested to be given as daily power demand and weekly power demand. In Volume 3, Section 3.2.2.42 Remedial Actions, Operational Costs, is written: „If the measured monthly energy consumption is higher than the guaranteed energy consumption...“. In Volume 3, Section 3.1.16.6 Tests on Consumption of Energy and Chemicals, it is not clearly stated for which time period the actual energy consumption shall be measured for proving compliance with the figures to be guaranteed in Volume 4. As mentioned before, daily, monthly and annual periods are mentioned/mixed</p>	<p>a) Confirmed. The Tenderer shall provide the Tender Design fully in accordance with Volume 1, Section 4, Form 4.6.11.1, including the list of power consumers, total annual electricity consumption and energy recovery from biogas, as well as the guaranteed energy consumption costs (kWh/year) as stipulated in Volume 4, Schedule 4.2.6.1.</p> <p>b) The guaranteed annual values shall be verified during the 365-day DNP. If, at the end of the DNP, the sum of the measured consumption for electricity, chemicals and sludge disposal exceeds the guaranteed value, taking into account the influent loads, the Contractor shall have to pay a penalty to the end Beneficiary for the difference between the measured and guaranteed consumption and the associated costs as specified in Volume 4, Section 4.2.6 <i>Penalties for non-compliance with the Guaranteed Operational Costs.</i></p>

	<p>in Volume 1, 3 and 4.</p> <p>Considering all that, please clarify/confirm the following items so that all Bidders are presenting their guaranteed operation cost figures on the same and comparable basis:</p> <p>a) Please confirm that only the tables in Volume 1 and 4 need to be completed by the Bidders.</p> <p>b) Please clarify what is the time period for measuring the actual electricity consumptions for proofing the guaranteed figures?</p>	
<p><b>17.</b></p>	<p>Thermal energy recovery</p> <p>In Volume 1, Section 4, form 4.6.11.1 / table A1 the total daily and annual electricity consumption shall be stated, and energy recovery is to be stated as thermal energy and electrical energy recovery from biogas (table A2). So no thermal energy consumption is included in Volume 1.</p> <p>In Volume 3, Section 3.2.2.41 Guaranteed Operation Costs, Energy Consumption Guarantee, in the textual part electrical energy and heat energy are mixed („4. Digester Heating: Energy from Boiler using Biogas.“). Energy recovery is mentioned as electricity (and chilled water production if provided) from cogeneration. Heat used for heating purposes shall be measured with flow meters and temperature difference at the heat exchanger (this requirement is not mentioned anywhere else in the tender documents). Thermal energy produced from biogas is no cost factor for the Employer, only thermal energy produced with an external energy source like LPG creates costs.</p> <p>In Volume 4, Schedule 4.2.6.1 energy recovery (Pos. 8) shall be stated as sum of electrical and thermal energy („heat production from Biogas“), so as a mix of</p>	<p>Please note that the Total annual electricity consumption (Table A1.) and Energy recovery from biogas (Table A2.) as specified in Volume 1, Section 4, form 4.6.11.1 <i>Tender Design</i>, will be evaluated as part of the Tender Design evaluation.</p> <p>The guaranteed Annual Operational Costs will be evaluated for verification of the Tender Evaluation Price as specified in Volume 1, Section 4, Form 4.6.10.</p> <p>The Schedule 4.2.6.1 Guaranteed Energy Consumption Costs validates the net consumption of electrical and thermal energy expressed in kWh per year (energy consumption – energy recovery from biogas).</p> <p>Where proposed, absorption chillers may reduce energy losses by utilizing seasonal excess heat for cooling purposes, as described in Volume 3.2, Section 3.2.2.41.</p> <p>The energy consumption as specified in Schedule 4.2.6.1 Guaranteed Energy Consumption Costs, position 4, shall include thermal energy utilized (consumed) for Digester heating during a year generated from biogas only, either by biogas boiler or CHP, expressed in kWh/year.</p>

	<p>electrical and thermal energy.</p> <p>Please note that the thermal energy demand for digester heating is dominated by the wastewater temperature, i.e. the thermal energy required to heat up the digester feed to the digestion temperature of around 37°C. So the temperature difference for digester feed heating is <math>37 - 10 = 27^{\circ}\text{C}</math> in winter and <math>37 - 25 = 12^{\circ}\text{C}</math> in summer, i.e. it is varying greatly throughout the year.</p> <p>During regular operation the heat demand for the digestion process can be covered by utilization of the produced biogas in the CHP unit(s). Even more, especially during summer time, the CHP unit(s) will produce more heat than what can actually be utilized within the plant. Therefore, mixing electrical energy produced (which can fully be utilized at the plant, reducing the amount of external electrical power supply) and thermal energy produced (which can only be partly utilized) as energy recovery is technically and economically not justified. Deducting thermal energy, that is produced but cannot be utilized, from the overall energy consumption will result in unrealistic low net energy consumptions.</p> <p>Therefore, please confirm that only thermal energy that is actually utilized within the plant shall be stated in Schedule 4.2.6.1, Pos. 8.</p>	<p>The energy recovery as specified in Schedule 4.2.6.1 Guaranteed Energy Consumption Costs, position 8, shall include Electricity + Heat generated from biogas, expressed in kWh/year.</p>
<p><b>18.</b></p>	<p>Flows and loads for OPEX</p> <p>According to Volume 4, Schedule 4.2.6.1 Guaranteed Energy Consumption Costs, the Bidder shall declare guaranteed values for three load possibilities for BOD (100%, 80% and 60% of the plant BOD design flow). No reference is made to the corresponding incoming wastewater flow rates.</p> <p>Please confirm that the daily wastewater flow to be considered for energy</p>	<p>Please refer to Answer no. 14 a).</p>

	<p>consumption shall be reduced in the same way as the BOD load:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% BOD load (5,760 kg/d) and 100% average daily dry weather flow (22,378 m<sup>3</sup>/d)</li> <li>• 80% BOD load (4,608 kg/d) and 80% average daily dry weather flow (17,902.4 m<sup>3</sup>/d)</li> <li>• 60% BOD load (3,456 kg/d) and 60% average daily dry weather flow (13,426.8 m<sup>3</sup>/d)</li> </ul>	
<b>19.</b>	<p>Flow for guaranteed yearly energy consumption Please confirm that the guaranteed yearly energy consumption costs to be used for tender evaluation shall be based on the stated average daily dry weather flow (22,378 m<sup>3</sup>/d for 100% BOD load).</p>	Please refer to Answer no. 14 b).
<b>20.</b>	<p>Guaranteed yearly energy consumption As the storm water pumping station is not use during dry weather inflow conditions, the electricty consumption of it is not part of the guaranteed yearly energy consumption. Please confirm.</p>	Please refer to Answer no. 14 c).
<b>21.</b>	<p>Guaranteed yearly energy consumption Please confirm that the guaranteed yearly energy consumption shall be calculated for flood levels below the 1:100 years return period.</p>	Please refer to Answer no. 14 d).
<b>22.</b>	<p>Tests on Completion Please confirm that the Contractor will be obliged to bear all the costs (process chemicals, electrical energy, internal lab chemicals, external lab tests) related to Tests on Completion.</p>	Confirmed. The Contractor shall bare all costs related to the Tests on Completion.
<b>23.</b>	<p>Tests after Completion Please confirm that the operator (End user) will be obliged to bear all the costs (process chemicals, electrical energy, internal lab chemicals, external lab tests) related to Tests after Completion.</p>	Confirmed. The WWTP operator shall bare all costs related to the Tests after Completion.
<b>24.</b>	<p>Venturi – Influent / Effluent Flow measurement</p>	For influent and effluent flow measurement, both ultrasonic and electromagnetic flow

	<p>In Volume 3, chapter 3.5.15.5 Ultrasonic Flow Meter; for the locations Inlet channel and Effluent channel the water flow shall be measured via Venturi measurement.</p> <p>Please confirm that for the Influent and Effluent flow measurement also Electromagnetic Flow Meters as described in chapter 3.5.15.4 are possible to use.</p>	<p>meters are allowed. Please refer to Volume 3.2, Chapter 3.2.2.23.</p>
<p><b>25.</b></p>	<p><b>Odour control facilities</b></p> <p>In Volume 3, chapter 3.2.2.37 Odour control facilities, several requirements are stated about odour control. It is clear that all potential sources of odour shall be encapsulated (screening channels, screens, sludge storage tanks, dewatering units, etc.), and the contaminated air from that encapsulated areas shall be treated in a biofilter with chemical pre-washing („All principal odour sources shall be covered and ducted to the odour control plant via the forced air ventilation system.“ / „Hoods and covers to contain odours shall be installed at the odour source, along with adequately supported ducting to convey odorours air to the treatment units.“ / „Air exchange rate in non-attended areas 6 per hour.“).</p> <p>Extracting air from these encapsulated areas and equipments (which are the solely sources of odour) will create a negative air pressure related to the rooms where they are located / installed (Screening Building, Sludge Treatment Building), i.e. in areas attended by the operating staff. As a consequence, air will always go from uncontaminated areas (the room itself) to contaminated areas (inside encapsulated channels, tanks, equipment like screens). So, the air from attended areas cannot be a source of odour. Treating that air in the odour control facilities would only significantly increase their size and</p>	<p>Confirmed. For attended areas where odour sources are encapsulated and odorous air is extracted and treated at the odour treatment plant, only ventilation providing 10 air changes per hour, shall be provided. Treatment of ventilated air from these areas is not required.</p>

	<p>investment costs, and even more important, operation costs without any benefit.</p> <p>Please confirm that for attended areas without any non-encapsulated (and directly to the air treatment connected) odour source inside, ventilation with 10 air exchanges per hour without air treatment shall be provided.</p>	
<p><b>26.</b></p>	<p>1. The Employer’s Requirements specify a “conventional activated sludge process with biological nutrient removal (BNR)”. Please confirm whether alternative biological process concepts (with different internal hydraulic or operational arrangements) are acceptable, or whether the tender strictly requires the conventional AST + FST configuration as described.</p> <p>2. Please confirm whether the provision of full primary sedimentation tanks designed according to the stated criteria is mandatory, or whether functionally equivalent solutions may be accepted, provided that sludge production and downstream sludge treatment requirements are met.</p> <p>3. Please confirm whether separate final settling tanks are a mandatory requirement, or whether alternative solid–liquid separation concepts integrated into the biological stage could be considered as compliant.</p>	<p>1. Wastewater treatment shall be conventional activated sludge process with biological nutrient removal. Hereby conventional refers to any arrangement of anaerobic, anoxic and aerated activated sludge tanks/sections, with or without internal recirculation, followed by Final Sedimentation Tank. <u>No alternative process configuration (SBR, MBR, MBBR) shall be allowed.</u></p> <p>2. Primary sedimentation tanks shall be designed and constructed in accordance with the Employer’s Requirements. <u>No alternative solution shall be allowed.</u></p> <p>3. Final sedimentation tanks shall be designed and constructed in accordance with the Employer’s Requirements. <u>No alternative solution shall be allowed.</u></p>
<p><b>27.</b></p>	<p>4. Please confirm whether internationally recognised design manuals, such as Metcalf &amp; Eddy – Wastewater Engineering: Treatment and Resource Recovery, may be used as an accepted design reference and calculation basis, in addition to or in conjunction with the standards explicitly referenced in the Employer’s Requirements (e.g. DWA / ATV-DVWK), provided that all contractual</p>	<p>4. The technical calculations shall be based on the design criteria and particular requirements set out in Volume 3.2. The Tenderer is encouraged to take into account the DWA guidelines. Other internationally recognized design manuals, such as <i>Metcalf &amp; Eddy – Wastewater Engineering: Treatment and Resource Recovery</i>, will be acceptable provided that their guidelines do not deviate from the Particular Design and Process requirements set out in Volume 3.2.</p>

	<p>performance guarantees and effluent requirements are fully met.</p> <p>5. In the event of discrepancies between the numerical design criteria stated in the Employer's Requirements and the referenced standards (e.g. DWA-A131), please clarify which requirements take precedence.</p> <p>6. The Employer's Requirements indicate three biological treatment lines in Phase I. Please confirm whether this number is mandatory, or whether the required redundancy and operational flexibility may be achieved through an alternative layout.</p>	<p>5. Should any conflict arise between the design criteria defined in Volume 3.2 and the above-mentioned guidelines, the provisions of Volume 3.2 shall prevail.</p> <p>6. The number of biological treatment lines indicated in the Employer's Requirements reflects the distribution of organic loads between the two construction phases, 96,000 PE in Phase I and 128,000 PE in Phase II, ensuring uniform distribution of hydraulic and organic loads. The Tenderer may propose different layout based on its technical solution as far as it meets the design criteria.</p>
<b>28.</b>	<p>7. Please confirm whether the 10 °C design temperature applies only to nitrification, or whether it shall be used as the design basis for all biological process calculations, including denitrification and biological phosphorus removal.</p>	<p>7. The design temperature of 10 °C shall apply for dimensioning of activated sludge plant with biological nutrient removal, including nitrification, denitrification and phosphorous removal.</p>
<b>29.</b>	<p>8. Please confirm whether the hydraulic and pollution loads from returned sludge liquors (centrate, filtrate, supernatant) are included in the energy and operational cost guarantees, and how these loads are accounted for during performance verification.</p>	<p>8. Guaranteed operational costs shall be in accordance with Volume 4, Schedules 4.2.6.1, 4.2.6.2 and 4.2.6.3, based on the influent BOD loads.</p>
<b>30.</b>	<p>9. Please clarify how the energy and chemical consumption guarantees are evaluated when the plant operates at hydraulic or organic loads below the design load, especially during the Defects Notification Period.</p> <p>10. The Employer's Requirements define specific energy monitoring zones. Please confirm whether functionally equivalent energy zoning, providing the same level of measurability and transparency, would be acceptable if the detailed process layout differs.</p>	<p>9. Please refer to Volume 3.2, Chapter 3.2.2.41. The energy and chemicals consumption shall be calculated based on the actual measured consumption of the WWTP and the actual BOD<sub>5</sub> load during the DNP and compared with the guaranteed consumption declared in Schedule 4.2.6.1 for three BOD<sub>5</sub> load scenarios: 100%, 80%, 60%.</p> <p>10. The minimum required energy monitoring zones shall be determined to provide inputs for verification of the guaranteed energy consumption in kWh/year as specified in Volume 4,</p>

	11. Please clarify the discount rate applied for the calculation of penalties based on the 20-year discounted operational costs, and whether this rate is fixed or subject to adjustment.	Schedule 4.2.6.1, which shall not be altered.  11. For the purpose of penalties in the event of exceeded the guaranteed annual operating costs over 20-year period, a capitalization factor of 14 shall be applied. The discount rate is estimated at 4%.
<b>31.</b>	12. Please clarify whether commissioning and start-up support require continuous on-site presence, or whether expert support on an on-call / periodic basis is considered sufficient.	12. Commissioning and start-up support require on-site presence of the commissioning expert(s).
<b>32.</b>	Process concept and acceptable technologies: 1. The Employer's Requirements specify a "conventional activated sludge process with biological nutrient removal (BNR)". Please confirm whether alternative biological process concepts (with different internal hydraulic or operational arrangements) are acceptable, or whether the tender strictly requires the conventional AST + FST configuration as described. 2. Please confirm whether the provision of full primary sedimentation tanks designed according to the stated criteria is mandatory, or whether functionally equivalent solutions may be accepted, provided that sludge production and downstream sludge treatment requirements are met. 3. Please confirm whether separate final settling tanks are a mandatory requirement, or whether alternative solid-liquid separation concepts integrated into the biological stage could be considered as compliant.	Please refer to Answer no. 26, bullet points 1, 2 and 3.
<b>33.</b>	Design criteria and flexibility 4. Please confirm whether internationally recognised design manuals, such as Metcalf & Eddy – Wastewater Engineering: Treatment and Resource Recovery, may be used as an accepted design reference and	Please refer to Answer no. 27, points 4, 5 and 6, and Answer no. 28, bullet point 7.

	<p>calculation basis, in addition to or in conjunction with the standards explicitly referenced in the Employer's Requirements (e.g. DWA / ATV-DVWK), provided that all contractual performance guarantees and effluent requirements are fully met.</p> <p>5. In the event of discrepancies between the numerical design criteria stated in the Employer's Requirements and the referenced standards (e.g. DWA-A131), please clarify which requirements take precedence.</p> <p>6. The Employer's Requirements indicate three biological treatment lines in Phase I. Please confirm whether this number is mandatory, or whether the required redundancy and operational flexibility may be achieved through an alternative layout.</p> <p>7. Please confirm whether the 10 °C design temperature applies only to nitrification, or whether it shall be used as the design basis for all biological process calculations, including denitrification and biological phosphorus removal.</p>	
<p><b>34.</b></p>	<p>Sludge treatment and energy</p> <p>8. Please confirm whether the hydraulic and pollution loads from returned sludge liquors (centrate, filtrate, supernatant) are included in the energy and operational cost guarantees, and how these loads are accounted for during performance verification.</p>	<p>Please refer to Answer no. 29, bullet point 8.</p>
<p><b>35.</b></p>	<p>OPEX guarantees and liability boundaries</p> <p>9. Please clarify how the energy and chemical consumption guarantees are evaluated when the plant operates at hydraulic or organic loads below the design load, especially during the Defects Notification Period.</p> <p>10. The Employer's</p>	<p>Please refer to Answer no. 30, bullet points 9, 10 and 11.</p>

	<p>Requirements define specific energy monitoring zones. Please confirm whether functionally equivalent energy zoning, providing the same level of measurability and transparency, would be acceptable if the detailed process layout differs.</p> <p>11. Please clarify the discount rate applied for the calculation of penalties based on the 20-year discounted operational costs, and whether this rate is fixed or subject to adjustment.</p>	
<p><b>36.</b></p>	<p>Design responsibility and specialist scope 12. Please clarify whether commissioning and start-up support require continuous on-site presence, or whether expert support on an on-call / periodic basis is considered sufficient.</p>	<p>Please refer to Answer no. 31, bullet point 12.</p>
<p><b>37.</b></p>	<p>We kindly request that you consider an extension of the deadline for submission of offers, for minimum 30 days. The reason for our request is that part of the technical and price quotations must be obtained from foreign suppliers, and part from suppliers in Serbia. In the upcoming period, several public holidays are approaching—Catholic and Orthodox Christmas, as well as New Year. Due to the holiday season, the majority of suppliers will not be operating until mid-January and therefore will not be able to deliver the required price quotations and technical data within the prescribed timeframe. This significantly complicates the completion of the documentation within the set deadline. An extension of the deadline would enable us to obtain all the necessary price quotations and technical data, thereby ensuring fair and complete preparation of the offer in accordance with the tender requirements. Thank you in advance for your</p>	<p>Deadline for submitting tenders is 05 March 2026, 12:00 CET. Deadline for submission of tenders was already postponed by means of the Change to Contract Notice no.1 and Change to Tender Dossier no.2 simultaneously. No further extensions of the submission deadline are expected.</p>

	understanding, and we look forward to your positive response.	
38.	Please clarify whether design assumptions different from those stated in Employer Requirement may be adopted by the Contractor, provided that all performance requirements are fully met?	The design criteria shall be in accordance with Volume 3.2 <i>Particular Design and Process Requirements</i> . Modifications of design criteria are not allowed.
39.	In the event of a proposed process modification, could the Employer clarify whether such changes would subject to Ministry's Design for Permit approval, including the revision or renewal of the Environmental Impact Assessment?	Process modifications shall not be allowed.
40.	Could the Employer confirm whether adjustments to unit locations within the General Layout Plan are permitted, provided that hydraulic, and performance criteria remain unchanged?	The WWTP layout shall be in accordance with the Tenderer's technical solution. The layout included in Volume 5 is indicative only.
41.	Considering that the Contract is based on FIDIC Yellow Book, could the Employer clarify whether the design documents provided for information purposes are required to be reviewed, verified, and validated by the Contractor, or are for reference only?	<p>Pursuant to the Conditions of the FIDIC Yellow Book Contract, the Contractor shall assume responsibility for design, construction and commissioning of the Works, including the trial operation of the WWTP prior to Taking Over.</p> <p>The Contractor shall prepare all necessary design documentation and assist the Employer in update/obtaining new Location Conditions and/or Construction Permits as required for completion of the works.</p>
42.	For tests on completion of the units, from which source the required water will be supplied, and which party will be responsible for bearing the associated costs? Is there any well inside the construction site? What is the unit price of the water to calculate the cost.	<p>All costs related to the tests, including provision of water, electricity, chemicals, and other consumables as required for carrying out the tests, shall be borne by the Contractor.</p> <p>There are no existing wells within the WWTP site.</p> <p>The unit price of water is beyond the control and the responsibility of the Contracting Authority. It is the Tenderer's responsibility to collect all information deemed necessary for the purpose of the preparation of its offer. The Tenderer may refer to the Vodovod</p>

		<p>Čačak website for information on the current price. However, the current price may subject to change at any time prior to the commencement of the tests.</p> <p>For procedures and costs related to connection to the power distribution network, the Tenderer may refer the Elektrodistribucija Srbije website.</p>
43.	<p>Within the scope of Social and Environmental Management and reporting requirements, could the Employer confirm whether a baseline environmental data study will be required, or not?</p>	<p>The baseline surveys may be required for update of the EIA in accordance with the national legislation.</p> <p>The Environmental Management Plan(s) shall be prepared/updated in accordance with the Contract.</p>
44.	<p>Please kindly specify which equipment and systems will be subjected to Factory Acceptance Tests (FATs), and clarify whether there is an anticipated or minimum number of personnel (from the Employer, Engineer, Consultant, or other relevant authorities) who are expected to witness these tests or not?</p>	<p>Please refer to the CA Clarifications no. 2, Answer no. 8.</p>
45.	<p>Please kindly clarify the source of the main electrical energy supply, from which authorities or competent institutions the required permits and approvals are to be obtained, and whether the responsibility for obtaining these permits and approvals rests with the Contractor or the Employer?</p>	<p>The main electrical energy supply shall be provided from the 35/10 kV Transformer Station “Transfer Stanica”, situated approximately 600 m from the WWTP location, in accordance with Volume 3.2 and the conditions issued by the competent authority, <i>Elektrodistribucija Srbije d.o.o Beograd</i>, branch <i>Elektrodistribucija Čačak</i>.</p> <p>The construction of the 10kV transmission cable XHE 49A 3x(1x150) mm<sup>2</sup> in total length of approximately 600 m from the TS “Transfer Stanica” to the TS “WWTP” shall be the responsibility of the End Beneficiary (the city of Čačak). The connection and metering cell shall be installed by <i>Electromreže Srbije</i>.</p> <p>The Contractor shall be responsible for design and construction of the new 10/0.4 kV transformer station “WWTP”. The Contractor shall prepare all necessary design documentation and assist the End</p>

		Beneficiary in update/obtaining new Location Conditions and/or Construction Permits as required for completion of the works.
46.	Please kindly clarify whether potable water supply and internet/telecommunication connections will be available within the Site, or if these are to be arranged by the Contractor? If the sources are not available in construction site, please kindly inform us from which distance the pipelines and cables will be conveyed?	<p>There is no potable water supply or internet/telecommunication connection within the WWTP site.</p> <p>Connection of drinking water supply shall be achieved from the existing manhole within the area of the Transfer station (reference Volume 5.1, 3.1 Access Road to WWTP – road drawing No.7, TT 300/150). The Contractor shall design and construct the water supply pipeline along the route of the access road to the WWTP.</p> <p>Provision internet/telecommunication services shall be Contractor's Responsibility, in accordance with conditions issued by the relevant service provider.</p>
47.	Could the Employer provide available information regarding the groundwater table level at the Site? Is it allowed to drill groundwater well for water requirement.	<p>According to the Report on Geotechnical Investigation, the groundwater level ranges between 226-228 m ASL. The Report is included in Volume 5.2, in Serbian and English.</p> <p>Construction of a groundwater well for water supply shall not be considered.</p>
48.	Could the Employer confirm whether the boiler system is intended to operate on LPG or biogas?	The boiler should be dual fuel, capable to operate on both LPG and biogas.
49.	Could the Employer clarify whether electricity consumption, sludge disposal, and chemical supply during operation will be borne by the Contractor or the Employer?	All costs related to the start-up and trial operation of the WWTP prior to Taking Over shall be borne by the Contractor.
50.	For anaerobic digester start-up, could the Employer please indicate the nearest approved source from which the required anaerobic microorganisms may be obtained to start-up?	The nearest WWTP with an operational anaerobic digester is located in the City of Kruševac, approximately 100 km to the south-east of the City of Čačak.
51.	Could the Employer please provide information regarding the distance to the	Please note that according to provisions of the Employer's Requirements, ownership

	authorized disposal facility for construction and demolition waste?	of the construction waste is transferred to the Contractor. It is the Contractor's responsibility to ensure full compliance with the relevant laws and bylaws in management of the construction waste. These include, inter alia, Law on Planning and Construction, Law on management of Waste, etc. Particularly, obligations regarding management of construction waste are defined in the Regulation on the manner and procedure of managing construction and demolition waste (Uredba o načinu i postupku upravljanja otpadom od građenja i rušenja) ("Official Gazette RS", no. 93/2023 and 94/2023 - corr.).
52.	Could the Employer clarify which authorities or administrations will approve the design submissions, and what the anticipated review and approval periods are for each submission?	The Preliminary design of the WWTP shall be subject to review by the State Review Committee. In accordance with the Law on Planning and Construction, Article 132, para. 2, the deadline for submission of the State Review Committee Review Report shall not exceed 30 days from the date of submission of a duly completed application. The Designs for Construction Permit (for all project components) shall be subject to Technical Control arranged by the End Beneficiary. The timeline for completion of the Technical Control of Designs for Construction Permit is not specified.
53.	In the event of delays arising from Employer or authority review periods, could the Employer clarify whether the associated time and cost impacts are claimable under the Contract?	Should the Contractor considers himself to be entitled to any extension of Time for Completion and/or any additional payment in connection with the Contract, it should proceed in accordance with FIDIC General Conditions of Contract for Plant and Design-Build, Sub-Clause 20.1.
54.	Could the Employer identify the units designated as explosion-proof (Ex-zones)?	The Ex-zones shall be identified by the Contractor.
55.	Could the Employer confirm whether a Zone 2 classification is considered sufficient for preliminary treatment units?	Regarding the Ex-zones, please refer to the Employer's Requirements.
56.	Will submerged equipment also be required to comply with explosion-proof	This is primarily a project-related matter, in

	(Ex-zone) requirements?	which hazardous area classification (Ex zones 0 or 1 or 2) is first performed. The required Equipment Protection Level (EPL) and the necessary characteristics of Ex-certified equipment shall be specified based on the defined hazardous area classification in accordance with ATEX / IECEx requirements.
57.	Could the Employer confirm that CHP emission limits apply when the system is operated using natural gas?	The CHP emission limit values shall apply for biogas fuel.
58.	Please clarify which authority or competent institution, in accordance with Serbian legislation, is responsible for the approval of biogas unit design documents, and what the anticipated approval period is following formal submission?	Please refer to Answer no. 52. The Preliminary Design of the WWTP, including biogas installations, shall be subject to review of the State Review Committee. The Design for Construction Permit for the WWTP, including biogas collection, treatment and utilization, shall be subject to Technical Control arranged by the End Beneficiary.
59.	Volume 3.2, Chapter 3.2.2.38 – Plant Control Systems, Table 3.2.2-32: Minimum Sludge Line Instrumentation List In the list, both a biogas sensor/transmitter and a biogas analyzer are requested, both measuring CH <sub>4</sub> , CO <sub>2</sub> , O <sub>2</sub> and H <sub>2</sub> S at the digester biogas outlet. Kindly clarify the intended purpose of the biogas sensor/transmitter, in particular whether it is intended for gas presence detection / safety purposes or for analytical measurement, and how its function differs from that of the biogas analyzer.	The biogas analyzer has a process control function. It is installed on the biogas supply line to the CHP unit, most often upstream of the gas valve. It continuously measures CH <sub>4</sub> (%), CO <sub>2</sub> (%), O <sub>2</sub> (%) and H <sub>2</sub> S (ppm). The analyzer sends a signal to the CHP unit PLC and, based on the gas composition, allows or blocks engine start, regulates the air–gas ratio, and reduces power or shuts down the engine if the gas quality is poor. In this way, it protects the engine, the catalyst, and the exhaust system. The analyzer is practically a “fuel quality controller.”  The biogas sensor/detector has a safety function. It is installed either in the CHP hall, the gas station, or the room with gas valves, and is usually mounted 20–40 cm below the ceiling, since CH <sub>4</sub> is lighter than air. It detects the presence of an explosive gas concentration expressed as % LEL (Lower Explosive Limit). It does not perform process regulation; when the threshold is exceeded, it activates an alarm,

		<p>closes the gas solenoid valve, shuts down the CHP unit, and starts ventilation. It is practically a “guardian” of the room.</p> <p>It is important to note that both devices are required. Applicable standards include EN 60079 (ATEX) and EN 50402 (gas detection). Practically all CHP unit manufacturers require both.</p> <p>In summary:</p> <p>Analyzer: installed on the pipeline, connected to the CHP unit PLC, controls the operation of the CHP unit; it does not detect gas leaks.</p> <p>Sensor/detector: installed in the room, 20–40 cm below the ceiling, connected to the safety system; it shuts off the gas supply and the CHP unit for safety reasons; it does not measure fuel quality.</p>
<p><b>60.</b></p>	<p>Volume 3.4, Chapter 3.4.10.10 Penstocks  The specification requires that penstocks shall be structurally designed for on-seating or off-seating pressures equal to five (5) times the maximum possible hydraulic loading.  Kindly confirm whether this design criterion is strictly mandatory, or whether a design based on the maximum hydrostatic pressure with a standard safety factor in line with common engineering practice would be acceptable</p>	<p>The requirement for structural design of penstocks arises from good engineering practice. An alternative criterion of maximum hydrostatic pressure, including the required safety factor, shall be accepted if it complies with the relevant standards applicable to this type of equipment.</p>
<p><b>61.</b></p>	<p>Volume 3, Section 5–Technical Specification for Electrical works 3.5.11 Auxiliary Power - Standby Generator and 3.5.11.9 Fuel Supply  “A generator sub-base tank shall not be provided unless specifically requested. If a sub-base tank is provided it shall be capable of taking the full pressure from the bulk tank and the overflow shall be higher than the bulk tank.”</p>	<p>It is not strictly forbidden to use generator sub-base tank as a tank for diesel fuel. It is possible to use it if it meets all the necessary requirements and if the investor request it.  In most cases, inspections require a separate bulk tank + day tank due to fire prevention, environmental and service reasons. Relevant standards that allow and condition the use of sub-base tanks are: EN13306/ISO8528, EN12285/EN1405, ATEX (2014/34/EU,</p>

	Is it strictly forbidden to use the generator sub-base tank as a tank for diesel fuel? What should be the capacity of operation fuel tank, and capacity of bulk oil storage tank	1999/92/EC).  The capacity of the sub-base tank shall be in accordance with the Bidder's technical solution.
62.	Since no answers have been received to date to the questions submitted as early as the beginning of November, and given that there are certain discrepancies and uncertainties in the tender documents which must be clarified in order to prepare the technical solution, and also taking into account the holiday season, we kindly request an extension of the deadline for proposal submission by at least two weeks.	Please refer to Answer no.2 and Answer no. 37.
63.	<p>With reference to the above-mentioned tender reference, we respectfully request an extension of eight (8) weeks from the current submission deadline. The additional time is required to allow us to properly finalize all technical, commercial, and administrative components and to ensure that our proposal is fully compliant with the tender requirements.</p> <p>We would also like to highlight that during the winter holiday period, most of our key suppliers and subcontractors suspend or significantly reduce their operations, typically from 20 December until 15 January. This limited availability directly affects the timely receipt of quotations, technical clarifications, and confirmations essential for the preparation of a complete and accurate proposal.</p> <p>Considering the complexity of the project scope and the level of detail expected by the Employer, the requested extension would enable us to submit a high-quality, well-substantiated, and fully compliant proposal that adequately addresses all requirements of the RFP.</p> <p>We sincerely thank you for your understanding and remain at your</p>	Please refer to Answer no.2 and Answer no.37.

	disposal should any further clarification be required. We look forward to your favorable consideration.	
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