

Notice of call for expressions of interest to participate as external experts in the Commission's TAILS team as part of DG SANTE's Work Plan to reduce tail-docking of piglets in the EU

1. Contracting authority

European Commission
Directorate-General Health and Food Safety
Unit F2, Animals
Health and food audits and analysis
Grange, Dunsany,
C15 DA39
Co. Meath,
Ireland
Email: SANTE-IRL-F2-TAILS@ec.europa.eu

2. Application procedure

The objective of this call for expressions of interest is to set up a list of external experts. Expressions of interest should be submitted in one of the official languages of the European Union by email to the following address: SANTE-IRL-F2-TAILS@ec.europa.eu using the form (Annex I) at the end of this document.

Inclusion on the list entails no obligation on the part of the contracting authority concerning the conclusion of contracts.

3. Information and documents to be provided

Interested parties should provide their full contact details. The supporting evidence to be provided for the evaluation of the selection criteria are indicated at point 11.

4. General description of the procedure

Natural persons are invited to submit an expression of interest in accordance with the rules set out in this notice.

The contracting authority will draw up a list of experts who meet the criteria set out at point 11.

Where a particular task relating to the field described at point 7 is to be performed by an external expert, the contracting authority will assign experts to the task on the basis of the skills, experience and knowledge necessary and in accordance with the principles of non-discrimination, equal treatment and absence of conflict of interests.

5. Protection of personal data

If processing your expression of interest involves the recording and processing of personal data (such as your name, address and CV), such data will be processed pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data. Unless indicated otherwise, your reply to this notice and any personal data requested are required for the purposes indicated above in point 4 and will be processed solely for those purposes by the contracting authority indicated in point 1, which is also acting as data controller. Details

concerning the processing of your personal data are available on the privacy statement at: <http://ec.europa.eu/dpo-register/search.htm>. Your personal data may be registered in the Early Detection and Exclusion System (EDES) if you are in one of the situations mentioned in Article 106 of the Financial Regulation¹. For more information, see the Privacy Statement on http://ec.europa.eu/budget/explained/management/protecting/protect_en.cfm)

6. Use of the list resulting from this notice

The list resulting from this notice will be used exclusively for the execution of the tasks within the fields described at point 7, with a maximum threshold of €130 000 of total payments (including both remunerations and reimbursements) and a maximum of seventeen and a half working days per expert.

7. Full description of the fields covered by the call for expressions of interest

Field:

Managing pigs in commercial² conventional farms without routine tail-docking

Tasks:

1. Participation in Commission TAILS team as part of DG SANTE's Work Plan to reduce the routine tail-docking of piglets in the EU
2. Provide feedback/guidance based on technical expertise and experience on the strategies and Action Plans being implemented in Member States to prevent tail-biting and avoid routine tail docking of pigs
 - a) Half-day documentary review of Member State (to be visited) Action Plans to prevent tail-biting and avoid routine tail docking of pigs. Including review of Member State proposals on compliance criteria and farm improvement measures, farm risk assessment, and timelines for strategies to prevent tail docking and avoid routine tail docking;
 - b) Contribute to summary document (one page maximum) for improvement to proposals outlined in point 2a above;
3. Participation in TAILS team visits in Member States- 2 days duration;
 - a) Participate in high-level meetings with Member State Stakeholders, (Competent Authorities, pig sector and veterinary associations, feed and slaughterhouse industry and others) to offer written and verbal feedback and advice on proposed Member State and industry actions to prevent tail biting and avoid routine tail docking of pigs;
 - b) Participate in Question and answer session with stakeholders;

¹ Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 (OJ L 298 of 26.10.2012, p. 1) as amended.

² Commercial is interpreted as conventional rearing, not organic, and more than 300 pigs per premises

- c) Further evaluate the Actions proposed in Member State Action Plans on the basis of the meetings with the stakeholders;
- d) Communicate best practice (including documentation) relating to management of rearing pigs with intact tails based on practical experience and research outcomes;
- e) Contribute to written summary proposals (2 pages maximum) for improvement to stakeholders and Member State Action Plans to be presented at the Final meeting of the 2nd day of the visit.

Outputs will contribute to technical assessment of Member State progress in complying with existing legal requirements and contribute to the exchange of best practice between industry and Competent Authorities as part of the DG SANTE project to reduce the routine tail-docking of piglets in the EU.

Where a particular task is to be performed by an external expert, the contracting authority will assign experts to the task on the basis of the skills, experience and knowledge necessary and in accordance with the principles of non-discrimination, equal treatment and absence of conflict of interests.

8. Place of delivery

Various Member States of the European Union.

9. Expiry date of the list resulting from this call for expressions of interest

The list resulting from this notice is valid for three years from the date of publication of this Notice.

Interested parties may submit an application at any time prior to the last three months of validity of the list.

10. Exclusion criteria

Experts shall be excluded from participation if:

- a) they are bankrupt or being wound up, are having their affairs administered by the courts, have entered into an arrangement with creditors, have suspended business activities, are the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or are in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;
- b) they or persons having powers of representation, decision making or control over them have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgment of a competent authority of a Member State which has the force of res judicata;
- c) they have been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the contracting authority can justify including by decisions of the European Investment Bank and international organisations;

- d) they are not in compliance with their obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which they are established or with those of the country of the contracting authority or those of the country where the contract is to be performed;
- e) they or persons having powers of representation, decision making or control over them have been the subject of a judgment which has the force of res judicata for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation, money laundering or any other illegal activity, where such an illegal activity is detrimental to the Union's financial interests;
- f) they are subject to an administrative penalty for being guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the contracting authority as a condition of participation in a procurement procedure or failing to supply information, or being declared to be in serious breach of their obligation under a contract covered by the budget;
- g) they have a conflict of interest in connection with the contract; a conflict of interest could arise in particular as a result of economic interests, political or national affinities, family or emotional ties or any other relevant connection or shared interest.

Before signing a contract experts shall complete the Declaration on honour on exclusion criteria and selection criteria (Annex V) stating that they are not in one of the situations of exclusion listed above. In case of doubt, they may be requested to provide supporting evidence of non-exclusion.

11. Selection criteria

a) Criteria relating to technical and professional capacity

Criteria

1. Practical experience in the management of commercial³ pig premises rearing 100% of pigs with intact tails
2. Practical experience in the marketing and sale of commercial pigs of which 100% are reared with intact tails
3. Practical experience in the management of the transition from rearing pigs with docked tails to rearing 100% of pigs with intact tails
4. Published research on risk factors relating to tail-biting and the environmental factors associated with the rearing of 100% of pigs with intact tails on multiple commercial premises

Threshold

- Minimum 3 years' experience in any of the criteria listed above

Supporting evidence

- In relation to criteria 1 and 3:
 - a. Farm registration documents showing type of premises, number of animals, statement from competent authority OR

³ Commercial is interpreted as conventional rearing, not organic, and more than 300 pigs per premises

- b. Equivalent evidence indicating production system (100% rearing with intact tails) such as: giving presentations and/or inclusion in BTSF training/COM meetings on this subject as part of the DG SANTE project to reduce the routine tail-docking of piglets in the EU.
- In relation to criterion 2:
- c. Company position held, duration of employment, and nature and scale of company's activities.
- In relation to criterion 4:
- d. List of published research

12. Conditions of remuneration and reimbursement of experts

Experts shall be remunerated at a fixed price of 450 euros/day worked. Travel, accommodation and subsistence expenses will be reimbursed under the conditions set out in the model contract in Annex II to this document.

13. Ex-post transparency

A list of experts (name and subject of the tasks executed) who have concluded a contract following the procedure set out at point 4 shall be published on the website of the contracting authority.

If an expert has concluded a contract(s) of more than €15 000 per year, the name, the locality (region of origin), amount, and subject of the contract shall be published on the website of the contracting authority no later than 30 June of the year following contract award. The information shall be removed two years after the year of contract award.

Annex I:	Application Form https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/funding_procurement_2018_cei-tails_application-form.doc
Annex II:	Draft Contract https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/funding_procurement_2018_cei-tails_draft-contract.docx
Annex III	Financial Identification Form http://ec.europa.eu/budget/contracts_grants/info_contracts/financial_id/financial-id_en.cfm
Annex IV	Legal Entity Form http://ec.europa.eu/budget/contracts_grants/info_contracts/legal_entities/legal-entities_en.cfm
Annex V	Declaration on honour on exclusion criteria and selection criteria form https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/funding_procurement_2018_cei-tails_doh.docx