

Joint Action on Harmonised Products 2022 JAHARP2022-03 Chainsaws

(Grant Agreement No. JA2021-02-3)

Competitive Dialogue Process

1. INTRODUCTION

PROSAFE launched two (2) Call for Tenders for test laboratory services for testing of chainsaws for forest service in the past 3 months under the EU co-funded JAHARP2022-03 Work Package 3 - Chainsaws.

The first Call was published on 30 January 2024 and the second (RECAST Tender) on 13 March 2024. Both public procurement rounds did not lead to a contract award.

The project decided to run a standard survey amongst identified test bodies to gather more information about the reasons that prevented them from submitting a tender and collect expressions of interest for a competitive dialogue procedure in the meaning of the EU Directive 2014/24/EU).

Based on the results of this engagement with the market, all test bodies that expressed their interest to participate in a new competitive procedure have been invited to a competitive dialogue which will lead to the submission formal tenders.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE SERVICE

The testing will be carried out according to the specifications of the relevant harmonised standards.

The task comprises the following services:

Prior to testing

- i. Organise an online pre-testing meeting with the project group to discuss the test programmes, logistics for the transport of samples, timing, and capacity issues with lab staff.
- ii. Appoint a primary contact person who has project management authority for the duration of the Work package. Any change of appointed contact must be made in agreement with the Joint Action team. Work with the JAHARP2022-03 staff by email/phone to plan the preparation, testing, and reporting programme to achieve a workable and smooth process.
- iii. Make the necessary arrangements to ensure the safe reception of the samples which will be delivered to the lab free of charge in original packaging, brand new. They will arrive in batches. Products remain the property of PROSAFE or the authority providing them the whole time until permission for disposal has been given.
- iv. Take digital identification photographs of each product before testing that show all main features and functionality. A photograph of labels and markings of the tested samples should also be taken, and the details recorded in a separate document alongside test results. Label each image file recognisably and/or provide an index of images that is searchable by brand, model number, project ID number.
- v. Upon request of and in coordination with the project team, provide a digital copy of the documentation, labels, and markings of each product prior to testing.

Testing and reporting

- i. Test each product according to the applicable EU legislation and harmonised standards, to verify and demonstrate compliance with the specific requirements relevant to the product type. It is planned to test an estimated total of:
 - **15 models of electric (battery-powered and mains-powered) chain-saws.**
- ii. Issue a comprehensive individual test report in English for each model tested that fits the needs and requirements of the participating MSAs. This should be in accordance with the highest appropriate standards of quality, integrity, accuracy, and timely delivery, and the recommended/agreed reporting format. They must indicate the measured value for each property, not only “failed/passed” and must include uncertainty of measurement and the appropriate limits where applicable. Reports should also include photos of the product, and appropriate labels included with the product.

Furthermore, if a product is found that was designed according to the previous version of the current applicable harmonised standards (e.g., EN 60745-2-13:2009/A1:2010, the test body should take this into account for the testing).
- iii. Before testing, risk analysis of each individual chain-saw model. Based on this assessment, and if a high risk is identified, make suggestions for complementary tests, if not covered by the agreed upon test programme. This with special attention to the electric parts like the safety circuits, moisture sensitivity, etc.
- iv. Host a physical or a remote/virtual meeting of the JAHARP2022-03 members/participants/ experts at or near the lab to discuss the results, the test reports, and experience of the testing process. This should include observations from lab staff on difficulties, queries, and suggestions to improve any aspect of the testing process, test standard and regulations. It would be helpful for full understanding, if necessary, to include a visit to the test chamber with an example product. This could involve up to 7 participants.
- v. Report continuously on the testing progress and results, including swift communication of any unexpected results, and give recommendations for improvements to test methods and legislation based on the results of testing.
- vi. Participate in discussions on test results with other labs to develop common good practice approaches as a learning exercise for all participating test labs during the testing programme, if applicable.
- vii. Provide recommendations for improvements to test methods and legislation based on the results of testing.

Following testing

- i. Respond to enquiries from the participating authorities about the outcome of the tests and the observations made by economic operators.
- ii. Store each product securely until disposal (subject to PROSAFE’s approval). The cost of storage to the end of the project duration should be included in the quoted price.
- iii. Disposal should be done in a socially responsible. Confirmation of disposal and route will be required as part of the final report. Proposals on this are requested and may be used in the assessment in the case of equivalent bids.
- iv. Prepare a **summary report with all results and test analyses in English**, updated at regular intervals, on all the tests carried out and their results.

- v. Prepare an **end of the contract report in English** where the lab will provide an adequate overview of the state of play at the end of the contract and must guarantee its cooperation for handing over the tested samples, if needed, in a progressive, secured, and orderly manner to PROSAFE.

3. COMPETITIVE DIALOGUE PROCUREMENT PROCESS

This procurement includes the following stages:

1. PROSAFE will invite all interested parties to participate in individual 1:1 online dialogue sessions. The exact date and time of each session will be agreed bilaterally. It is expected that all sessions will be organised as early as possible starting on 13 May 2024. An agenda will be circulated in advance to ensure clarity on the purpose and flow of the process.

Prior to the dialogue session, interested parties:

- a) should prepare and submit an initial financial offer using the template model provided by PROSAFE, together with any proposed modifications, optimisations, or comments on the draft test programme;
- b) the CVs of the lead technical expert(s) and test engineers who will be involved in the testing programme.

Proposals must be submitted by email to ioana@prosafa.org, kyriakos@prosafa.org no later than 10 May 2024 noon.

2. After the meetings, the project's ad hoc evaluation committee will assess the final proposals, taking into account any clarification or additional information provided during the dialogue sessions. Some final clarification may still be required.

Proposals will be evaluated according to the following award criteria:

- i. Ability/Capacity to execute fully or most of the indicative test programme, and proposed timeline.
- ii. Financial offer. All quoted prices should be expressed in EUROS, with zero-rated VAT.

The submission of an offer implies that bidders accept PROSAFE's "General Conditions for Tenders".

3. PROSAFE will award a fixed-term service contract to the bidder who demonstrates best value for money and best meets the project's needs. The award decision will be communicated to the successful and unsuccessful tenderers via email. Tenderers will be given 5 days to appeal the decision.
4. Before the start of contract negotiations, the successful tenderer will be requested to prepare and submit:
 - A signed Declaration on Honour (DoH) attesting that they are not in any of the situations giving rise to exclusion from the procedure.
 - Proof of accreditation.