



INTERNATIONAL UNION  
OF RAILWAYS

## INVITATION TO TENDER - “ACOUSTICS OF REPROFILING AND ONBOARD MONITORING OF RAIL ROUGHNESS”

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Project: ACORD

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# QUESTIONS and ANSWERS (Q&A)

## 1. Question and Answers

N°	Question	Answer
1.	Do we need our legal department to make a final decision on its legal aspects?	UIC may accept suggestions for enhancement during the signing process once the Contract is granted. The bidders will be assessed in terms of their compliance with the contract template attached to the tender documents.
2.	Will the auralisation software be hosted and managed by UIC?	The software must be compatible with the infrastructure of UIC servers. All server rights will be administered by UIC on behalf of its members. For more information, the <a href="#">UIC IT specification</a> provides additional details. It is essential to ensure that UIC retains intellectual property rights and that key requirements, such as GDPR compliance, are met. Please

		<p>note that this specification is for a MATLAB-based open-source tool, requiring detailed planning. UIC welcomes proposals to develop the idea based on the IT specification.</p> <p><b>Updated on 06/06/2024:</b> The existing auralisation software may not be exclusively open source, and the references cited in the procurement serve as examples rather than limitations. However, it's important to note that any data provided by UIC and its members, or any output produced by the software throughout the ACORD project, will be the property of UIC and its members. Also please refer to the response provided in Q9.</p>
3.	<p>We noticed that there are two different dates mentioned for the tender submission invitation - the 3rd and 10th of June (front page, page 6 and 9). Could you please clarify which of these dates is the final deadline? To provide a comprehensive tender, we would like to request an extension of the end date until the end of June.</p>	<p>The proposal submission deadline has been extended to June 30. For additional details, please refer to the updated call here: <a href="#">[link]</a>.</p> <p>UIC, along with its members, will carry out the evaluation process from July 1 to July 19.</p>
4.	<p>Within WP3, it is mentioned that the tender should include "providing technical support" and "promotion of the activities."</p> <p>Could you provide any specific expectations or requirements for these aspects within this work package?</p>	<p>UIC will be responsible for communication activities. The contractor may also engage in communication efforts upon mutual agreement. UIC Advisors may request brief written texts or revisions from the contractor for communication materials intended for social media channels, international conferences, and journals. Both parties will mutually agree on the content and activities, ensuring that they do not impact the main deliverables of WP1 and WP2.</p>
5.	<p>Do you have an offer list/document available for us to fill in? We are looking for a document that outlines the individual services for each deliverable and milestone.</p>	<p>Tenderers are invited to submit their proposals by providing the documents listed in Chapter 3.5. UIC does not provide a template for this process. The technical content of the proposal will be a critical criterion, and tenderers are expected to describe in detail how they plan to perform the services to achieve the milestones and deliverables.</p>

6.	<p>Could you please provide an updated version of the Gantt chart on page 12, as it currently states that the project will commence in January 2024? We would appreciate it if the revised Gantt chart reflected the accurate months and year for the project timeline.</p>	<p>The activity is expected to be performed in 30 months and the starting date will be in line with the signed contract.</p> <p>The Gantt chart has been updated to indicate "Project Year 1, 2, and 3." Additionally, the following text has been added: "The draft Gantt chart is subject to revision and enhancement."</p> <p>UIC reserves the right to revise the duration of tasks in accordance with the contractor's agreed-upon needs.</p>
7.	<p>Are the price estimates provided in the cost breakdown considered as fixed prices or estimates?</p>	<p>The cost breakdown shall be a fixed price as it is an important evaluation criterion. For more information, please see Chapter 3.5 and 3.10.</p>
8.	<p>Chapter 3.2 Reference data: Will UIC provide further documents or background information related to software and models?</p>	<p>The call for tender document includes references to provide a foundation for potential tenderers. However, it is the responsibility of the tenderer to identify a suitable auralisation tool and propose a relevant study for the ACORD project. While UIC and its members may offer insights based on their existing knowledge during the contracting phase, the contractor is expected to carry out the proposed study as outlined during the tender phase. Therefore, tenderers are advised to propose in their bids the most suitable tool with which they have expertise. It is important to note that UIC does not oversee these processes; rather, they are the responsibility of the service providers participating in the call for tender.</p>
9.	<p>Will UIC provide the auralisation software?</p>	<p>The implementation of the auralisation, including purchasing (if applicable), licensing, exploitation, and adaptation to the needs of the ACORD project, must be planned during the tender phase, and managed by the subcontractor upon signing the contract. UIC does not oversee these processes; they are the responsibility of the service providers participating in the call for tender.</p>
10.	<p>In Task 1.1, "existing measurements" should be used. Does this mean that the Tenderer must have already carried out rail roughness measurements before and after reprofiling using various methods? Or will these measurements be provided as raw data by UIC members? In the second case, if these measurements are not yet available and they need to be carried out within the project period,</p>	<p>Measurement data will be supplied by UIC and its members. The contractor will assume responsibility for collecting the data and guiding the process, leveraging their expertise to ensure the most robust data analysis. An internal study within UIC has already been conducted, and necessary coordination will be facilitated once the project starts.</p>

	how should this be taken into account in the predefined Gantt Chart - are we allowed to make changes?	
11.	According to the Gantt chart Task 1.1.3 shall use an existing physical model but in the temporarily parallel task 1.2 the auralisation software has to be defined and adopted. Does this mean, that the model used in Task 1.1.3 can differ from the model used in the auralisation software?	Models should be complementary but not necessarily to be exactly similar. See more information in Figure 1.
12.	Does the Tenderer have to buy the auralisation software or is this done by UIC (question 2 of the Q&As indicates the latter)?	Refer to the response provided in Q9, and the updated answer on 06/06 in Q2.
13.	Is the mentioned adaption of the auralisation software limited to varying input parameters (e.g. rail roughness)? If not, does it mean, that a Tender must ensure the manufacturer's openness for adaption of his implementation?	The auralisation software should meet WP1 objectives, enabling variation in track and rolling stock parameters and should render the characteristic of rolling noise after grinding i.e. the presence of tonal components due to grinding marks. This can be built-in features of an existing software or new developments. This matter can be discussed with the shortlisted tenderers during the meeting planned between July and August, prior to signing the contract.
14.	In 3.3. of the draft contract attached to the call for tenders, such penalties are mentioned with reference to Annex B (which is empty). Does this mean that such penalties can be excluded in case the project is awarded?	A similar response to Q1 applies. Additionally, this matter can also be addressed during the meeting with the shortlisted contractors.