

Ministerial Procurement Unit

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REFERENCE NUMBER: MGOZ/MPU T 22/2020

Tender for the provision of incontinence diapers, pull-ups, pads and inco-sheet for senior citizens and persons with special needs for the Ministry for Gozo

Clarification No. 1

Clarification Requests

Question 1: With reference to item 4, being Adult Diapers Extra Extra Large, it has come to our attention that the inclusion of this size in the provided list has the effect of excluding a number of economic operators and is artificially narrowing competition. Factually, Extra Extra Large may be offered by only one (maximum of two) economic operators.

The annual quantity of Extra Extra Large accounts for 0.0047 percent of the total consumption of this tender.

The authority may also wish to make reference to previous publications by other ministerial contracting authorities who sought not to limit competition by eliminating size Extra Extra Large all together.

The design of this procurement document is unduly favoring an economic operator whilst also disadvantaging the majority of other economic operators. In view of equal treatment for all bidders, may we ask that this clarification is given appropriate consideration and a decision communicated to all economic operators who have expressed interest prior to the closing date.

Answer 1: **Along with all the other items in the Financial Bid Form, Item 4 (Extra Extra Large Adult Diapers) is part of the requirements of the Contracting Authority. Consequently, bidders are expected to bid for all items including Item 4.**

Question 2: Can you please advise the previous awarded prices please?

Answer2: **Further to the provided estimate in the tender dossier, the previous awarded prices are the following:**

Adult Medium	0.30c
Adult Large	0.33c
Adult Extra Large	0.41c
Pull-Ups Medium	0.47c
Pull-Ups Large	0.59c
Pull-Ups Extra Large	0.57c
Female Pads	0.13c
Female Pads Extra Absorbent	0.15c
Inco-Sheets	0.18c

The above prices are exclusive of VAT. No award prices are available for the Adult Extra Extra Large as this is a new item.

In line to clause 1.3 of the Instructions to tenderers, the Estimated Procurement Value, based on market research, is that of €231,855 excluding VAT. The purpose of this value shall be the guidance of prospective bidders when submitting their offer and is not to be considered as a binding capping price. Therefore, the published Estimated Procurement Value is not restrictive and final on the Contracting Authority. Economic Operators are free to submit financial offers above or below the Estimated Procurement Value. However, the Contracting Authority reserves the right to accept or reject Financial Offers exceeding the Estimated Procurement Value.

All other tender documents, conditions and requirements, which are not superseded by this Clarification, remain in place.