



OPEN CALL FOR TENDER

Representation of PPE and Textile Care SMEs in the European standardisation process

The appointment of the selected entity is subject to the approval of the SBS Board.

The appointment of the selected SME entity is contingent on the approval of the 2019 Work Programme and budget as well as the signature of the annual Operating Grant by the European Commission.

Small Business Standards has been selected by the European Commission as the organisation to represent SMEs in the standardisation process.

In this framework, SBS is launching a public call for tender in order to collect manifestations of interest from sectors where SME interests need to be voiced in the standardisation process. The sector of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Textile Care needs such a specific focus as standards in this field have great impact on business operations, including those of SMEs. As there is an increasing interest in standardisation by SME organisations focussing on PPE and Textile Care, the objective of this call is to select an entity representing SMEs in the PPE and Textile Care sector. The selected entity will carry out sectoral activities which provide for a better representation of SMEs in the development of PPE and Textile Care standards at European level.

This new call is co-funded by the European Commission and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA).

The contract will cover activities in the field of PPE and Textile Care all of which fall under SBS' Work Programme 2019. SBS will select, through this tendering procedure, the entity that demonstrates the technical and professional capability to perform activities to represent SMEs operating within the PPE and Textile Care sector in the standardisation process.

Applications should be submitted to president@sbs-sme.eu

Deadline: 9 September midnight (CET).

www.sbs-sme.eu

A. Description of work and actions

SBS has identified the following activities as relevant for its 2019 Work Programme. The selected entity will lead all the activities on PPE and Textile Care related standardisation issues and be responsible for them as a whole, including their conception, setting up, planning, implementation and follow-up. In addition to the PPE and Textile Care related activities set out in the 2019 Work Programme, the selected entity will, upon request by SBS, collaborate, with SBS and if required, take the lead on ad-hoc issues where PPE and Textile Care expertise is needed.

✓ Engage with national industry associations to strengthen representation of SMEs at EU level

The selected entity will ensure the coordination of national industry associations and design joint actions to support SMEs on PPE and Textile Care standardisation with particular regard to the current regulatory framework, i.e. the PPE Regulation (EU) 2016/425 and Medical Devices Regulation (EU) 2017/745.

✓ Engage with SMEs and develop sectoral positions

The selected entity will regularly engage with the SME community to provide information about relevant standardisation activities in the field of PPE and Textile Care standardisation. Moreover, the relevant SME community will engage in discussions to stimulate feedback and elaborate consensus-based positions on SME issues relevant to sectoral standardisation in the PPE and Textile Care sector.

✓ Analysis of SME-relevant matters concerning the application of the PPE Regulation and Medical Devices Regulation

This action will respond to the need for PPE and Textile Care SMEs to actively contribute to standardisation issues related to the implementation of the PPE Regulation and Medical Devices Regulation. The selected entity will ensure the representation of SBS in stakeholder groups set up by the European Commission and dealing with the implementation of PPE Regulation (EU) 2016/425 and Medical Devices Regulation (EU) 2017/745.

✓ Representation of SMEs in relevant European technical groups

The aim of this activity is to represent SMEs in technical groups (e.g. CEN-CENELEC Sector Forum on Personal Protective Equipment, etc.) so as to facilitate the exchange of information between the various stakeholders impacted by, involved in or interested in the European standardisation activities in the areas of PPE and Medical Devices. In particular, the selected entity will closely follow standardisation developments in the area of smart garments and equipment.

✓ Elaboration of technical information and dissemination of SME-targeted information

The selected entity will draft articles about ongoing standardisation activities that take place in the different groups at European level and that are of relevance for SMEs, such as regulatory compliance,



involvement of notified bodies, new standardisation activities, innovation of the hygiene management systems and certification costs.

✓ SBS PPE and Textile Care Forum and seminar on PPE Regulation (EU) 2016/425

The selected entity will manage the SBS Forum on PPE and Textile Care Forum standards for SMEs. The Forum will build on the experience of the first EU SBS workshop on PPE and Textile Care. The participation in the Forum will be opened to SMEs, national industry associations, representatives of the EU institutions and other stakeholders to discuss and share information about ongoing SME-relevant activities on PPE and Textile Care standards.

Furthermore, the selected entity will organise a seminar that will analyse the changes, the obligations and timing for the validity of certificates as set up in the PPE regulation. The seminar will also look at the changes of PPE and Textile Care standards as well as offer an opportunity to link standardisation activities to the 2018/2019 EU OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) campaign "Manage dangerous substances".

B. Budget

All proposals in the range of €100 000 VAT included will be considered. The allocation of the budget is subject to the approval of the SBS Board. The selected entity shall commit to co-finance 11% of the total cost of the action by reimbursing SBS of the relevant amount.

C. Evaluation of proposals

The tendering process will ensure that the best candidate is selected based on the following criteria:

- Expertise in standardisation for SMEs in PPE and Textile Care, both from a policy as well as from a technical perspective (points: 6/10)
- Representativeness of European SMEs operating in the field of PPE and Textile Care and standardisation (points: 4/10)

Applying organisations must demonstrate sound financial management and a detailed plan of actions (including person-day allocation for activities).

In the evaluation of proposals, specific attention will be granted to the technical and professional capacity of the organisation in view of its ability to perform the contract.

Entities replying to this tender do not need to be a member of SBS.

For more information, please contact SBS Secretariat (info@sbs-sme.eu)

Tel +32 2 285 07 27

www.sbs-sme.eu

The objectives of SBS, as laid out in Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012, are to:

- represent the interests of SMEs in the standardisation process at European level
- raise their awareness for standardisation
- motivate them to become involved in the standardisation process

SBS is the organisation selected by the European Commission, via a call for proposals, to carry out activities in line with the objectives above. All activities are co-funded by the European Commission and EFTA member states.