

ITB REFERENCE: 2023/ITB/037


**FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FRAME AGREEMENTS FOR THE SUPPLY OF:
LOT 1: MEDIUM THERMAL SYNTHETIC (FLEECE) BLANKET, RECYCLED
AND
LOT 2: HIGH THERMAL SYNTHETIC (FLEECE) BLANKET, RECYCLED**


QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

DATE: 08/03/2024

No.	Questions	Answers
1	Could you please provide a brief specification regarding the preferred weight and size of the blankets?	<p>In accordance with the Annex A.1 and Annex A.2 related to technical specifications:</p> <p>LOT 1: Medium Thermal Blanket Weight: Minimum 400g/m² maximum 700g/m² weight determined by total weight/total surface. Size: 150 x 200cm +3%/-1%. Measured on a flat stabilized sample, without folds</p> <p>LOT 2: High Thermal Blanket Weight: Minimum 500g/m² maximum 1000g/m² weight determined by total weight/total surface. Size: 150 x 200cm +3%/-1%. Measured on a flat stabilized sample, without folds.</p>
2	Is there any specific lab approved by UNHCR from which we can send our samples for testing and get the certificates?	There are no specific laboratories recommended by UNHCR. Bidders need to ensure that certificates are issued by an internationally recognized laboratory.
3	We manufacture blankets made from acrylic yarns that have been recycled. As a result, we would like to know whether this would be acceptable in the tender?	The material composition of the blankets shall be 100% recycled polyester.
4	Can we go through INTERTEX LAB which is internationally recognized lab?	INTERTEK is acceptable. Bidders need to ensure all tests are performed as required in the technical specifications.
5	Does the bidder (who is not manufacturer of blankets) has to get product tested on his end or the supplier from whom he is procuring the product can share the test report to bidder?	If the Bidder is not the Manufacturer, they need to provide the same information on the manufacturing company/ companies that they are procuring the item from. Bidders must provide the relevant Laboratory Certificates of each product/sample offered which need to be issued by an internationally recognized laboratory and can be provided by the manufacturing company.

6	Please let us know if it is acceptable to get our blankets tested at SGS India and subsequently submit the lab test reports issued to us from SGS India?	Local offices of SGS are acceptable.
7	<p>Could you please advise whether the committee may accept 100% Virgin polyester blankets?</p> <p>Could you please advise whether the committee may accept 70% Recycled Polyester + 30% Recycled Cotton blanket?</p> <p>Could you please advise whether the committee may accept partially recycled blankets such as 85% Recycled Polyester + 15% Virgin Polyester?</p>	The material composition of the blankets shall be 100% recycled polyester.
8	<p>How will the order qty be shipped throughout the year?</p> <p>Is the qty spread out and through how many shipments?</p> <p>Are the shipments sent to one or multiple locations?</p>	<p>The estimated annual requirement of UNHCR is for 2,200,000 high thermal and 2,000,000 for medium thermal blankets, however this is an estimated figure, it does not represent a commitment. Quantities may vary and will depend on the actual needs and funds available regulated by the issuance of individual Purchase Orders against the Frame Agreement.</p> <p>The main five shipping destinations of the past three years were: (1) Dubai, UAE UNHCR Global Stockpile, (2) Nairobi, Kenya UNHCR Global Stockpile, (3) Amman, Jordan (4) Juba, South Sudan (5) Gaziantep, Turkey.</p>
9	<p><i>Material Content:</i></p> <p>There is requirement of the Blanket made with 100% recycled polyester.</p> <p>MTB & HTB: Outer layers will be knitted and will be made with 100% recycled polyester, but can we use non-woven fabric as central layer of blanket made with recycled polyester as well as other recycled materials like cotton, wool, acrylic and PET etc. (from post-consumer waste)? More importantly the product quality and integrity will not be compromised & this will encourage the zero waste policy.</p>	Based on the specification we cannot accept it, as we want a mono-material blanket, made of 100% recycled polyester only.

10	<p><i>Finishing:</i> It requires whipped seam at 10mm from the edge with minimum of 10 stitches / 10 cm. Can we go with whipped seam at 5 mm minimum from the edge with more number of stitches like 20-35 stitches / 10 cm which is more secured, durable and strengthened? This is more innovative way of stitching as well.</p>	<p>This is acceptable as the minimum number of stitches is 10. Any innovative finishing needs to ensure that quality is not compromised.</p>
11	<p><i>Tertiary Packaging:</i> We can comply the given requirement. What if we eliminate the plastic wrapping, even quality will not be compromised, and cargo will still be safe? This will reduce the single used plastic in the packaging as well.</p>	<p>It is acceptable. Bidders may offer cost-efficient and sustainable packaging solutions considering that products are protected and safe from any damage including water and moisture during handling, transportation, and storage.</p>
12	<p><i>Marking of the Bale:</i> It requires the marking on all side of bale. Can we apply the marking on 2 sides of bale which is also clearly visible and prominent? Coz other sides of bale has stitches where marking couldn't be applied, please see attached bale picture for more clarification. This is a more sustainable way as well because less paper & ink will be used.</p> 	<p>This is acceptable as long as the marking is clearly visible.</p>

		
13	<p><i>Secondary Packaging Medium Thermal Blanket:</i></p> <p>Bale Dimension: Should we go with the bale dimension (L80 x W53 x H55 +/- 20%) to optimize container loading? Load-ability file is enclosed here.</p> <p>Pack Factor: Can we pack 22 pcs per bale instead of 20 pcs per bale for palletized loading in 40' HC Container as 10% load-ability will be increased?</p> <p>With the above-mentioned bale dimension and optimized loading 40FT HC load - ability can be increased.</p> <p>Please confirm if this is acceptable.</p>	<p>The bidder can propose alternative loading capacity.</p> <p>Final number of pieces per bale will be informed to all successful bidders.</p>
14	<p><i>Secondary Packaging High Thermal Blanket</i></p> <p>Bale Dimension: Should we go with the bale dimension (L80 x W53 x H55 +/- 20%) to optimize container loading? Load-ability file is enclosed here.</p> <p>Pack Factor: Can we pack 17 pcs per bale instead of 15 pcs per bale for palletized loading in 40' HC Container as 10% load-ability will be increased?</p> <p>With the above-mentioned bale dimension and optimized loading 40FT HC load - ability can be increased.</p>	<p>The bidder can propose alternative loading capacity.</p> <p>Final number of pieces per bale will be informed to all successful bidders.</p>

	Please confirm if this is acceptable.	
15	<p>We will make laboratory tests with a sample that is the same as specified in the technical specifications of the tender, but the only difference is color.</p> <p>Available samples are ecru. However, we will send dark uniform color samples which are in the production process to UNHCR GSM Dubai Warehouse. In case of award, production will be the same as the samples which we will send to UNHCR. Could you please advise whether the technical evaluation committee may accept these laboratory results?</p>	The sample to be sent for laboratory tests shall be the same as specified in the technical specifications including the color.
16	<p>The factory informed that they require 60 days to prepare the sample and lab report after the release of the Q&A. We therefor kindly ask you to allow an extension of 60 days for the submission of the tender 2023/ITB/037.</p>	<p>We are extending the deadline for offers and samples to 25 April 2024.</p> <p>NEW CLOSING DATE AND TIME OF SUBMISSION OF SAMPLES AND BIDS IS 25 APRIL 23:59 HRS CEST.</p>
17	<p>Laboratory certificates – We understand that there will be a requirement to provide a laboratory test result report for the products from an internationally recognized laboratory. With regards to these requirements, and since we are a trading company, kindly clarify if the laboratory certificate submitted can be in the name of the manufacturing partner where the products are manufactured for UNHCR or does the laboratory certificate have to be in the name of our company as the trader.</p>	Bidders must provide the relevant Laboratory Certificates of each product/sample offered, preferably from the same sample batch under the manufacturing company's name.
18	Has the deadline for receipting questions also been extended?	Yes, the deadline for submitting questions is 26 February 2024 23:59 CET.
19	We understand that samples need to be dispatched to Dubai for visual inspection.	

	We would like to know what testing or inspection will be carried out for the same?	UNHCR will conduct a visual inspection to ensure that the items meet the technical specifications and standards required by the Organization. Samples will be kept as a reference.
20	Material /Content – As it is mentioned Material should be 100% Recycled Polyester. What evidence do you need to Authenticate the Recycled Material? We have GRS Certificate available. Will this be good to authenticate the same?	Bidders are required to provide: 1) Self-certification of 100% recycled content according to Appendix-1 in Annex B-2 of the ITB and in line with ISO 14001:2015 2) GRS certification or equivalent. It is recommended that bidders provide a third-party verification process (e.g. content claim standard, audits) that certifies the percentage of recycled content in the final product.
21	High thermal Blankets – Provided if whole is 100% Recycled polyester then How many Plies are Allowed to achieve the TOG of the high Thermal and Can we Use the Poly Wedding in the Layers for the TOG achievability?	The number of layers is not limited by the specification. However, the recommended thickness of the blanket should be between 9.5 and 13 mm. The blanket should be made of 100% recycled polyester. So, if the “Poly Wedding” layer(s) are made of 100% recycled polyester fibers, and if the resulting blanket satisfies all the technical requirements of the specification, then it can be accepted.
22	Concerning the weight of Blanket, please kindly help us confirm the weight 400-700 & 500-1000 is for gram/m2, or for single piece?	As per the specifications the weight of high thermal blankets is minimum 500 g/m2 maximum 1000 g/m2 equivalent to minimum 1500 grams and maximum 3000 grams. For medium thermal, minimum 400 g/m2 maximum 700 g/m2 equivalent to minimum 1200 grams maximum 1400 grams.
23	In 2.4.1.5 Product sample, require us to send 5 pcs samples per offered product. Is it acceptable if we send 2 pcs for each weight samples, we plan to provide 4-5 different weight options, 400 g/m2, 600 g/m2, 800 g/m2, 1000 g/m2?	Bidders can provide a minimum of 5 pieces of each sample.
24	ANNEX B.2 require us to provide GRS certification for Recycled material, would you please to confirm whether we also should provide GRS certification for finished blanket?	Bidders are required to provide: 1) Self-certification of 100% recycled content (Appendix-1 in Annex B-2) in conformity with ISO 14001:2016/Amd. 1:2021 Environmental Labels and claims


		<p>2) GRS certification or equivalent for the polyester yarn used for the blankets production is required</p> <p>It is recommended that bidders provide a third-party verification process (e.g. content claim standard, audits) that certifies the percentage of recycled content in the final product.</p>
25	Is it acceptable if we provide Certificate of Original for previous exporting product?	Bidders must provide a Certificate of Origin of the product under this ITB, indicating the factory name and address.
26	Is it possible to postpone the delivery date of product samples by 1-2 weeks? Considering Chinese New Year starts on February 9th, all blanket suppliers will be closed by the end of Jan and reopen after the Lantern Festival (Feb 24th). The time for us to produce and mail samples is quite tight.	Samples of the blankets should be submitted before the closing date of the bidding. Deadline for submission is 25th APRIL 23:59 HRS CEST.
27	Which International labs are approved for testing?	There are no specific laboratories recommended by UNHCR. Bidders need to ensure that certificates are issued by an internationally recognized laboratory.
28	Has the compression been increased from 40% in the older specifications to 60% in the newer specifications?	The optimal compression rate is 60% under this ITB.
29	While filling up technical form for this bid, it asks us to submit company documents like Certificate of incorporation, QAC Audited financials, if not registered with UNHCR. Please let us know where to submit these documents or should we attach along with other bid documents while submitting for the bid?	Please attach the required documents to the technical proposal and upload it in the dedicated eTenderbox.
30	Our firm is SEDEX certified, Whether SEDEX is equivalent to SA8000 for the purpose of this tender?	SEDEX is acceptable.
31	There are certain licenses which take time, specially SA8000, can we submit the application of applied-for at time of submission i.e. 8 April,2023 and final Certificate afterwards?	It is acceptable to submit the certificate application with the offer, in the event supplier is qualified, the award of contract will be subject to the submission of final certificate.
32	Recycled Polyester Fiber is an imported raw material for the production of blankets. We need to hold the stock of this raw material to respond demands of UNHCR in a timely manner.	Regrettably UNHCR cannot commit to buy any quantity throughout the Frame Agreement.

	Could you please advise in case of an award, whether the committee may issue quarter-based or annual-based purchase plans to give opportunity to producers organize their production lines effectively?	
33	ANNEX B.2, 3.1: Local means within the Same Country or within the same city of bidder?	Local means within the same country of the manufacturing company.
34	As per current AQL Required Bale Height is minimum 65 cms whereas in ITB it is mentioned Required Bale Height minimum 70 cms. With a minimum Bale height of 70 cms, Less quantity will be loaded in the Container.	According to the specification requirements, one bale should include a minimum of 15 pcs of high thermal blankets compressed by a maximum of 60%. Alternative solutions are acceptable, in this case, the bidder needs to demonstrate how the solutions maximize the container's load ability, contribute to less waste and ensure it is safe and secure while handling, transporting and storage the items.
35	UNHCR Item Number is different in Annex C and Annex A.1. Please clarify which is the correct Item Number?	The correct item number is in Annex A.1, in the specification.
36	ANNEX B.2, 1.2: Do we have to submit Supplier Invoice only for Raw Material of Blankets i.e. Polyester Yarn or other materials as well like Packing Material etc.? What do we have to submit in Certificate issued by Supplier of Raw Material. Do we have to submit Invoice or anything else?	The bidder needs to provide evidence that verifies the country of origin of raw material in this case recycled material for example: purchasing documentation and other available records.
37	ANNEX B1.1,2.1.3: Do we have to provide List of all the PO's received during the last 5 Years or do we have to submit list of some PO-s?	A summary list of all POs in the last five years for similar items indicating the order number, type of product and destination.
38	Is it possible to provide two different set of (5) samples, for the same price? Meaning that you would be able to choose between two sets of samples for the same item and same price, for both types of goods.	You may provide different sets of 5 samples, however please mark/number the samples and technical documents so that it is clear which laboratory reports etc. belong to which sample.
39	In Annex B.2, its mentioned "EACH BIDDER IS TO PROVIDE AND SIGN A DECLARATION OF HONOR".	Please provide a cover letter with a formal statement declaring that the information provided in the documents are true and correct.

	Could you please provide Format of Declaration of Honor?	
40	In Annex A.1, HT blanket specifications, we have noticed the thickness range minimum 9.5mm and maximum 13mm. Could you let us know the reason for the maximum range?	The reason for limiting the maximum thickness of a blanket is the need to satisfy the specification requirement with less material used, as well as keeping compact packaging.
41	GRS certification is issued to entities validating the conformity of their practices for finished or intermediate products, based on materials that may be pre and/or post-consumer recycled. GRS does not certify that any given production is fabricated from 100% post-consumer recycled material. Does UNHCR foresee any requirement for a system of traceability per PO, to verify that post-consumer recycled materials have been used?	It is required to provide a self-certification of recycled content in conformity with ISO 14001:2016/Amd. 1:2021 Environmental Labels and claims. If possible, bidders should seek for recycled content certification from authorized companies that verify and certify recycled content claims on the final products. During the implementation of contract, UNHCR may perform factory audits in which the verification of the process and quantity of recycled material will be carried out.
42	The weighting given to sustainability evaluation is clear (environmental 50%, social 30% economic 20%). We understand that if a bid passes 50% of the total available points in the sustainability evaluation (>15 points) and passes the technical evaluation then the bids will be evaluated and awarded solely on lowest priced offer. Is our interpretation correct, or will the sustainability evaluation have an impact on the overall evaluation? If so, in which proportion will sustainability vs. price be evaluated?	The technical evaluation will be based on pass/fail. In the case of sustainability criteria, a scoring system has been established to evaluate offers based on the 3 aspects of sustainability to determine whether a supplier and a product meet minimum sustainability requirements, those who achieve 50% or more will be qualified (pass) to be considered for financial assessment.
43	Manufacturing HTF and MTF blankets with PCR materials is a relatively new innovation, and as manufacturers we are continuing to calibrate our processes to optimize product quality. In the event that a non-conformity is observed in the 3rd party testing report, would this lead to the immediate rejection of a bidder's offer, or would there be a possibility to rectify the observed non-conformance?	Bidders are required to provide a certificate confirming that the product offered meets the technical specifications and in compliance with the standards and quality required. Non-conformity will lead to disqualifying the offer.
44	As per us 20 Medium Thermal Blankets height before Compression is 128 cms and after 60 % Compression the bale	According to the requirements, one bale should include a minimum of 20 pcs of medium thermal blankets compressed by a maximum

	height should be 52 cms but the Specification as per tender states that minimum bale height should be 70 cms. Please kindly clarify.	of 60%. Alternative solutions are acceptable, in this case, the bidder needs to demonstrate how the solutions maximize the container's load ability, contribute to less waste and ensure it is safe and secure while handling, transporting and storage the items.
45	If we are able to meet all the UNHCR tender technical requirements pertaining to both Medium and High thermal blankets (like tensile tests and weight loss tests after 3 times of washes), shall we confirm that our blankets are having a minimum life span of 2.5 years and shelf life of 7 years. Are there any other methods to establish this claim?	As per the technical specification, the durability of blankets is demonstrated by tensile tests and weight loss tests after 3 times of washes. The shelf life and lifespan will be additionally confirmed during storage and during operation. No additional laboratory tests are required to confirm the shelf life and lifespan.
46	Is it possible to receive physical blanket samples from UNHCR under payment? We would like to get sample blankets for 1) Medium thermal blanket - 1 No. 2) High thermal blanket - 1 No., from UNHCR, Budapest, to our address.	UNHCR does not provide samples to any party in the tendering process. Annex A, the Specification clearly defines the requirements.
47	Since the palletization cost is very high, could you allow us to quote only for "Unit cost for bulk delivery in bales", without quoting for "Unit cost for palletized delivery"?	Bidders must also quote for palletized delivery, as several Global Stockpile of UNHCR only accepts palletized goods.
48	We have got our blankets Tested at ISO 17025 Certified & NABL Certified Lab, will you accept these test Reports?	Bidders need to ensure that testing is according to the technical specifications. There are no specific laboratories recommended by UNHCR. Certificates must be issued by an internationally recognized laboratory.
49	For HT Blanket you have specified the weight 500-1,000 Gsm & for MT Blanket your specified Weight is 400-700 GSM. What we have noticed that many suppliers supplied test report of higher GSM but during Supply they supply less GSM Products but within the above mentioned ranges. I think this is not appropriate on financial grounds. Kindly Clarify?	This is an acceptable range given to ensure sufficient competition. Bidders shall present cost-effective solutions within this range. Those qualified suppliers will be required to comply with technical specifications as part of the general terms and conditions for contracts for goods. This is part of contractors' obligations and part of the ethical business behavior expected of them. At the same time, UNHCR will conduct random quality inspections to verify that products meet technical specifications.

50	Our unit is under GRS Certification, for which we need 60 days' time extension.	See the answer to question 16.
51	Our Research team is developing a new MT & HT Blanket With GSM of 1220 & 1550 for which final Internal Tests are going and after that some time for Lab Certification also required. We request you to please provide us 60 Days more time extension	See the answer to question 16.
52	Is Medium Thermal Blanket single ply or double Ply? Can u kindly tell us its thickness of each ply? and can u kindly tell us approximately weight of a single medium thermal blanket as your specification's has a lot of weight variation from 1.2 kg to 2.1?	The technical specification for MTB does not limit the number of layers in a blanket design, nor does it limit the thickness of individual layers (in the case blanket consists of several layers). The blanket design should ensure the needed insulation for the end users as well as satisfy other technical requirements listed in the specification. The technical specification requires the overall weight within the range 1.2-2.1 kg/blanket for a dimension of 1.5 X 2.0 m MTB
53	Is high thermal blanket of double or triple Ply? If Triple ply kindly specify each ply thickness? and kindly elaborate center ply specification in detail for i.e. Material, thickness etc.? Can you kindly tell us approximately weight of a single high thermal blanket as your specification's has a lot of weight variation from 1.5 kg to 3kg?	The technical specification for HTB does not limit the number of layers in a blanket design, nor does it limit the thickness of individual layers (in the case blanket consists of several layers). The blanket design should ensure that the needed insulation for the end users as well as satisfy other technical requirements listed in the specification. The technical specification requires the overall weight of within the range 1.5-3.0 kg/blanket for a dimension of 1.5 X 2.0 m HTB.
54	Would u prefer blankets only overlapped from sides or piping?	As per the technical specification, the edges of the blankets should be whipped seamed at 10 mm from the edge with a minimum of 10 stitches/10cm or stitched ribbon or hemmed on 4 sides. Piping is not required.

		
55	<p>We have an enquiry on a specification for clarification please.</p> <p>High Thermal Blankets - Thickness ISO 5084: Minimum 9.5mm (1KPa on 2000mm²) maximum 13mm – We have noted that there is now a maximum thickness parameter in place for High Thermal Blankets. We are easily able to achieve this thickness when the blanket is taken from a compressed bale. However, please advise if a thickness of around 14mm would be acceptable for laboratory testing where the blanket is not from a compressed bale.</p>	<p>As per the technical specification, samples for laboratory testing must be from compressed bales. Samples of compressed bales are to be prepared with only 5 blankets folded once more than in normal bales, at a 60% compression ratio, and are to remain compressed for one-week minimum before testing.</p>
56	<p>We have applied to the UN Global Compact for becoming a participant. UN Global Compact has accepted our company as a participant in their platform. Attached a screenshot of our firm being confirmed on the UN Global compact platform with participant ID. No. This is for your information. Please confirm that we are complying with the requirements for UN Global Compact, to participate in the Polyester Blanket tenders floated by UNHCR.</p>	<p>Please submit evidence of your Bidding firms being member of the UN Global Compact with your Technical Offer.</p>
We 57	<p>We would like to know any available price data for the Polyester Blanket (Medium and High thermal) supplied to</p>	<p>We do not share this information.</p>

	UNHCR for the past 2 to 3 years, it will be helpful for us to proceed further. If these details are already declared in the public domain of UNHCR please let us know.	
58	<p>1. Our firm is SEDEX certified, whether SEDEX is equivalent to SA8000 for the purpose of this tender?</p> <p>2. There are certain licenses which take time specially SA8000, can we submit the application of applied-for at time of submission i.e. 8 April,2023 and final Certificate afterwards?</p>	<p>1. SEDEX is acceptable.</p> <p>2. The submission deadline has been extended to 25 April 2024 as per the answer to question 16.</p>
59	I am writing to request an extension for the deadline to submit the LTA application for thermal blankets.	See the answer to question 16.