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## Preliminary Request for Proposals Addendum 2 – November 27, 2024

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### Modernization of the EFFC/DFI Carbon Calculator for Geotechnical Construction

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#### 1. Purpose

The purpose of this Request for Proposals is to solicit technical and price proposals for modernization of the existing EFFC/DFI Carbon Calculator for Geotechnical Construction with the current state of practice in life cycle carbon assessment.

#### 2. Background

The European Federation of Foundation Contractors (EFFC) Sustainability Working Group and The Deep Foundations Institute (DFI) Sustainability Committee formed the joint EFFC/DFI Carbon Calculator Task Group (hereinafter the Task Group) to update and improve the [EFFC/DFI Carbon Calculator](#) (hereinafter the Calculator). The Carbon Calculator is an Excel-based tool that calculates the CO<sub>2e</sub> emissions of foundation and geotechnical works. It is designed to allow contractors, engineers, and commissioning organizations alike to assess the carbon emissions of their projects. The tool was developed using verifiable, standardized data to enable accurate benchmarking of competing project proposals.

While recognizing the industry-leading initiative that led to the development of the existing tool, the Task Group has identified a need to update and modernize the Calculator. Based on feedback from Task Group members, users, and other industry groups, the Task Group is recommending the redevelopment of the Calculator in a primarily web-based application.



The Task Group recognizes and emphasizes the elevated awareness of and need for carbon emission calculation, reduction, and reporting. This initiative will help member firms satisfy procurement and contracting requirements as well as meet internal, local, regional, national, and international climate goals.

### 3. Addendum 2 Changes

The following updates & changes are provided for consideration by potential proposers. Proposals shall include acknowledgement of this Addendum.

- **Questions and Answers**

- The following questions were received from interested parties. Some have been combined or paraphrased for clarity. No verbal statements by any member of the Task Group are to be considered official answers for this RFP.

Question	Answer
Should the Calculator be a system where you can save your data “in the cloud”?	Yes.
Should the Calculator work with local files to download/upload?	Yes. The Task Group is prioritizing the ability to import and export project data in a standard, static .xlsx (or similar) format. The data should not be stored in local files.
What level of data security or encryption are required (e.g., GDPR compliance)?	The Calculator must be compliant with GDPR requirements and industry standard data storage requirements.
Should it be web only or maybe additionally downloadable as a windows app, which could then work with the cloud or down/upload?	Web-based only.
Should the hosting be done by the solution provider?  If so, how many years should the offer include?	The Task Group strongly prefers generic, 3rd party cloud hosting platforms (e.g., Amazon AWS, Google, Microsoft Azure). If the proposer prefers to host themselves, they shall provide documentation of security & capacity of their proprietary platform commensurate with industry standards.  Hosting fee to be negotiated separately from this proposal.
How many users are to be expected?	Anticipate 20 simultaneous users and 1,000 user accounts.
Should it be possible to upload/download data?	Yes.
Should it be possible to define further categories (like Anchor, Boring,...) for yourself or is this system-given?	The categories are to be system-defined. A generic “Other” category should be provided without categorical assumptions or presets.
Should there be a user system to login?	Yes.
If yes, should social logins work?	No.
Should there be the possibility to add user groups and give them access to your projects/data?	Yes, this is strongly preferred.



Should it be possible to customize the final report?	It should be possible to customize the format and narrative, not the calculations or results.
Should it be possible to link to results, and send them to others?	The Task Group prefers having the ability to share links to projects with other users. Reports downloaded from the Calculator can be shared externally.
Should there be a simple permission system (write for me, read for e.g. people with only the link)?	User privileges shall be discussed and implemented during the development. Generally, DFI/EFFC should have "super user" admins for back end access. Users within specific groups may have varying levels of permissions/access.
Who will update the emission factor and project/technique databases?	Typically, the emission factor database should be regularly updated based on links to publicly available databases. The proposer shall coordinate with EFFC/DFI "super users" to verify changes & updates.  The project/technique database shall be updated by the proposer based on input and data from EFFC/DFI.
Is it possible for the user to upload emission factor data?	Yes. The calculations & reports shall automatically indicate if 3rd party / verified carbon emission data is used.
Should there be a superuser who updates the data?	Yes. Superusers should be identified in collaboration with EFFC & DFI.
Should the old data still be available and linked to the old reports, so they don't go stale?	Individual projects/reports should store the emission factors used in the original calculation. If the emission factor database is updated, the project should show a notification that the emission factor is out of date and may be modified.
What resources and support will the client provide during the project, such as database access, API documentation, or technical points of contact for questions?	EFFC/DFI will provide technical points of contact for questions and be available for regular progress meetings.  Project/technique database is not accessible except what is available in the Calculator & user manual.  Relevant API documentation must be sourced by the proposer.
Is there a designated party responsible for creating the detailed project specification, including the extraction of current features from the Excel file, development of user stories, and other conceptual planning? If not, would this be expected as part of our deliverables?	These conceptual planning steps will be performed in collaborative workshops between EFFC/DFI and the selected proposer.
Performance and Availability Requirements for the Web Application: Are there specific requirements regarding loading times, availability (e.g., 99.9%), and how detailed are the performance expectations?	Loading times and performance shall be commensurate with typical website functionality.
Interfaces and Interoperability: Define expectations for API functionalities, data formats, and standards to ensure	The Calculator should have the ability to connect with other APIs, in general. Import from .xlsx file types shall be provided. Export to .xlsx & .pdf shall be provided.



<p>seamless integration with external databases and existing client systems.</p>	
<p>Is there a preferred technical framework or platform for implementing user management, specifically regarding roles and permissions within the application and/or emissions database? Or is the choice of technology for managing access rights and roles at the contractor's discretion?</p>	<p>Preliminary tiers for purposes of proposal development; these may be modified in collaboration with the selected proposer.</p> <p>Tier 1 – group users / calculations &amp; reports only  Tier 2 – group supervision / management  Tier 3 – database modifier / back end statistics</p>
<p>Scope and Prioritization of Additional Features: Could you confirm which additional requirements are truly considered "must-haves" and which are "optional"? Is there a prioritized list of these requirements?</p>	<p>All "additional requirements" listed in the RFP are optional.</p>
<p>Support and Maintenance Post-Project: Is there a plan for ongoing support or a maintenance agreement after the development is completed? If so, what are the expectations, and what timeframe is envisioned?</p>	<p>Yes, this will be negotiated during development.</p>
<p>Approval Process for the Detailed Specification: How will the detailed specification be formally approved by the client? Is there a defined process with clear acceptance criteria to ensure mutual understanding of scope and requirements?</p>	<p>These conceptual planning steps will be performed in collaborative workshops between EFFC/DFI and the selected proposer.</p>
<p>Limit on Iterations: Will there be a set number of iterations allowed for the specification development, and how will it be determined when the specification is finalized?</p>	<p>EFFC/DFI cannot specify a limit at this time. This can be a subject of negotiations during planning and development.</p>
<p>Access to Current Excel Logic and Data Structures: Confirm availability of detailed documentation of the current Excel tool's calculation logic and data structures to streamline development and avoid critical omissions.</p>	<p>All logic and data structures are currently accessible in the publicly-available Calculator.</p>
<p>Regarding Point 3) in "REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS_Update to EFFC-DFI Carbon Calculator_FINAL" under Documentation: How much support will be provided by EFFC and DFI for creating the new user manual? Will there be specific resources or subject matter experts available for collaboration?</p>	<p>EFFC/DFI cannot define a specific level of support, but the Task Group and staff will actively collaborate during development.</p>
<p>Regarding Point 3) in "REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS_Update to EFFC-DFI Carbon Calculator_FINAL" under</p>	<p>If the proposer knows of and suggests complying with an unlisted standard, please include it in the proposal for consideration.</p>



Documentation: Could you specify which 'other recognized standards' are expected for the documentation and calculations?	
In which language(s) should the documentation and application interface be provided? Should it be only in English, or is a multi-language framework required? If so, who will be responsible for the translations?	Incorporate languages already included in the existing tool. Additional languages to be provided as additional scope.
Handling of Additional Effort for Unplanned Changes: How will additional requirements or changes be managed after the detailed specification is approved? Could we establish a change management process to document and contractually handle extra work?	Yes. Change management will be part of the planning and development process.
Separate Budget for Specification Phase: Is there a separate budget allocated for the development of the detailed specification that does not fall within the main implementation budget?	No. Please include the specification phase in the proposal.
Could you let us know what the budget is for this work?	Not at this time.
Do you have a specific time the proposal is due at or any time on Dec 13th and Jan 10th?	11:59PM Central European Time (GMT +1)
Could you let us know if you have a local preference or are you open to a Canadian agency that has done similar work with clients globally?	There is no local preference. Members of EFFC and DFI span many countries.

- **Schedule and Milestones**

- Due to the delay in Q&A, the Task Group will extend the proposal due date to.

Task	Milestone	Completion Date
1	RFP Release	October 10, 2024
1a	Question Deadline	November 8, 2024
1b	Release of Answers to Submitted Questions	<b>November 27, 2024</b>
2	Phase 1 Submission: Preliminary Proposal & Budget	<b>December 18, 2024</b>
3	Phase 2 Submission: Detailed Proposal & Cost Breakdown	January 10, 2025
4	Final Review, Presentation to EFFC/DFI Boards, and Approval	Late Q1 2025
5	Commencement of Work	Q2 2025
6	Alpha Version released for internal review	Q3 2025
7	Beta Version released for limited public use	Q1 2026
8	Full public release	Q3 2026