REQUEST FOR QUOTATION no. 18/2025/G/KONGO2

dated 16.07.2025r.

Application number KPOD.07.07-IW.07-0258/24

In connection with the planned implementation of the project entitled " Design, optimization of production and Preclinical Safety Assessment of a Novel Dual-Action Conjugate with Immunomodulatory and Cytotoxic Properties as a New Anticancer Drug Candidate" (recruitment KPOD.07.07-IW.07-003/24, application no. KPOD.07.07-IW.07-0258/24)co-financed by the Medical Research Agency, Celon Pharma S.A. invites you to submit offers.

CONTRACTING AUTHORITY:

Celon Pharma S.A.

Ogrodowa 2A,

05-092 Kielpin

VAT no.: 118-16-42-061

PARTIAL BIDS ACCEPTED: NO

ACCEPTANCE OF VARIANT OFFERS: NO

ORDER COMPLETION DATE: no later than 30 November 2025

I. ORDERING PROCEDURE:

- This order is not subject to the provisions of the Act of 11 September 2019. *Public Procurement Law*;
- This procurement is carried out in accordance with the principles of competitiveness, openness, transparency and equal access;
- The Contracting Authority reserves the right to cancel the procedure at any stage, without giving reasons;
- The Contracting Authority shall inform the Bidders and publish relevant information on the website of the Competitiveness Database in the event of changes to this request for proposal;
- The Contracting Authority reserves the right to ask the Bidders supplementary questions regarding additional information, documents or explanations;

- In justified cases, before the deadline for submission of tenders, the Contracting Authority reserves the right to modify or amend the content of the invitation to submit tenders;
- This invitation to submit tenders does not oblige the Contracting Authority to conclude a contract.

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE SUBJECT OF THE REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

CPV: 73100000-3 – Research, experimental and development services

The Ordering Party hereby invites proposals for the subcontracted provision of R&D services for the production of **bacterial endo-β-N-acetylglucosaminidase (EndoS)**. The enzyme will be used for antibody modification processes and must be delivered in a purified form, accompanied by full analytical documentation suitable for inclusion in an Investigational New Drug (IND) application.

The requested services include gene synthesis, bacterial expression system development, process optimization, scale-up production, purification, analytical characterization, and documentation preparation. All activities must be conducted using scalable and regulatory-compliant technologies, with potential for future transfer to GMP production.

The Ordering Party does not possess internal capabilities to execute the project. The detailed scope of services is specified below.

Production, purification and characterization of EndoS
The selected contractor will assume full responsibility for the execution of all project stages, including molecular biology, upstream processing using bacterial systems, protein purification, and analytical characterization. All services are expected to comply with industry standards regarding reproducibility, traceability, and scalability, taking into account downstream regulatory or commercial requirements. The selected contractor will be responsible for the full execution of the following milestones: **1. Project Initiation and Management** The selected subcontractor will manage the project via a dedicated multidisciplinary team under the supervision of a Project Manager responsible for coordination, execution, and communication. A formal kick-off meeting will launch the project, during which essential documentation will be transferred, quality attributes defined, and the detailed work plan finalized. A comprehensive project schedule including all milestones and deliverables will be maintained throughout the project. Regular progress updates will be provided, and all Joint Project Team (JPT) meetings will be formally documented to ensure alignment, transparency, and effective collaboration. **2. Gene Optimization, Synthesis, and Plasmid Construction** The contractor shall perform codon optimization and synthesis of the EndoS gene suitable for the selected bacterial expression system (preferably *E. coli* BL21(DE3) strain). The optimized gene will be

cloned into a proprietary or commercial bacterial expression vector (e.g., pET or equivalent). Plasmid construct validation, including restriction analysis and sequencing, will confirm integrity prior to expression.

Timeline: max. 2 weeks

Deliverables:

- Development report covering gene synthesis, optimization, and plasmid construction, including sequence data and plasmid maps.

3. Generation of Research and Primary Bacterial Cell Banks

The selected contractor will establish a certified Primary Cell Bank (PCB) of *E. coli* BL21(DE3) expressing Endo-β-N-acetylglucosaminidase (EndoS). This includes procuring competent cells, transforming them with the EndoS plasmid, and selecting resistant colonies. 4–6 clones will be screened in LB broth, and expression assessed via SDS-PAGE. The top-producing clone will be expanded to create the PCB, stored at -80°C. Full quality control will cover growth kinetics, expression verification, phage testing (double agar method), plasmid identity (restriction digest, Sanger sequencing), and contamination checks, ensuring cell bank stability and genetic consistency.

Timeline: max. 4 weeks

Deliverables:

- Certificate of Analysis (CoA) of the Primary Cell Bank, including comprehensive quality control data and results

4. Production and Purification Process Development

The selected contractor will develop a robust, scalable, and reproducible upstream and downstream process for EndoS enzyme production, targeting consistent yield and quality. All activities will be documented to support IND-enabling production.

Upstream Process Development will include optimization of fermentation process, using benchtop bioreactors of various working volumes (e.g. 3–5 L). Key process parameters—including temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, agitation speed, optical density (OD600), and induction kinetics—will be systematically evaluated and controlled to maximize biomass growth and recombinant protein expression.

Downstream Process Development will include optimization of the purification process, to meet purity, endotoxin, and aggregate specifications. Scale-up production will include optimized lysis and a scalable purification strategy. Affinity chromatography (e.g., His-tagged IMAC) is acceptable but must be followed by polishing (ion-exchange, diafiltration) to remove residual metals. A subcontractor's certificate confirming non-detectable or acceptably low nickel/cobalt levels will be required. A tag-free purification approach may also be evaluated. Polishing steps will ensure ≥90% purity (SEC-HPLC), with in-process controls (SDS-PAGE, SEC-HPLC, endotoxins) throughout.

Timeline: max. 5 weeks

Deliverables:

- Developed Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the manufacturing process, together with complete process documentation (Batch Records), enabling production of a material batch supporting the IND application.

5. Development of Analytical Methods for EndoS Characterization and Activity Assessment

The contractor must develop and implement analytical methods for structural characterization and enzymatic activity evaluation of EndoS. All methods must be suitable for quality control (QC) purposes and compliant with regulatory documentation requirements:

- Determination of protein concentration (A280 or equivalent method).
- SDS-PAGE analysis under both reducing and non-reducing conditions.
- Size Exclusion Chromatography (SEC-HPLC or SEC-UPLC).
- Capillary Electrophoresis (CE-SDS).

In addition, the subcontractor must establish a validated functional assay to evaluate the enzymatic activity of EndoS, based on IgG glycan hydrolysis. The assay may utilize fluorescence detection, HPLC, or another suitable quantitative method.

Timeline: maximum 5 weeks (to be performed in parallel with process development).

Deliverables:

- Summary report documenting the developed and optimized analytical methods, including release testing procedures suitable for QC applications
- All methods shall be documented in a format suitable for future transfer to GMP-compliant laboratories.

6. Qualified Batch Production and Analytical Release

The contractor will produce one IND-enabling batch of EndoS enzyme under controlled conditions, following the finalized process and analytical methods. All operations must be documented in a master batch record. Raw materials will be sourced exclusively from qualified suppliers, with Certificates of Analysis (CoA) and TSE statements provided. Production must follow ISO 9001-certified quality management standards, with validated cleaning procedures for reusable equipment and single-use consumables where applicable. Strict contamination controls will be maintained, including the use of sterile protective equipment and aseptic handling protocols. Final filtration must be performed in a controlled environment. The purified, sterile EndoS must be aliquoted into sterile microtubes and subjected to full quality control testing before release.

Timeline: max. 4 weeks

Deliverables:

- Guaranteed 200 mg of EndoS product;

- Certificate of Analysis (CoA) of IND enabling batch EndoS product, including data on yield, purity, and analytical methods; certificate confirming non-detectable or acceptably low residual metal levels and endotoxin test report, confirming compliance with <1 EU/mg protein.
- TSE statement of IND enabling batch EndoS product.

III. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION IN THE REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

- The offer should also be accompanied by the "*Statement of lack of personal and capital ties with the Contracting Authority*", which is attached as Appendix 1 to this RFQ,
- To submit a bid, it is required to attach a Declaration/Prove from the Bidder that he has experience in production and characterization of enzymes that are used for antibodies modification.

IV. CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF TENDERS

Method of assessment:

Criterion	Weight (%)	Maximum number of points to be obtained	Method of evaluation according to the following formula
Price (P)	80%	80 pts	$P = \frac{Lowest\ quoted\ price}{Quoted\ price}\ x\ 80\ points$
Time (T)	20%	20 pts	$T = \frac{Shortest\ study\ completion\ time}{Offered\ study\ completion\ time}\ x\ 20\ points$

The total number of points that a given offer will receive will be calculated according to the following formula:

L = P+T

L – total number of points;

C – points obtained in the "Price" criterion.

T – points obtained in the "Time" criterion.

V. ADDRESS AND DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS

1. The offer should be submitted via the website of the Competitiveness Database https://bazakonkurencyjnosci.funduszeeuropejskie.gov.pl/;

Below is instruction how to add an offer:

https://bazakonkurencyjnosci.funduszeeuropejskie.gov.pl/pomoc/59-help-for-abroad-users-registration-pomoc-dla-uzytkownikow-zagranicznych-wersja-angielska

https://bazakonkurencyjnosci.funduszeeuropejskie.gov.pl/pomoc/60-help-for-abroad-users-offers-pomoc-dla-uzytkownikow-zagranicznych-wersja-angielska

https://bazakonkurencyjnosci.funduszeeuropejskie.gov.pl/pomoc/61-help-for-abroad-users-asking-questions-pomoc-dla-uzytkownikow-zagranicznych-wersja-angielska

2. Withdrawal from the communication referred to in point 1 is permissible if:
   a) the nature of the order requires the use of tools, devices or file formats that are not supported with BK2021, or
   b) file format applications that are suitable for the preparation of bids or competition entries, use file formats that cannot be supported by any other open source or generally available applications, or are licensed and cannot be made available for download or remote use by the Contracting Authority, or
   c) the procurer requires the submission of a physical model, scale model or sample that cannot be provided via BK2021, or
   d) this is necessary due to the need to protect sensitive information, which cannot be sufficiently guaranteed by BK2021.

   In such cases, the offer with the required attachments should be submitted to the e-mail address paulina.gruszka@celonpharma.com.
3. The offer must be submitted no later than **23.07.2025.**;
4. Offers submitted after the deadline indicated above will not be considered;
5. Offers will be evaluated no later than **08.08.2025.**;
6. Offers submitted in foreign currency will be converted according to the exchange rate of the National Bank of Poland as of the date of settlement of the inquiry;
7. Information on the selection of offers will be published on the website of the https://bazakonkurencyjnosci.funduszeeuropejskie.gov.pl/ Competitiveness Database.

VI. PRESENTATION OF OFFERS

1. Each Bidder may submit only one offer in Polish or English;
2. The offer must include:

- The number of the request for quotation
- Date of preparation of the offer
- Date of completion order/service
- The details of the Tenderer: address, telephone number, e-mail address, Tax Identification Number (NIP) (if available),
- Include detailed information on the compliance of the proposed subject matter of the RFQ with the specification,
- If the offer was submitted by the Bidder operating in Poland: net price, gross price and tax due,
- If the offer was submitted by the Bidder operating outside Polish: net price and information on the absence of VAT and other taxes.

3. **The offer must remain valid until August 29, 2025.**
4. The costs of preparing the offer shall be borne by the Tenderer;
5. The due date of each invoice must be at least 30 days;
6. **The offer must be signed by persons authorised to represent the Contractor/Supplier (according to the National Court Register or power of attorney).**

VII. PROHIBITION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

A conflict of interest is inadmissible, therefore the Bidder is obliged to sign a declaration (Annex 1) on the absence or absence of influence of personal or capital links with the Ordering Party on the impartiality of the proceedings consisting of:

a) participating in a company as a partner in a civil partnership or a partnership, holding at least 10% of shares (unless a lower threshold results from legal provisions), performing the function of a member of the supervisory or management body, proxy, attorney,

b) b) being in a marital relationship, in a relationship of kinship or affinity in a direct line, kinship or affinity in a collateral line up to the second degree, or being related by adoption, care or guardianship or being in cohabitation with the Ordering Party, its legal representative or members of the management or supervisory bodies of the contractors applying for the award of the contract;

c) being in such a legal or factual relationship with the Ordering Party that there is a justified doubt as to their impartiality or independence in connection with the procedure for awarding the contract

A conflict of interest means any situation in which persons involved in the preparation or conduct of a procurement procedure or who may influence the outcome of that procedure have, directly or indirectly, a financial, economic or other personal interest that may be perceived as compromising their impartiality and independence in connection with the procurement procedure.

VIII. CONCLUSION OF THE CONTRACT

The bidder, whose offer is assessed as the most advantageous, is obliged to conclude a contract with the Contracting Authority. If the Tenderer whose offer has been selected refuses to conclude the contract, the Contracting Authority has the right to select the next Tenderer whose offer was the most advantageous among the remaining offers.

IX. CONTRACTUAL PENALTIES

The Tenderer shall pay the Contracting Authority the following contractual penalties:

- for delay in the delivery date of the subject of the contract, for each commenced day of delay, unless the delay is due to the fault of the Contracting Authority,
- in the event that the results of studies conducted with an equivalent product are not in line with expectations,
- the supplier agrees to deduct the amount of contractual penalties directly upon payment of the VAT invoice for the delivery.

Comments:

- Due to the necessity to maintain the continuity of research, the Contracting Authority provides for the possibility of placing a supplementary order in the amount not exceeding 50% of the contract value specified in the contract concluded with the selected Contractor/Supplier;
- The Contracting Authority allows for the possibility of cancelling the order or resigning from the order of goods and services included in the partial procedure or from the entire procedure, in the event of failure to obtain funds for the performance of this contract or in other cases when the performance of the order will not be in the interest of the Contracting Authority;
- Entities related to the Contracting Authority personally or by capital are excluded from participation in this procedure. Capital or personal ties shall be understood as mutual relations between the Contracting Authority or persons authorised to incur liabilities on behalf of the Contracting Authority or persons performing activities on behalf of the Contracting Authority related to the selection of the contractor and the contractor, consisting in particular of:
    a) participation in a company as a partner in a civil law partnership or a partnership,
    b) holding at least 10% of shares, unless the lower threshold results from the law or has not been determined by the MA PO,
    c) acting as a member of a supervisory or management body, proxy, proxy,

d) being married, in a relationship of consanguinity or affinity in the direct line, in a relationship of the second degree or affinity in the collateral line of the second degree, or in a relationship of adoption, guardianship or guardianship.

- The Contracting Authority allows for the possibility of negotiating the presented offer;
- The Contracting Authority reserves the right to amend the contract concluded with the selected Tenderer as a result of the public procurement procedure for the following reasons:
  a) justified changes in the manner in which the subject matter of the contract is performed,
  b) objective reasons beyond the control of the Contracting Authority or the Tenderer,
  c) changes in legal regulations in force on the date of signing the agreement,
  d) Majeure
  e) the occurrence of another obstacle beyond the control of the Tenderer, preventing the performance of the work,
  f) in the event of introducing changes to the Subject of the Agreement exceeding the material and/or financial scope indicated in the Offer, the Parties undertake that such changes will be introduced on the basis of an appropriate annex.
- In connection with the entry into force of the Act of 13 April 2022 on Special Solutions for Counteracting Support for Aggression against Ukraine and for the Protection of National Security (Journal of Laws, item 835), entities or citizens from the Russian Federation subject to the sanctions specified in Article 1 of the above-mentioned Act are excluded from participation in this procedure, provided that they are on the list of persons and entities on the date of submission of the offer, against which sanctioning measures should be applied, maintained on the website of the Public Information Bulletin of the Minister of the Interior and Administration.