



Request for Expressions of Interest

REAL CCS/BCS Proficiency Testing Programme

Background

REAL owns and administers the Biofertiliser Certification Scheme (BCS) and Compost Certification Scheme (CCS) aligned to BSI PAS 110:2014 and BSI PAS 100:2018, respectively. Upholding the requirements of PAS 110 and PAS 100 through these schemes is crucial to maintain market confidence in output quality, consistency, and safety.

BSI PAS 110:2014 and BSI PAS 100:2018 require that routine samples be taken and tested by independent laboratories for a range of test parameters. Two laboratories are currently approved by REAL for testing under the BCS and three under the CCS.

The approved laboratories are audited on an annual basis to ensure compliance with the current [terms and conditions \(T&Cs\)](#) for approved laboratories. In addition, approved laboratories participate in relevant PT programmes for standard methods; however, PT programmes do not exist for several critical scheme specific methods (Compost Stability, Residual Biogas Potential (Digestate Stability), Plant Response (for compost), and Physical Contaminants (for compost and digestate).

Purpose

This request for Expressions of Interest (EOI) is designed to help REAL to assess the technical feasibility and financial viability of developing an independently run proficiency testing (PT) programme for the scheme specific methods. Should one or more responses to this request for EOI suggest that an independently run PT programme is both technically feasible and financially viable, REAL will proceed to an open tender process.

Therefore, to be able to evaluate proposals, REAL welcomes responses to the below questions from interested parties/organisations. We would also welcome indicative costs for developing and running the programme and timescales for development as indicated below.

Questions

Please keep your responses to questions concise. To limit the work for all, we ask that full responses (i.e. to all questions) are limited to between 2-4 sides of A4.

- 1) Briefly, how would you prepare samples/materials for the scheme specific methods to be included in the PT programme?
- 2) Are there any scheme specific methods which you think cannot be included in a PT programme?
- 3) Briefly, how would you prepare samples/materials for the scheme specific methods to be included in the PT programme?
- 4) What approach(es) would you use to assess the performance of laboratories?
- 5) What information will be reported to REAL and the participating laboratories following a PT round?
- 6) How long would it take to develop the programme i.e. how long before a first round of samples/materials can be sent to laboratories?
- 7) State your estimated cost for developing the PT programme.
- 8) State your estimated cost for running the PT programme on an annual basis.

Once complete, you should send one electronic copy (via email) of this EOI to REAL using: info@realschemes.org.uk. Emails containing EOI submissions should state the following in the subject field: *'Expressions of Interest – REAL CCS/BCS Proficiency Testing Programme'*.

If you wish to ask any questions relating to this EOI, please contact REAL in writing only.