

August 20 2010

A Request for Qualifications

E2

Ecology + Economy

**Multi-disciplinary Design and Development Competition for Climate Friendly Timber
Development**

Invitation

The City of Kouvola organizes an international Design and Build competition for a pilot site in collaboration with the local energy company KSS Energia, the Finnish Forest Industries Federation, the Finnish Forest Foundation, the Finnish Innovation Fund, the Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation, and the Regional Council of Kymenlaakso. The Finnish Association of Civil Engineers and the Finnish Association of Architects have partnered with the City of Kouvola in organizing the competition.

The competition is a concept competition for searching construction elements and production methods for multi-story residential buildings. A concept means in this context a prescriptive and replicable approach that can be applied locally to diverse energy- and cost-efficient multi-story timber developments of high quality. A right to develop the pilot site in the City of Kouvola is reserved for the winner or the winners of the competition. The competition is preceded by an international open Request for Qualification for selecting no more than four multi-professional teams.

The competition aims at demonstrating timber constructed multi-story residential development on a pilot site in the City of Kouvola. The emphasis is on relevant industrial approaches and systems, however, the proposed solutions must enable a variety of high quality architecture. Further, the competition explores issues related to training, business, research and development associated to timber construction. The competition aspires to enhance applications for wooden multi-story developments for the benefit all regions of Finland.

The competition provides at the same time an opportunity for product development jointly with the stakeholders associated in the construction process. The selected teams for the competition are expected to have a strategic aim focusing on design, building element manufacturing, installation, or other product or service needed in timber development process. Wood as such does not have to be part of the product or service, but the commercial activity of the participant needs to serve use of timber in multi-story developments. The participating companies aim at creation of new, competitive products and services which enhance their business interests.

Procurement, Objectives and Honorarium

The selected teams have three intertwined tasks fully described in the Competition Brief.

The tasks of the teams are in brief:

1. Propose a solution for design, manufacturing, installation and other relevant methods or services progressing wooden multi-story developments that meet high requirements for energy-efficiency (nearly passive energy level).
2. Demonstrate the feasibility of the proposal on a pilot site in the City of Kouvola considering the evaluation criteria.
3. Envision new business ideas related to proposal or supporting its functions and/or products.

Each selected team will receive an honorarium of 55000 euros excluding VAT for delivering a required submittal. Additionally, travel costs to Finland can be reimbursed up to 6000 euros for each team.

The rules of the competition are available at the website www.kouvola.fi/E2. The Finnish Law is applied to all eventual interpretations, disputes or other issues related to the competition. Potential disagreement will be in the first hand resolved through negotiations.

The Competition Brief is available both in Finnish and English. In case different interpretations on the Brief occur, the Finnish version is considered to be the determining one. The competition entries will be submitted in English, or in Finnish and in that case the team must provide translations in English covering the key points of the proposal.

Required Expertise and Skills

The teams are expected to fulfill the following requirements:

- 1) Design competence: consists of at least architectural and structural knowledge, HVAC and low-energy expertise, fire resistance design, and cost planning.
- 2) Industrial partner for timber development: construction element and/or material manufacturer and construction partner having an objective to apply products and methods for multi-story apartment buildings. The team has to propose at least a preliminary plan for implementation unless the construction partner has not been named at the competition phase.

Additionally, other experts may belong to the team if their knowledge is relevant to the proposal.

Bidding

The teams must select a team lead. The building design solutions are the crossroads of different disciplines and combined skills. The architect consultant of the team has a suitable role for a team lead, but considering the substance of the competition entries other fields of expertise are equally important. The organizer of the competition encourages teams with different mixes to send applications.

Questions regarding the RFQ may be addressed at harry.edelman@edelmangroup.fi until the 9th of September 2010. The organizer will publish and provided the answers to questions without any delays at www.kouvola.fi/e2.

The applications must arrive no later than on the 22nd of September 2010 at e2@kouvola.fi in a pdf-format. The team lead will receive a confirmation email.

Submittal Content

The organizer of the competition, the City of Kouvola, cordially asks interested and qualified teams to apply. The teams are expected to demonstrate in their applications:

- starting points and motivation for participation in relation to the strategic aims of the corporations or organizations part of the team
- design and/or implementation experience on projects progressing sustainable development
- examples on recent works designed and/or implemented
- examples on projects requiring multi-professional knowledge and problem-solving skills in the fields of energy-efficiency, sustainable development, timber development, or business models.

Required documents (in formats A4 or A3):

1. Cover Letter (1-2 pages)
 - short presentation of the organizations in the team
 - summary on the strategic objectives of the team related to the competition
 - Name of the team lead and contact details
2. Presentation of previous works of the team members (20 sheets or less double sided)
 - The presentation of the team's approach and cooperation arrangements
 - Samples on recent works with sufficient and compact information on technical, economical, and architectural quality supporting sustainable development
 - Resumes or CVs of the key team members

Respondent Evaluation and Launching the Competition

A committee of the organizer will review the submittals. The selection of the teams taking part in the competition will be made in a meeting of the Jury of the competition. The submittals will be scored on the following criteria:

1. Combination and approach of the teams, 0 - 30 points
 - proposed approach for the tasks
 - connection to the strategic aims of the team organizations
 - multiple skills and expertise available and proposal on the team's cooperation
2. Qualities of the key members in the teams, 0 - 40 points
 - experience on timber developments or design
 - hands-on experience on enhancing sustainable development
 - work experience
 - education
3. Quality of previous works or projects, 0 - 30 points
 - architectural and technical quality
 - innovative use of wood supporting sustainable development

All teams that have sent an application before the deadline will be notified of the results on 28th of September 2010. The teams submitting an application must have they key members available for a workshop in the City of Kouvola during 13-15 October 2010. The submittal must include the names of the persons participating in the workshop in case the team is selected to the competition. The teams

are reimbursed up to 6000 euros travel costs during the entire competition process. The living costs during the stay in Finland will be covered separately (such as meals, hotel, and local travel costs).

The competition begins after the review process by sending the final Competition Brief to the selected teams. The appendices are available on the competition website after the competition begins.

Schedule

The RFQ is available from the 20th August 2010 at the website of the competition www.kouvola.fi/E2 or at the public procurement portal HILMA www.hilma.fi. The RFQ period opens for submittals on the 1st of September and ends on the 22nd of September.

August 20 2010 Launch of RFQ

September 1 2010 RFQ begins

September 9 2010 Deadline for question over RFQ

September 14 2010 Answers to the question (latest) at the competition website

September 22 2010 RFQ period ends

September 28 2010 Selected teams announced and launch of the competition

October 13-15 2010 Workshop for the key members of the selected teams

The competition ends on the 17th of January 2011. The results will be announced in March 2011.

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