

Tender Q&A Document

Plastic contamination method assessment: Evaluating current mass-based method and possible alternative methods of assessment for plastics in compost and digestate

- 1. When investigating the feasibility of implementing microplastic analysis, are we including nanoplastics or is there a minimum size limit on plastics we include?*

The inquiry into microplastics is open to interpretation and there is no explicit minimum size limit on the analysis. We are interested to know what methods of detection for plastics are available that may be relevant to compost and digestate. For instance, the standards (PAS100 and PAS110) consider plastics >2mm but if applicable methods were found capable of detecting smaller fragments—perhaps in use or development in other sectors—it would be useful to know this information on a research and development basis for the organics sector.

- 2. Does the study require us to distinguish between compostable and non-compostable plastics within any of the objectives?*

No, the study does not require compostable and non-compostable plastics to be distinguished. PAS 100 and PAS110 testing regimes do not make this distinction. Any inquiry into compostable vs non-compostable plastics would be entirely optional to include in your bid.

- 3. What is the approximate budget for the study?*

REAL has produced an internal ballpark estimate for the project but do not plan to publish a definitive budget for this work. Rather, we are open to creative approaches to fulfilling this tender and will consider proposals that might differ widely in terms of their total prices.

The total costs of previous Research Hub projects can be found on the Research Hub website for reference but are not necessarily indicative of the budget for this project.

Section 5 of the [Tender Invitation Document](#) contains details about the criteria used to evaluate tenders. Please note that the cost of the work has a weighted value of 20% among the evaluation criteria.

- 4. What is your specific definition of microplastics for the work requested under objective 3?*

Please see the response to Question 1 above.

- 5. Can you provide the contract T&Cs associated with this TID?*

Standard Terms and Conditions can be made available upon request. Please contact the Research Hub Manager (contact info [here](#)) to request this information.