



UPU | UNIVERSAL
POSTAL
UNION

Call for tenders

Study on postal-enabled reverse value chain (RVC) approaches for the circular economy of packaging

7 January 2026

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1 Introduction

1.1 Profile of the UPU

The Universal Postal Union (UPU) was founded in 1874 in Berne, Switzerland, with the main goals of establishing a single postal territory for the reciprocal exchange of letter-post items and adopting common principles for the international postal service in a non-discriminatory manner. Currently comprising 192 member countries, the UPU became a specialized agency of the United Nations in 1948.

The main mission of the UPU is to stimulate the lasting development of efficient and accessible universal postal services of quality, in order to facilitate communication between the inhabitants of the world. It does this by guaranteeing the free circulation of items over a single postal territory composed of interconnected networks, encouraging the adoption of fair common standards and the use of technology, ensuring cooperation and interaction among stakeholders, promoting effective technical cooperation, and ensuring the satisfaction of customers' changing needs. The UPU is thus expected to play a major role in the continued revitalization of postal services.

Furthermore, the UPU facilitates the development of worldwide postal services by providing an information and communication technology framework that allows the designated operators (DOs)¹ of UPU member countries to concentrate on the delivery of postal services to their customers. In this context, the UPU provides a global network with value-added services, as well as computerized applications for the management of international mail and international postal money orders.

2 Terms and conditions

Unless otherwise indicated in this call for tenders, the term "Bidder" shall refer to any person, company or legal entity submitting a proposal in response to this call for tenders. The term "Vendor" shall refer to any selected bidder.

2.1 Confidentiality

Bidders shall treat in strict confidence all information contained in this call for tenders and its attached documents that is not already publicly known or generally accessible, particularly any documentation marked as confidential and distributed by the UPU to Bidders as additional confidential tender documentation. Bidders shall prevent the disclosure or distribution of all such information to third parties and other entities, and persons not expressly authorized herein. In case of doubt, these confidentiality provisions shall nevertheless be observed. All Bidders are obliged to observe these confidentiality provisions before, during and after the tender process. These provisions shall not affect the legal obligations of the UPU and Bidders to disclose information.

Bidders shall not use such information for any purposes other than those associated with this call for tenders. The call for tenders and all attached documents may be distributed or made available only to persons directly involved in the tender process on behalf of Bidders. If external agents or subcontractors are involved in the preparation of the tender documents, this must be indicated and their names provided in the participation notification (see section 2.14).

Bidders shall assume full responsibility for the compliance of their agents, consultants, employees and subcontractors, as well as any third parties involved on their behalf in this tender process, with these rules of confidentiality, and shall be liable for any damages resulting from misconduct or unauthorized disclosure.

If a Bidder violates the confidentiality provisions contained herein, it shall be liable to pay a penalty to the UPU unless it can prove that no fault is attributable to it. This penalty shall not exceed 50,000 CHF per infringement. Payment of any such penalties shall not release Bidders from their obligation to observe these confidentiality requirements.

Bidders wishing to submit a proposal in response to this call for tenders must contact the person(s) specified in section 2.15 below and may, if necessary, request additional information from the UPU in relation to this call for tenders.

¹ In accordance with article 2.1.6 of the UPU Constitution, a designated operator is any governmental or non-governmental entity officially designated by the member country to operate postal services and to fulfil the related obligations arising out of the Acts of the Union on its territory.

Without prejudice to the confidentiality provisions set out above, Bidders agree that the receipt of any such information may be subject to the prior signature of a non-disclosure agreement between the Bidder and the UPU, under conditions to be determined and communicated by the latter.

2.2 *Legal status of the Vendor*

The Vendor shall be regarded as having, in law, the legal status of independent contractor. The Vendor and its agents, consultants, employees and subcontractors (as authorized by the UPU) shall in no way be regarded as employees of the UPU. Such agents, consultants, employees and subcontractors of the Vendor shall not be entitled to any employment benefits from the UPU. The Vendor alone shall be responsible for due payment of all compensation owed to such agents, consultants, employees and subcontractors, including payment of any employment taxes, benefits, compensation and insurance. The Vendor shall represent and warrant that it will comply with all laws, rules and regulations required by the relevant authorities, including the appropriate withholding, reporting and payment of all necessary taxes.

The Vendor shall be liable for all work performed, including any acts or omissions, by its agents, consultants, employees and subcontractors.

2.3 *Scope of the call for tenders*

This call for tenders concerns the provision of consultancy services to the UPU for the conduct of a study tentatively titled “**Study on postal-enabled reverse value chain (RVC) approaches for the circular economy of packaging.**”

The consultancy shall provide **analytical, technical and stakeholder support** to inform the UPU’s future work on sustainable packaging and postal circularity. The consultancy aims to generate practical knowledge, stakeholder engagement, and initial country-level experience that can contribute to UPU’s programme development.

Specifically, the Vendor shall:

- Conduct an **analytical study** of packaging waste management and circular economy systems, identifying where postal networks can play a value-adding role, particularly in reverse logistics and traceability;
- Assess potential **revenue and financing mechanisms** that can strengthen postal participation in packaging circularity while ensuring commercial and environmental sustainability, including preliminary indicators for tracking material recovery, carbon reduction, and community benefits;
- Map and analyze the **stakeholder landscape** including DOs, government entities, recyclers, packaging producers, technology providers and development partners, as well as identify potential areas for cooperation with the UPU;
- Support the **delivery of at least three country-level projects**, to be selected by the UPU, to demonstrate postal-enabled RVC approaches for packaging circularity and to generate lessons for broader application;
- Facilitate **stakeholder consultations** to raise awareness, build relationships, and identify collaboration and co-financing opportunities for future UPU-led initiatives; and
- Consolidate findings and practical recommendations in a **final report** that will inform the UPU’s policy dialogue, capacity-building activities, and subsequent programme design.

2.4 *Background*

Beyond its traditional mandate, the UPU plays an increasingly strategic role in supporting the twin transition of the postal sector — digital and green transformation. In this regard, the UPU’s work focuses on helping DOs measure the sector’s sustainability impact, deploy clean technologies, improve operational efficiency, and develop service innovations such as reverse logistics that contribute to the sustainability needs of the communities the sector serves.

In this context, the UPU’s global network and its ability to convene governments, regulators, and private actors make it uniquely positioned to advance sustainable packaging systems. As the exponential growth of e-commerce accelerates the demand for packaging materials, the postal sector faces both a responsibility and

an opportunity to innovate in the design, collection, reuse, and recycling of packaging. The UPU, therefore, promotes approaches that link its members' operational infrastructure — collection networks, sorting centers, transport fleets, digital tracking systems, and, importantly, the trust of local communities — with broader sustainability objectives, including waste reduction, resource efficiency, and climate resilience.

This builds on the UPU's broader mission of fostering universal service, innovation, and sustainable development, while ensuring that postal networks remain a vital public infrastructure in the global transition toward low-carbon, inclusive, and circular economies.

In that context, postal networks are at the forefront of the evolving logistics landscape shaped by the above-mentioned twin transition of the global economy. As the exponential growth of e-commerce continues to expand parcel volumes, it simultaneously increases the consumption and disposal of packaging materials. This trend has heightened the urgency for sustainable packaging systems and circular logistics solutions that minimize waste, promote reuse and recycling, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Meanwhile, the global circular economy transition offers a unique, actionable window for postal networks. Specifically, they can position themselves as key logistics enablers of RVCs for various consumer products and materials, leveraging their nationwide routes, depots, transport fleets, and even unused backhaul capacity. Beyond logistics, postal networks' digital assets such as tracking and tracing capabilities, and, in many cases, their financial infrastructure (e.g. postal banks, digital wallets) create opportunities to facilitate the circulation of product information, deposit-refund mechanisms, and financial incentives that engage a wide range of market actors. A postal-enabled RVC can, therefore, contribute to climate change mitigation, environmentally sound waste management, and the systemic shift toward sustainable consumption and production patterns.

2.5 Objectives

The objective of the study is to provide analytical, technical and stakeholder support to the UPU in exploring how postal networks can contribute to the circular management of packaging within the broader transition toward sustainable logistics. The findings will generate practical knowledge and lessons from three demonstrative country projects, which will inform future UPU policy dialogue, technical cooperation and programme development.

Specifically, the study aims to:

- Identify **priority packaging waste streams** and circular economy pathways where DOs can play an effective role, particularly through reverse logistics, collection, data traceability, and community engagement functions;
- Analyze **market, policy and financing conditions** that enable postal networks to participate in packaging circularity, including viable revenue and cost-recovery mechanisms that align environmental and commercial sustainability objectives;
- Propose **preliminary approaches for measuring impact**, outlining indicators and methodologies to assess environmental, economic, and social outcomes of postal-enabled circular activities (e.g. material recovery, greenhouse gas reduction, and inclusion benefits);
- Map the **institutional and stakeholder landscape**, identifying potential partners such as DOs, government agencies, recyclers, technology providers, packaging producers and development partners;
- Support the **design and partial delivery of at least three country-level projects**, to be selected jointly with the UPU, demonstrating postal-enabled reverse value chain approaches for packaging circularity and generating lessons for replication; and
- Provide **actionable recommendations** for strengthening UPU's analytical base, stakeholder network and resource mobilization efforts in support of sustainable packaging and circular logistics initiatives.

2.6 Use of subcontractors

The Vendor shall not assign, sublicense, subcontract, pledge or otherwise transfer or dispose of its tender, or any of the rights and obligations contained therein or in an associated contract with the UPU, without the prior written consent of the UPU.

The approval by the UPU of the engagement of any subcontractor shall not relieve the Vendor of any of its obligations or responsibilities concerning the work performed by such subcontractors.

2.7 *Use of the emblem, name and initials of the UPU*

Bidders shall not advertise or otherwise make public the fact that they intend to provide, are providing or have provided services to the UPU, or use the emblem, name or initials of the UPU in connection with their business for purposes of commercial advantage or goodwill, without prior and explicit permission from the UPU. Bidders shall take all reasonable measures to ensure compliance with this provision by their agents, consultants, employees and subcontractors.

2.8 *Collusive bidding, anti-competitive practices and any other similar conduct*

Without prejudice to the provisions in sections 3 and 4 below, Bidders (including their agents, consultants, employees and subcontractors) shall not engage in any collusive bidding, anti-competitive practices or any other similar conduct in relation to:

- the preparation and submission of tenders;
- the clarification of tenders;
- the conduct and content of any negotiations, including final contract negotiations.

For the purposes of this call for tenders, collusive bidding, anti-competitive practices and any other similar conduct may include the disclosure to, or exchange or clarification with, any other Bidder of information (in any form), whether or not such information is confidential to the UPU or to any other Bidder, in order to alter the results of the call for tenders in such a way that would lead to an outcome other than that which would have been obtained through a competitive process. In addition to any other remedies available to it, the UPU may, at its sole discretion, immediately reject any tender submitted by a Bidder that, in the UPU's opinion, has engaged in any collusive bidding, anti-competitive practices or any other similar conduct with any other Bidder in relation to the preparation or submission of tenders, whether with respect to this call for tenders or other procurement processes conducted by the UPU.

2.9 *Intellectual property*

This call for tenders and all its attached documents, including any content, forms, statements, concepts, projects and procedures explicitly or implicitly forming part of the call for tenders, constitute the exclusive intellectual property of the UPU. This call for tenders is communicated to the various Bidders with the sole purpose of assisting them in the preparation of their respective tenders. Any hard copies of this call for tenders shall be destroyed or returned to the UPU by unsuccessful Bidders at the request of the UPU.

2.10 *Privileges and immunities*

Nothing in or relating to this call for tenders, the activities described herein or any potential agreements related thereto shall be deemed as a waiver, expressed or implied, of any of the privileges, immunities and facilities that the UPU enjoys as a specialized agency of the United Nations system, pursuant to the Swiss Host State Act and the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations (on Swiss territory), the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies (outside Switzerland), and any other conventions and laws recognizing and/or granting such privileges, immunities and facilities to the UPU and its officials (such as the International Organizations Immunities Act in the case of the United States of America).

Accordingly, the Vendor shall expressly acknowledge and agree that the property and assets of the UPU, including any archives, data, documents and funds belonging to the UPU or held by it (including, without limitation, the data/hosting environments and servers pertaining to or associated with the provision of the services, as well as any data or documents in any form belonging to or held by the UPU on behalf of the UPU member countries and their DOs), are inviolable and shall be immune from search, requisition, confiscation, expropriation and any other form of interference, whether through executive, administrative, judicial or legislative action. The Vendor shall immediately contact the UPU in the event of any attempt to violate or any violation of the UPU's privileges and immunities, and shall take all reasonable measures to prevent such violations.

In the light of the UPU's status as a specialized agency of the United Nations (and without prejudice to the observance, by the UPU, of any sanctions established by the United Nations Security Council), Bidders shall expressly certify their legal and operational willingness and ability to provide the services on a non-discriminatory basis for the benefit of all eligible entities established and/or situated in the territory of any UPU

member country, irrespective of the existence of diplomatic relations between a Bidder's country of incorporation and/or operation and any of the UPU member countries (including its DOs).

2.11 Tax exemption

Pursuant to article III, section 9, of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies, the UPU is exempt from all direct taxes and from customs restrictions, duties and charges of a similar nature in respect of articles imported or exported for its official use.

Furthermore, as an intergovernmental organization and a specialized agency of the United Nations, the UPU is exempt from value-added tax (VAT) in Switzerland (OLTVA, article 22; *Instructions 2001 sur la TVA*, articles 574, 816 and others), as well as in other countries. Therefore, all prices shall be indicated in "net" form, without VAT or similar taxes.

2.12 Language

Bidders must submit all tender documents entirely in English.

2.13 Signature

Tender documents shall be signed by a representative (or representatives) duly designated and authorized to act on the Bidder's behalf and with the authority to legally bind the Bidder and accept the terms and conditions of this call for tenders.

2.14 Participation notification

Upon receipt of this call for tenders, Bidders shall send confirmation of participation to the contact person(s) listed in section 2.15 by the deadline indicated in section 2.20.

2.15 Contact persons

Secretary of the Tenders and Procurements Committee
Universal Postal Union
International Bureau
Weltpoststrasse 4
3015 BERNE
SWITZERLAND
E-mail: caa@upu.int

2.16 Further inquiries and questions

Bidders must send any questions regarding the content of this call for tenders or any requests for clarification in writing to the contact person(s) listed in section 2.15 by 2 February 2026.

Answers to questions submitted by Bidders, as well as any additional information and updates relevant to this call for tenders, shall be published on the UPU website at www.upu.int/en/Universal-Postal-Union/Procurement.

2.17 Delivery of tenders and deadline

All tenders must be submitted to the UPU by e-mail only at RFP-2026-001@upu.int with "RFP-2026-001 – Study on Postal-Enabled Reverse Value Chain Approaches for the Circular Economy of Packaging".

The deadline for the submission of tenders is **17 February 2026 at 16.00 CET**.

The UPU shall not take into consideration any tenders received after this date and time. Furthermore, it shall not accept any tenders sent to any e-mail address other than that specified above or sent by any other means.

There shall be no charge to the UPU for the preparation and submission of tender documents by Bidders.

2.18 Evaluation procedure

The objective of the UPU's evaluation process is to ensure the selection of a qualified, reliable and experienced Vendor capable of providing the specialized services and fulfilling the objectives set out in this call for tenders.

The UPU shall conduct its evaluation procedure with a view to determining as objectively as possible, the tender that best meets its specific requirements. All tenders submitted shall be subject to an in-depth assessment, at the UPU's sole discretion, in order to enable the UPU to engage the most appropriate service provider. Due consideration will be given to Bidders' specific backgrounds, qualifications and experience in relation to the required services.

The prescribed structure of tenders, as set out in section 3, is mandatory for all Bidders. The UPU shall not take into consideration any tenders that do not fulfil the mandatory criteria.

Tenders received by the UPU must address all aspects of this call for tenders, and Bidders should identify any aspects where they envisage modifications being necessary or consider elements to be missing.

Tenders shall be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria, in descending order of importance:

- Quality of the tender (according to the specifications herein);
- Knowledge and experience of the Bidder and its team and/or consultant(s), as applicable to the subject matter;
- Price.

The winning tender will be selected based on a non-exhaustive list of criteria as set out in section 4. Bidders should therefore consider how their tender corresponds with the criteria listed and clearly indicate this in their response document.

The deliberations of the UPU Tenders and Procurements Committee (TPC) are strictly confidential. The TPC shall submit a report on its evaluation of the tenders received to the Director General of the UPU International Bureau, together with its final recommendation, for his assessment and authorization.

The UPU is not bound to accept the lowest tender and reserves the right to accept all or part of a tender. In awarding the contract, both the overall costs of the work and of the nature and quality of the services to be provided shall be taken into account. The UPU reserves the right to negotiate prices, and terms and conditions of contract after receipt of tenders.

Bidders will be informed of the outcome of their tender as soon as possible after the UPU has made its final selection.

2.19 Modification, suspension or cancellation of the call for tenders

The UPU reserves the right, at its sole discretion and at any time before the conclusion of the tender process (i.e. at any time prior to the signature of the relevant contract with the Vendor), to modify, suspend or cancel all or part of this call for tenders.

2.20 Tentative schedule

Publication of call for tenders	7 January 2026
Deadline for submission of participation notification	27 January 2026
Deadline for submission of queries	2 February 2026
Deadline for provision of responses to queries	9 February 2026
Deadline for submission of tenders to the UPU	17 February 2026 at 16.00 CET
Estimated start of engagement	23 March 2026

3 Tender structure – Response format

All information provided by Bidders must be fully compliant with the terms and conditions set out in section 2 above, as well as the provisions of this section and the service requirements listed in section 4 below.

Moreover, the requirements stipulated in this call for tenders must be met in their entirety, according to the structure defined below and following the sequence and numbering provided in this section. The UPU shall evaluate all Bidder responses in accordance with the structure defined herein and shall have the right to reject any tenders that do not fulfil the requirements of this call for tenders.

For each of the requirements listed in this call for tenders, Bidders shall answer with one of the following statements:

- covered;
- covered with limitations (explaining relevant limitations);
- not covered.

Where the answer is “covered” or “covered with limitations”, Bidders shall provide further details and/or examples of existing implementations of their solution in the field (existing use cases).

3.1 Cover letter

Bidders shall submit a cover letter including:

- a statement that the Bidder has read, understands and accepts all provisions of this call for tenders;
- the Bidder’s name, telephone number, postal address and e-mail address, and the name(s) of its representative(s);
- a statement that the Bidder’s tender documents are valid for a minimum period of 120 days.

The cover letter shall be signed by a representative (or representatives) duly designated and authorized to act on the Bidder’s behalf and with the authority to legally bind the Bidder and accept the terms and conditions of this call for tenders, and shall also include a confirmation of such authorization by the Bidder.

3.2 Executive summary

Bidders shall provide an executive summary highlighting the most important aspects of their tender.

3.3 Bidder information

Bidders must provide the following information:

- company structure, locations/subsidiaries;
- financial data (turnover, profit, etc.);
- partners and equity holders of the company;
- company history; and
- market position and share in relevant markets.

3.4 Subcontractor information

Bidders shall provide a list of any subcontractors to be directly involved in this call for tenders and must specify the exact degree of these subcontractors’ involvement in the provision of the services.

3.5 Technical proposal

Bidders shall submit a technical proposal addressing all of the requirements set out in section 4 (Service requirements). This proposal should outline the methodology, processes and timelines, as appropriate, that Bidders intend to implement in order to fulfil the objectives of this call for tenders.

The technical proposal should also include the CVs of key staff members and/or relevant consultants, including the team leader, demonstrating their prior experience in areas relating to the study (as outlined in sections 2.5 and 4). These detailed CVs should be provided as an appendix to the tender.

Bidders shall state in their tender the anticipated duration of the study, which is expected to be 4 (four) months.

3.6 Pricing structure

Bidders shall provide a detailed phase-by-phase budget, based on daily rates and time allocations for their relevant consultant(s).

The budgetary ceiling is 38,000 CHF inclusive of all costs (including support, communications and travel).

Tenders that fail to meet all study objectives within the budget or that exceed the budget shall not be considered.

Bidders shall not include VAT in their pricing structure (see section 2.11 above). All pricing information shall be set out **exclusively in Swiss Francs (CHF)**.

3.7 Delivery and payment schedule

The target dates for provision of the services are as follows:

- Start date: 23 March 2025
- End date: Four months from the start date

The delivery and payment schedules should be proposed by Bidders in their pricing structures, and must be agreed with the UPU.

The services provided by the Vendor shall be invoiced in arrears on a monthly basis. The UPU will make payment within 30 business days of receipt of invoice, subject to its acceptance of the services provided and the Vendor's transmission to the UPU of any and all documentation clearly detailing the services to which the invoice pertains (in a format to be established by the UPU).

3.8 UPU General Terms and Conditions

Bidders shall include in their tender a statement of acceptance of the UPU General Terms and Conditions for the Provision of Services, attached hereto for reference.

The final terms of any contract arising from this call for tenders shall be defined by the UPU and accepted by the Vendor. Contract negotiations shall commence only after the final selection of a Vendor by the UPU.

4 Service requirements

4.1 Description of the services

Through the conduct of this study, the Vendor shall assist the UPU in generating analytical evidence, practical lessons and stakeholder engagement outcomes that will inform the Union's future work on sustainable packaging and circular logistics. The Vendor shall support the UPU in identifying the value-adding roles of postal networks in packaging circularity and in demonstrating such roles through at least of three country-level projects.

The Vendor's services shall cover the following areas:

- **Analytical and technical assessment**
 - Conduct a comprehensive analysis of **packaging waste management and circular economy systems**, identifying where postal networks can provide value, particularly in reverse logistics, collection, traceability and data management;

- Assess **market, policy and financial conditions** that influence postal participation in packaging circularity, including potential business, cost-recovery and financing mechanisms compatible with environmental and commercial sustainability; and
 - Propose **preliminary approaches for measuring impact**, identifying indicators and methods to estimate environmental, economic and social outcomes of postal-enabled circular activities (e.g. material recovery, greenhouse-gas emission reduction, community engagement benefits).
- **Stakeholder and institutional mapping**
- Map and analyze the **institutional and stakeholder landscape**, including DOs, government entities, recyclers, packaging producers, technology providers, and development partners, and identify areas for potential cooperation with the UPU; and
 - Support the UPU in developing an initial **stakeholder engagement framework**, outlining key actors, communication channels and partnership modalities to facilitate future collaboration.
- **Country-level demonstration project**
- Assist the UPU's process to identify interested member countries to conduct the **country-level project**;
 - Undertake a **rapid stocktake** of one interested country's packaging waste management systems, postal infrastructure, regulatory context and relevant initiatives;
 - Design and support the **delivery of three pilot activities** that demonstrates postal-enabled RVC approaches for packaging circularity, including the definition of packaging streams, logistical flow, stakeholder roles and indicative financing structure; and
 - Document the **implementation process and preliminary outcomes**, including early environmental or socio-economic impacts, and draw lessons for replication in other regions of the UPU.
- **Stakeholder consultation and partnership facilitation**
- Organize and facilitate **at least three stakeholder consultation sessions** (either virtually or in-person) with relevant partners at global and national levels;
 - Prepare documentation and summaries of these consultations, capturing stakeholder perspectives, commitments and potential areas of collaboration; and
 - Assist the UPU in identifying **resource-mobilization opportunities** and in preparing short partnership or co-funding concept notes where applicable.
- **Synthesis and reporting**
- Produce a **final consolidated report** summarizing analytical findings, stakeholder insights, lessons from the country project, and recommendations for future technical cooperation and policy dialogue at the UPU; and
 - Deliver a **communication package** (PowerPoint deck and short narrative brief) highlighting key messages and policy implications for presentation to the UPU member countries and partners.
- **Expected deliverables**
- **Inception report** detailing methodology, country-selection criteria, and workplan;
 - **Interim analytical report** covering market and stakeholder assessment, financing options and proposed impact indicators;
 - **Country-level project concept note and pilot report** including results and lessons learned;
 - **Stakeholder consultation reports** with participation summaries and key findings;

All services shall be delivered in accordance with the requirements, performance standards and timelines defined in this call for tenders.

4.2 Bidder requirements

Bidders shall demonstrate a record of satisfactory performance in similar activities (i.e. reference letters and/or work completion certificates). The business transactions and activities carried out by the Bidder must be compliant with the mandates and principles of the UPU.

Bidders shall demonstrate a record of experience in the areas of activity defined herein. In particular, Bidders are expected to demonstrate:

- proven experience in the successful delivery of global, impact-driven and policy-focused studies in the relevant areas in English;
- proven experience in the successful delivery of circular economy-focused studies, pilots, and/or projects;
- an understanding of the challenges faced by DOs, and the postal sector at a global scale, in advancing diversified solutions for circular consumer product and waste management;
- practical experience in regulatory and institutional frameworks for postal-enabled logistics and data management;
- experience of delivering multinational and multi-stakeholder projects;
- experience of working with United Nations entities or other intergovernmental organizations;
- experience of working with the postal sector.

4.3 *Consultant requirements*

Bidders should propose at least three individual consultants in accordance with the requirements specified in this call for tenders for the performance of the services and activities described herein. Bidders are required to provide the CVs of the said consultants. The UPU shall have the right to reject a proposed consultant if the individual does not fulfil the UPU's requirements as defined in this call for tenders.

Bidders should describe any relevant procedures concerning the replacement of individual consultants if so requested by the UPU.

4.4 *Assessment criteria*

Bidders with networks and staff deployed in emerging economies (and thus able to minimize travel costs associated with field visits, if so required by the proposed methodology) will be given preference.

Bidders will be assessed on the basis of a scoring system of up to 70 points for their technical proposal and 30 points for their pricing structure.

The technical proposal shall be assessed according to the following criteria:

<i>Criteria</i>	<i>Points obtainable</i>
Experience of conducting similar actionable research and circular economy projects	10
Experience and understanding of the regulatory framework of the postal logistics as well as various policies on reverse logistics and circular economy	20
Proposed methodology	30
Number of countries the proposal covers	5
Team composition and experience of the team leader	5

Bidders shall provide evidence of their ability to meet these requirements by means of a list of references.

4.5 *Duration of services*

The services are expected to commence on 23 March 2026 for a total contract term of four months.

4.6 *Location of the services*

The Vendor or its assigned consultant shall liaise and work closely with the UPU (as instructed by the latter) and may be required to carry out certain tasks from the headquarters of the UPU in Berne, Switzerland.

4.7 Reporting

The Vendor shall provide the UPU with reports every two weeks setting out the relevant services performed by the Vendor during that time frame. Such reports shall be prepared in accordance with a structure and format defined by the UPU (i.e. time sheets).

4.8 Other requirements

Bidders shall describe any relevant procedures for ensuring the continuity of the services provided and for appropriate backup and retraining, as well as any relevant procedures pertaining to project management and communication.

Bidders shall also confirm that their tender covers all costs associated with the provision of the services referred to herein (including, without limitation, any and all travel-related expenses associated with the provision of the services). Any other costs to be incurred by the Vendor shall be subject to the prior written consent of the UPU. No other fees shall be paid, with the exception of reimbursement of other unavoidable costs incurred for successful delivery of the services, which shall also be subject to the prior written consent of the UPU.

4.9 Additional information

Bidders may include any additional information that they deem necessary or relevant in order for the UPU to gain a clear and detailed understanding of the services being offered.