

Bureau international des poids et mesures

Call for tenders

Thermogravimetric Analyzer (TGA)

The deadline date for receipt of tenders is 31/07/2026

INSTRUCTIONS TO TENDERERS

Thermogravimetric Analyzer (TGA)

SEVRES - FRANCE

<i>B.I.P.M.</i>
Pavillon de Breteuil 92312 Sèvres France

Preamble

The International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM) in Sèvres, France, is an intergovernmental scientific organization whose mandate is to provide the basis for a coherent system of measurements throughout the world, traceable to the International System of Units (SI). It has an international staff of over 70. Further information about the BIPM can be found on the website: www.bipm.org.

1. PURPOSE AND OBJECT OF THE CALL FOR TENDERS

This Call for Tenders concerns the purchase of a thermogravimetric analyser (TGA). The Supplier will be required to install the system on site, demonstrated proper working and to train staff.

2. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE CALL FOR TENDERS

2.1 Composition of the Call for tenders file

The Call for tenders file includes the following documents:

- Instructions to Suppliers;
- Technical specifications;
- Purchasing Conditions;
- Commitment notice (separate file).

2.2 Legal value of the Call for tenders

All Call for tenders shall be treated by the Suppliers as a request to negotiate or an invitation to make an offer with the purpose of entering into a contract with the BIPM at a later stage. It is the Supplier's responsibility to familiarize itself with the work to be performed, conditions and terms of reference, location of work, programme and any other issue requiring consideration in order that the offer will be firm and comprehensive. If the Supplier departs from these specified terms of reference and requirements, this could result in a breach of the Tender process and the offer will not be considered.

2.3 Duration of validity of the tenders and legal value

A Tender shall be regarded as an "offer" described as a clear statement of the terms under which the Supplier submitting it intends to be bound by it. Tenders shall remain valid for ninety (90) calendar days from the deadline for their receipt. Tenderers must demonstrate they possess any professional certifications required to carry out the work described under a specific Call for tender.

2.4 Additional information

Suppliers should contact the BIPM (achats@bipm.org) to arrange a site visit. Failure to attend a site visit shall not be deemed to be a reason for lack of knowledge of the site, of access to and from the site nor of any other element which may affect tender pricing, methods of operation or the application of the contract which would have been ascertained from a site visit.

Any requests for further information following the site visit must be submitted by email only to achats@bipm.org , not later than five (5) calendar days before the deadline for the receipt for the tenders.

The answers given to such requests will be circulated to all concerned tenderers and, if applicable, will be published on the BIPM website.

2.5 Acceptance and rejection of the tenders

There is no commitment from the BIPM to accept any tender or part thereof. The BIPM reserves the right to accept tenders with non-substantial defects and to reject tenders received after the deadline for receipt, without indemnity or justification.

2.6 Modification or cancellation of a Call for tenders

The BIPM reserves the right to modify or cancel all or part of the Call for tenders, should the need arise, without having to justify its decision and without giving tenderers any right to compensation.

2.7 Extension of the deadline to receive the tenders

The BIPM may, at its discretion, extend the deadline to receive the tenders. In that case, all the tenderers' and the BIPM's rights and duties and in particular Article 2.3 above will be subject to this new deadline.

2.8 Expenses

No reimbursement of expenses or remuneration related to the preparation for any tenders shall be made by the BIPM.

2.9 Confidentiality

The Call for tenders and any further information communicated to a tenderer or which come to its knowledge during the tender process is confidential, may be legally privileged and is the property of the BIPM.

The BIPM reserves the right to have all material and documentation, in whatever format, returned at the end of the Call for tender process.

Suppliers and any other individual in possession of such information are not authorized to retain copy, disseminate, distribute or use such information or any part thereof.

3. PRESENTATION, SUBMISSION AND CONTENTS OF TENDERS

3.1 Presentation and conditions for submission

Tenders shall:

- be submitted in compliance with the conditions in article 3.2;
- be submitted before the deadline date for receipt of tenders as defined on the first page (page 1).

Tenders received after the deadline for receipt specified above and tenders which do not abide by the Technical specifications and Terms of Reference, shall be rejected.

3.2 Contents of the tenders

The tenders **must** be written entirely in English or French and include the following documents in **electronic copy (achats@bipm.org)**:

- The duly signed Call for tenders file, consisting of:
 - instructions to suppliers;
 - technical specifications; and
 - purchasing conditions;
- A detailed technical and financial offer (no overall price);
- Any other supporting documents.
- **Two originals** of the duly completed and signed commitment notice;
- The financial statements of the Supplier for the three last years;
- All certificates identifying the Supplier including its name, address, registration number or equivalent, date founded, legal form and any other information that it may deem relevant;
- The names of at least three institutions or contact persons willing to provide independent evaluations of similar services;
- A detailed report setting up the means and structures the Supplier proposes to implement in order to fulfil its obligations;
- Professional insurance certificate;
- URSSAF certificate (for companies based in France).

Any tender shall include everything necessary for the complete execution of a contract (insurance, transport, guarantees). Charges for items essential to the performance of the contract but not identified in the tenders will be borne by the selected Supplier.

4. MEETING WITH SUPPLIERS

The BIPM reserves the right to organize meetings and request the suppliers to specify the content of their tenders.

5. SELECTION CRITERIA

The main criteria for selection are as follows:

- Review of the offers and bids to assess their compliance with the technical specifications and terms of reference;
- Technical evaluation and assessment;
- Financial assessment of the price tendered;
- Quality of the tender and of the proposed services;
- Timeline;
- Assessment of the "best combined offer".

6. INFORMATION TO TENDERERS

All tenderers will be informed, whenever possible, of the decision made concerning their tenders.

For the tenderer

Date

Name

Title

Signature

* * *

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Thermogravimetric Analyzer (TGA)

SEVRES - FRANCE

<i>B.I.P.M.</i>
Pavillon de Breteuil 92312 Sèvres FRANCE

1. Executive summary of the project

The Contracting Authority intends to procure a Thermogravimetric Analyzer (TGA) for the characterization of solid organic molecule materials, with a focus on highly accurate mass loss measurements at low sample weights (approximately 5–25 mg). The system will be used primarily for the determination of moisture and volatile organic compounds under inert atmosphere, followed by controlled pyrolysis and oxidation under air, placing strong emphasis on sensitivity, reproducibility, and baseline stability rather than sample throughput. The instrument must demonstrate clear performance improvements over a legacy TGA system, be compatible with reusable platinum crucibles, and support simple, reliable manual operation. The scope includes delivery, installation, commissioning, and user training, with all hardware, software, and documentation provided in English. The software must be compatible with Windows 11 or higher, and the complete system must comply with applicable European safety and conformity requirements, ensuring long-term, future-proof analytical capability.

2. Description of the current situation

2.1 Premises and/or concerned offices

The equipment will be installed and operated within the laboratory premises of the BIPM, in a controlled indoor laboratory. The new TGA system shall replace the existing PE Pyris1 TGA system in the instrument room CHEM-006 in the Marie Curie building. The laboratory is equipped with standard utilities required for analytical instrumentation, including electrical power, laboratory benches, ventilation, and access to inert and oxidative gases (e.g. nitrogen and air) centrally supplied in accordance with applicable safety regulations.

The instrument will be used by qualified laboratory personnel for routine analytical work. No cleanroom or classified environment is required. The selected tenderer shall ensure that the proposed TGA is compatible with standard laboratory conditions and does not require specific infrastructure beyond what is typically available in an analytical laboratory.

2.2 Constraints

Delivery and installation shall be programmed for the week of 5 October 2026. The main users at the BIPM will be present during installation and training.

2.3 Available Devices / Resources

The BIPM provides the necessary laboratory infrastructure and qualified personnel to support the installation and operation of the instrument, including:

Laboratory space suitable for thermal analysis instrumentation

Standard electrical supply and laboratory utilities

Availability of inert and oxidative gases (e.g. nitrogen and air)

Experienced scientific and technical staff responsible for operation, routine maintenance, and data interpretation.

2.4 Tour of the premises

A site visit may be organized for those submitting tenders, if deemed necessary for the preparation of tenders. Indicative availability for site visits may include:

Dates to be agreed following publication of the call for tender

Visits subject to prior registration and confirmation by the Contracting Authority

Participation in a site visit is optional and shall not be a condition for submitting a tender.

3. Analysis and management of risks

The procurement of a TGA involves technical, operational, schedule, compliance, and lifecycle risks that must be appropriately managed to ensure successful project execution. Key risks include insufficient analytical performance at low sample masses, incompatibility with existing laboratory infrastructure, excessive operational complexity, software obsolescence or incompatibility, delays in delivery and commissioning, non-compliance with applicable regulations, and unforeseen lifecycle costs related to maintenance or support. Tenderers are expected to identify these and any additional risks, clearly state underlying assumptions, and propose adequate technical, organizational, and financial mitigation measures within their offers, thereby ensuring reliable performance, timely implementation, regulatory compliance, and sustainable long-term operation of the system.

4. Description of the supplies/works needed

Acquisition of a TGA system to complement the BIPM laboratory facilities underpinning the organic analysis programme on purity determination. The purchase of the TGA can include the trade-in of the existing TGA (PE Pyris 1 TGA). The equipment should include hardware and software for the integrated control of all system components and for the evaluation of data. Installation, initial maintenance and training shall be included. Detailed specifications that the instrumentation needs to meet are listed (cf. 6).

5. Deadlines

Requests for and site visits can be made before 30 June 2026. Deadline for receipt of tenders is 31 July 2026. Installation to be programmed in the week starting 5 October 2026.

6. Technical specifications

The TGA system shall meet the specifications and acceptance criteria listed below. The tenderer shall detail how their offer and instrumentation meets each of the requirements outlined below. A response of how the requirement in each clause is met shall be provided for the tender to be considered valid.

1. General Description of Thermogravimetric Analyzer (TGA)

1.1. Intended applications:

1.1.1 Determination of water content and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in solid/powder organic materials under inert atmosphere (nitrogen)

1.1.2. Subsequent thermal decomposition / pyrolysis of the same materials (pure air or oxygen)

1.1.3. Accurate measurement of small sample masses (typically 5–25 mg) with low detection limits

1.2.4. Single-sample TGA configuration (autosampler not required)

1.2. Temperature (furnace) specifications

1.2.1. Operating temperature range: ambient (room temperature) to ≥ 1273 K

1.2.2. Temperature accuracy: 1 K or better

1.2.3. Temperature uniformity: ± 1 K (across furnace)

1.2.4. Heating rates: 0.05 – 200 K/min or better (programmable ramp)

1.2.5. Cooling rate: 25 min (1000 – 100 K) or better

1.3. Weight measurement (balance) specifications

1.3.1. Weighing range: at least 0–1000 mg

1.3.2. Resolution: 0.1 μg * or better

1.3.3. Accuracy: 0.01 % or better

1.3.4. Precision: 0.005 % or better

1.3.5. Drift (blank reproducibility): ± 10 μg or better

1.3.6. Mass loss detection (LOD)

1.3.6.1. ≤ 0.05 %wt mass loss for a 5 mg sample

1.3.6.2. ≤ 0.005 %wt mass loss for a 25 mg sample

1.3.7. Internal balance calibration

1.4. Gas and Atmosphere Control

1.4.1. Gas type compatibility: inert (N_2 , Ar) and oxidative (air, O_2) with two channels

1.4.2. Gas switching capability: automated switching between gases during a run

1.4.2.1. Software controlled for distortion free combined VOCs/pyrolysis sequences

1.4.2.2. Occur without balance overload or baseline disturbance (results in no mass artifact ≥ 1 μg)

1.4.3. Buoyancy and gas effect: Integral automated correction or equivalent system

1.5. Sample holders

1.5.1. Crucible material options: Platinum (mandatory), alumina or ceramic

1.5.2. Crucible sizes and capacity range: ≤ 100 μL

1.6. Software and data analysis

1.6.1. User interface: Control- and evaluation software for existing network PCs and network card to connect TGA or PC-based control with network connection (obligatory) and touchscreen (optimal)

1.6.2. Data acquisition software: real-time mass vs. temperature or time curves.

1.6.3. Multi-step methods: programmable ramps, isothermal holds, gas switching

1.6.4. Data analysis: TGA and DTG (derivative thermogravimetry)

1.6.5. Export formats: Data shall easily be exportable as CSV, Excel, PDF or XML

1.6.6. Tenderers shall confirm full compatibility with Windows 11 or higher, availability of the software in English, and provide information on software maintenance, updates, and long-term support policies.

2. General condition

2.1. Instrument footprint: Dimensions (HxWxD): less than 70 x 70 x 70 cm

2.2. Instrument weight: less than 60 kg

2.3. Power supply: 230 V and 60 Hz

2.4. Environmental requirements: humidity, vibration tolerance, lab temperature range

2.5. Tenderers shall confirm compliance with all applicable EU regulations and standards (e.g. CE marking) and provide relevant documentation upon request.

2.6. Documentation and Support

2.6.1. User manuals, service manuals, SOPs.

2.6.2. Installation and commissioning services

2.6.3. Warranty period: A warranty for all components for a period of at least one year beginning with the satisfactory operation of all components at the BIPM

2.6.4. Availability of spare parts and consumables

2.6.5. Preventative maintenance: An estimate of the cost of a contract for the ongoing maintenance of the equipment after the end of the warranty period should be included. The minimum requirement would be a contract including an annual preventative maintenance that also covered the cost of labour and parts in the case of breakdown or malfunction of the instrument.

2.6.6. Training for lab personnel: Two days on site training for 2 persons shall be included

2.7. Trade-in of the existing TGA (PE Pyris 1 TGA)

3. Set-up and acceptance tests at the BIPM

3.1. Within eight weeks following full installation the system must pass the following acceptance tests performed at the BIPM

3.2. Fit-for-purpose accuracy and repeatability tested by measuring the CCQM-K55.d (folic acid) reference material (RM)

3.2.1. Mean value of ten measurements of the folic acid RM and corresponding uncertainty must agree with the water reference value of the folic acid RM of 78.0 ± 3.3 mg/g ($k = 2$)

3.2.2. Ten replicate measurements of the folic acid RM at a sample mass range of 5 – 25 mg: ≤ 2.0 %RSD

** The sensitivity of 0.1 µg of the TGA corresponds to a theoretical limit of detection of 4 µg water/g folic acid for a minimum sample intake of approx. 25 mg (approx. 50 µL) of folic acid.*

For the Tenderer

Date

Name

Title

Signature

* * *

PURCHASING CONDITIONS

SEVRES - FRANCE

<i>B.I.P.M.</i>
Pavillon de Breteuil 92 312 Sèvres FRANCE

Note: The Contractor is the selected tenderer

1. Acknowledgement of orders

The acknowledgment of the Bureau international des poids et mesures (hereinafter also the BIPM) orders implies the Contractor's acceptance of the present Purchasing Conditions.

The Purchasing Conditions are constituted by the general conditions herein and any specific conditions mentioned by the BIPM in its order.

The BIPM will only be bound by the order if it is written and issued by the BIPM's procurement services. The order, the specific conditions and the Purchasing Conditions are deemed accepted as soon as the Contractor accepts the order.

2. Information and data handed over

The Contractor shall only use the information and data, oral or written (including software) obtained from the BIPM and/or its staff in the framework of the order's performance. All data and information are the BIPM's property; upon the BIPM's request, such data and information, and all copies, shall be immediately handed over insofar as such data and information are under written form, floppy disk or magnetic tape.

The Contractor shall not disclose any such data and information to any third body without the prior written agreement of the BIPM. The Contractor shall not declare the BIPM as its client and shall not use the BIPM's name and logos.

The BIPM remains the sole owner of the studies, surveys, samples and documents, whatever their nature is, handed over or sent by the Contractor to the BIPM in the framework of the order's planning and performance. The Contractor waives in advance any claim for payment with regard to these studies, surveys, samples and documents.

3. Equipments and devices made available to the Contractor

The BIPM remains the sole owner of the equipments and devices (e.g. prototypes, tools, templates, moulds, gauges, plans, software, drawings, models and patterns, technical specifications, reports and all other kind of documents, stands and mountings) made available by the BIPM to the Contractor, as a loan, in order to allow it to perform its obligations.

Equipments and devices made available to the Contractor by the BIPM are under the Contractor's custody. It shall contract all insurances necessary for insuring all the risks associated with this custody. Insurance Certificates covering those risks shall be sent for information to the BIPM.

Whenever the properties of the Contractor are under a seizure procedure, it shall inform accordingly the BIPM and let the Bailiff know that the equipments and devices made available by the BIPM to the Contractor belong to the BIPM and are immune to any legal and administrative constraints.

4. Assignment

The Contractor shall not assign or sub-let the order's performance, in all or part, without the BIPM's prior written agreement. If a sub-contracting contract is in force, the Contractor is still responsible for the complete performance of the order.

5. Price - Invoices - Payment

Prices stated in the order are always to be considered as D.D.U. Incoterm, BIPM's headquarters. All freight and shipping expenses of goods, equipments and devices delivered to the BIPM are paid by the Contractor. The BIPM is in charge of all the import and customs procedures.

Upon delivery and acceptance of the goods and/or services and full performance of the order, the BIPM shall pay to the Contractor the unit prices stated in the order, within the stated milestones (30% on placing of order; 40% on delivery; and 30% after successful completion of acceptance tests). Pursuant to the immunities enjoyed by the BIPM, unit prices shall be franco, without customs taxes and any taxes.

Prices are firm and fixed.

The order's currency shall be Euro.

Payments shall be made by wire transfer or by bank cheque.

The Contractor is not entitled to any other sums than the ones it is entitled to pursuant to the order.

No partial invoicing is allowed, unless by prior agreement of the accounting services.

Invoices shall be in triplicate and shall be sent or hand-delivered to the BIPM, under separate and sealed envelopes bearing the mention "invoices". They shall be sent to the BIPM's accounting services. Invoices must always show the order's number and the delivery document(s)' number(s).

Unless agreed otherwise, payment shall be effected within 30 days of invoice's receipt at the BIPM, end of the month the 10th. Unless otherwise agreed, no advance payment shall be made further to the order's acceptance.

6. Shipment and packaging

Any delivery with a lorry shall be subject to the following conditions: maximum height: 3,60 metres and maximum authorized load: 10 tones.

Whatever the shipment mode and irrespective of any contrary clause, the Contractor is responsible for the condition of the ordered goods, equipment and devices, as well as for any consecutive damages.

Moreover, the Contractor shall make the necessary provision for sufficient packaging of the goods, equipment and devices, with a view to protecting them against the normal transportation's risks.

All parcels shall show in a conspicuous location: the order's number and the name of the BIPM's Section, as identified in the delivery address. The Contractor shall only hold the property of the packaging used for the shipment of goods, equipment or device delivered to the BIPM, if they show in a conspicuous location the Contractor's name and the deposit's value. The BIPM shall hold the property of any packaging it owns.

7. Delivery documents

Any delivery shall be accompanied by a numbered delivery document, in duplicate, which model can be imposed on the Contractor by the BIPM and showing the:

- shipment's date;
- BIPM recipient's Section, as identified in the delivery address;
- order's reference;
- Contractor's identification;
- identification of the goods, equipment and device delivered and, when applicable, identification by parcels;
- if need be, number of the box used for packing.

The delivery is acknowledged by the delivery of a receipt to the Contractor or by the signature of a copy of the delivery documents.

Any delivery without delivery documents showing all the requested information may be rejected and returned to the contractor at its own costs.

8. Delivery deadlines, penalties and alternative supplier

Delivery time: is fixed in the terms of reference starting from the notification of the order to the selected Contractor by the BIPM.

Unless otherwise agreed, deadlines are meant as goods, device or equipment delivered to the location specified in the order. If the order is not performed within the agreed upon deadlines, the BIPM reserves the right to terminate the order without any indemnity and further to a single notice by registered letter with recorded delivery, without prejudice to any action that could be exerted by the BIPM further to any total or partial failure of the Contractor to perform its contractual obligations.

Whenever the delivery deadlines are not abided by, the order may be declared null and void by the BIPM as above-mentioned and penalties shall be imposed on the Contractor calculated as follows:

$P = V * R / 1000$, in which:

- P = the penalties' amount;
- V = the value of the performance items on which the penalties are calculated; this value equals to the value of the payment of part of the late performance items, or of the whole performance items, if the whole goods, equipment, or device cannot serve their agreed upon purpose due to the late delivery;
- R = number of days of delay.

Whenever the order is terminated, the penalties may be imposed until the eve (included) of the date of the termination's entry into force.

In addition to the penalties and without prejudice of the right of the BIPM to terminate the order, whenever the Contractor, further to a formal notice, did not do its utmost to perform the order within the agreed upon deadline, the BIPM shall be entitled to recover from the Contractor the additional costs incurred in procuring replacement goods, device or equipment from an alternative supplier.

9. Acceptance and Warranties

Delivered goods, equipment, device and/or services shall strictly conform, with regard to quantity and quality, to the terms of the order and its annexed documents. The acceptance of Goods, equipment, device and/or services delivered shall only be final and without reservation, further to an inspection by the BIPM of their technical specifications. When the acceptance is conditional until the Contractor rectifies defects or supplies replacement items, it will only be final when all and every defect are rectified. The information shown on the delivery documents are purely indicative in that respect.

The Contractor warrants that the delivered goods, equipment, device and/or services conform to the order and in particular to their proper use, as identified in the order or arising from their nature. It also warrants that they shall be of satisfactory quality, sound in design and in conformance in all respects with the state of art and norms and shall be free of defects in material, creation, conception or performance.

The Contractor is responsible for any damages linked to the performance of the order and shall indemnify for any damage or loss in connection with its defaulting performance. The Contractor shall contract an insurance policy covering all these risks. The Contractor shall hold the BIPM harmless against any counterclaim that could be made against the BIPM by third parties as a result of the performance of its obligations, with regard to its employees and properties, and generally speaking against any direct or indirect claim.

10. Work and services at the BIPM

When the order implies assembly, mounting, building and commissioning, the Contractor shall perform its full obligations under the order at its own risks. The Contractor shall strictly conform to and abide by the BIPM's Health and Safety Manual (or its equivalent).

11. Intellectual property rights

The BIPM retains the right to:

- Reproduce any results arising from the performance of the order (hereinafter the results) and any associated documents;
- Manufacture or order the manufacturing of any items, device or constructions which conform to the results arising from the performance of the order or any part thereof;
- Communicate to third parties the results, including the surveys' files, trials' reports, documents and information of any kind related to the performance of the order;
- Freely publish the results; this publication shall mention the name of the Contractor.

The Contractor shall not, without the prior and written agreement of the BIPM:

- use the results for trade purposes;
- communicate the results to third parties, with or without charge;
- publish the results. The publication shall not mention that the survey has been financed by the BIPM.

The Contractor shall communicate to the BIPM, upon request, all its knowledge resulting from the performance of the order, whenever licensed or not.

The BIPM shall consider the methods and know-how of the Contractor as confidential, unless these methods and know-how are part of the scope of the order.

Titles protecting existing inventions, inventions made or used under the performance of the order, cannot be opposed to the BIPM in order to prohibit their use.

The Contractor shall hold the BIPM harmless against any claim that could be made against the BIPM by third parties with regard to their intellectual, artistic or industrial property rights, pursuant to the performance of the order or the use of their results, in particular with regard to the right of reproduction.

The BIPM shall hold the Contractor harmless against any claim that could be made against the Contractor by third parties with regard to the use imposed, under the order's terms, on the Contractor of their intellectual, artistic or industrial property rights, proceeds and methods.

Further to any expression of claim by a third party against the Contractor or the BIPM, they shall do their utmost to put an end to any rights' infringement and give each other a mutual hand, in particular through communication of all evidences or useful documents they may hold or obtain.

12. Termination

The BIPM reserves the right to terminate the order without any notice or indemnity, without prejudice of any claim or action it may initiate in case of total or partial failure of the Contractor to perform its contractual obligations and/or if the Contractor underwent fraud or provided corrupt gifts in the framework of the call for tenders or the performance of the order.

Whenever the BIPM terminates the order, in part or in all, without any default on the part of the Contractor, it does not have to motivate its decision. In addition to the payment of performed items or fractions of performed items and to the reimbursement of any advance expenses (upon receipt of corresponding vouchers), the Contractor shall receive a fixed and final compensation amounting to a maximum of 3 % (three per cent) of the orders' balance; this amount excludes any additional compensation and includes in particular any Contractor's shortfall in earnings.

Whoever is responsible for the termination and whatever is its rationale, such termination shall be notified by registered letter with recorded delivery and be automatic, *ipso jure* and without any further formalities.

13. Applicable law and disputes' settlement

- 13.1 Given that the BIPM is an international organization, the dispute, controversy or claim shall be first decided in accordance with the provisions of the order and, should it be necessary, with French law. The order's provisions shall be given precedence over all Statutes, Rules and Regulations and any domestic law referred to in such provisions.
- 13.2 Any dispute arising out of the interpretation or performance of the order that could not have been settled through a mutual agreeable agreement within 15 (fifteen) days after due notice given by a party to the other, shall be referred to, and finally determined by, arbitration, pursuant to articles 13.3 to 13.6 below.
- 13.3 The arbitrator is chosen by the Parties by mutual agreement within 15 (fifteen) days after expiry of the mutual agreement deadline referred to in article 13.2.
- 13.4 If the Parties are unable to agree on an arbitrator within the deadline set out in article 13.3, the arbitrator will be randomly drawn within 8 (eight) days from the expiry of such deadline. Each party shall propose an arbitrator's name. Should one Party fail to designate an arbitrator or to show up when the draw takes place, the most active party shall do it on the last day of the 8 (eight) days deadline referred to above and shall seize the arbitrator immediately.
- 13.5 The arbitrator shall deliver its decision within 30 (thirty) days after receipt of the registered letter sent by the most active party and seizing him/her. He/she shall decide the case by applying the order's provisions and, in the alternative, the law applicable to the order. The place of arbitration shall be Paris (France). The languages to be used in the arbitral proceedings shall be English. The costs of the arbitration shall be determined by the arbitrator but shall not exceed the total price of the order. These costs shall be paid by the defaulting party.
- 13.6 The decision of the arbitrator shall be binding upon the Parties.

Read and approved

For the supplier

Date

Name

Title

Signature

* * *