

## DG GROW released tender covering 4 key studies on Substituting Chemicals

DG GROW progressed with a key action point listed in the CSS roadmap: establishing a Substitution Centre. In order to stimulate and coordinate substitution activity for key hazardous chemicals, the EU authorities have been exploring how a future Substitution Centre can contribute actively to this. In order to define the modalities of such a centre, the Commission released a Tender ([EU Funding & Tenders Portal \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eu_funding_tenders_portal/)) covering several lots including the modalities for such a substitution centre, and 3 pilot studies, including one on the substitution of PFAS in batteries and one on CrVI in hard chrome plating. The study -once granted later this year- will run for 30 months and impact the REACH 2.0 but also other chemicals and product legislation like RoHS, ELV,...

*While the EU Universal-PFAS restriction is driven by the 5 countries who submitted it, the Commission is contributing in parallel with its tender on the Substitution project (see above) including checking for an approach to substitute the use of PFAS in batteries, if feasible.*

### Text of the call for tender

The purchase consists in 4 lots. The objectives of the study are manifold: 1. To consider how a network of substitution centres for hazardous chemicals could best be set up and identify if additional substitution centres should be created (lot 1). 2. To facilitate the search for highly performing, cost effective alternative solutions to certain hazardous chemicals targeted by lots 2, 3 and 4, which can effectively reduce health and environmental impacts compared to the use of targeted substances; 3. To gain experience with setting up an effective and efficient framework, including relevant mechanisms and tools, that foster collaboration of various actors towards innovation and substitution of certain hazardous chemicals in uses where substitution is complex. This shall contribute to optimising and complementing the interface between regulation (e.g. REACH regulation, OSH, environmental legislation) and industry-driven innovation, inter alia through substitution planning and through enhancing the role of substitution centres.

#### Lot 1

**Title** Modalities to set up an EU substitution centre or a or an EU network of substitution centres (“EU (network of) substitution centre(s)”) for hazardous chemicals and providing a prototype secretariat for the testing phase of such centre(s).

**Description** Investigating the best modalities to set up a substitution centre or a network of existing substitution centres for hazardous chemicals and providing support to provisional structures operating a substitution centre or a network of existing substitution centres.

**Nature of the contract**

services

**Maximum contract duration**

30 MONTH

#### Lot 2

**Title** Specific pilot - Providing support to a project to promote substitution of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in batteries.

**Description** The work will consist in clearly defining and circumscribing the substance/substance group and use, identifying the relevant partners (substitution centres,

users of the substance in that use and value chain partners (including SMEs), alternative providers, national authorities, academia, NGOs), establishing a work plan of actions to be funded and implementing that work plan.

**Nature of the contract**

services

**Maximum contract duration**

30 MONTH

Lot 3

**Title** Specific pilot - Providing support to a project to promote substitution of chromium(VI) substances in hard chrome plating.

**Description** The work will consist in clearly defining and circumscribing the substance/substance group and use, identifying the relevant partners (substitution centres, users of the substance in that use and value chain partners (including SMEs), alternative providers, national authorities, academia, NGOs), establishing a work plan of actions to be funded and implementing that work plan.

**Nature of the contract**

services

**Maximum contract duration**

30 MONTH

Lot 4

**Title** Specific pilot - Providing support to a project to promote substitution of (a) substance group(s) to be identified by the contractor used in paints manufacturing.

**Description** Specific pilot - Providing support to a project to promote substitution of (a) substance group(s) to be identified by the contractor used in paints manufacturing (with a focus on early discussions about alternatives and avoiding regrettable substitution). The work will consist in clearly defining and circumscribing the substance/substance group and use, identifying the relevant partners (substitution centres, users of the substance in that use and value chain partners (including SMEs), alternative providers, national authorities, academia, NGOs), establishing a work plan of actions to be funded and implementing that work plan.

**Nature of the contract**

services

**Maximum contract duration**

30 MONTH