

**REQUEST FOR BIDS #31-12
IN-VESSEL COMPOST UNIT
UNIVERSITY OF MAINE
ADDENDUM #1**

In response to vendor questions, the University has issued the following addendum:

References correspond with sections (paragraphs) in the RFB.

3.1.1 Footprint: not exceed 12' X 45'

Are you expecting the biofilter to exist on this footprint as well? Are you expecting a biofilter to be included in the bid?

Response: A biofilter is at the discretion of the bidder. It is not a required item.

Are you expecting that curing would need to be on this footprint as well?

Response: Curing will not take place within the composter footprint.

Are there any height limitations for this footprint?

Response: Height is limited by the effective reach of a standard skid steer.

3.1.2 Feedstock: Four (4) cubic yards, approximately 3,000 pounds per day composed of 1,500 pounds food waste and 1,500 pounds of bulk material in an approximate 1:3 ratio. Carbon sources material will be horse bedding and/or wood shavings.

We assume you mean the 1:3 ratio is by volume.

Response: Blend ratio is 3 parts bulk (carbon source) to 1 part food waste by volume.

Can you verify the bedding materials for the horse bedding?

Response: Bulk material (carbon source) is hay, sawdust, wood shavings and small amounts of horse manure.

3.1.3 Operational Capacity: minimum 40 cubic yards.

We assume this refers to the total in-vessel capacity of the system.

Response: Estimate 3.5 to 4.0 cubic yards daily loading. Desired in-composter detention before discharge of 15 to 21 days. The vessel should have sufficient interior volume to process that amount of material based on the design of the vessel you are offering.

3.1.4 Processing Time: Two (2) to three (3) weeks based on loading factor stated in Section 3.1.2.

We assume that two (2) weeks refers to 14 days and three (3) weeks refers to 21 days.

Response: A week equals 7 days.

3.1.7 Loading Chute: Should be covered to bar birds, rodents and precipitation from entering the vessel. Loading will be done with a standard 5' skid steer bucket.

Is a loading chute required? Or can we simply provide a door that provides access to the vessel?

Response: A door is acceptable if it will accommodate skid steer loading.

What is the preferred method for discharging compost from the system? Should we assume a 5' skid steer bucket for this as well?

Response: Discharge can be directly onto the maintenance pad. Skid steer will move it to the curing shed.

3.1.10 Finished Product: Product leaving the in-vessel system shall require no further mechanical management or heating during the curing stage.

Can you explain what you mean by "heating" in this context?

Response: Product discharged by the vessel should not require further biological heating. Temperature should reduce to ambient within 24 to 48 hours of discharge. The composting site does not have sufficient room to windrow and mechanically turn discharged product during the curing stage.

3.4 Acceptance Tests: The University reserves the right to conduct any test/inspection it may deem advisable to assure equipment shall conform to specifications. Failure to satisfy acceptance testing may result in rejection of the equipment with no financial obligation incurred by the University. Latent defects may result in revocation of acceptance.

Can you provide more details about how and when this testing would be completed?

Response: Testing will occur at startup and continue until the first acceptable product is discharged.

3.6 The Contractor will be required to provide site preparation instructions as well as detailed instructions the unloading, handling and position the composter at delivery.

We assume that the University will be installing the concrete pad and providing electrical service to the system control panel. We assume that the University will take responsibility for transferring the composting system from the freight truck to the final location. Do we have this correct?

Response: The University is requesting a site preparation guide in order to place utilities and vessel tie downs in the proper locations. The bidder is not responsible for site work. The University or its contractor will unload and place the composting vessel. The bidder will need to provide rigging instructions.

Please update your copy of the RFB:



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