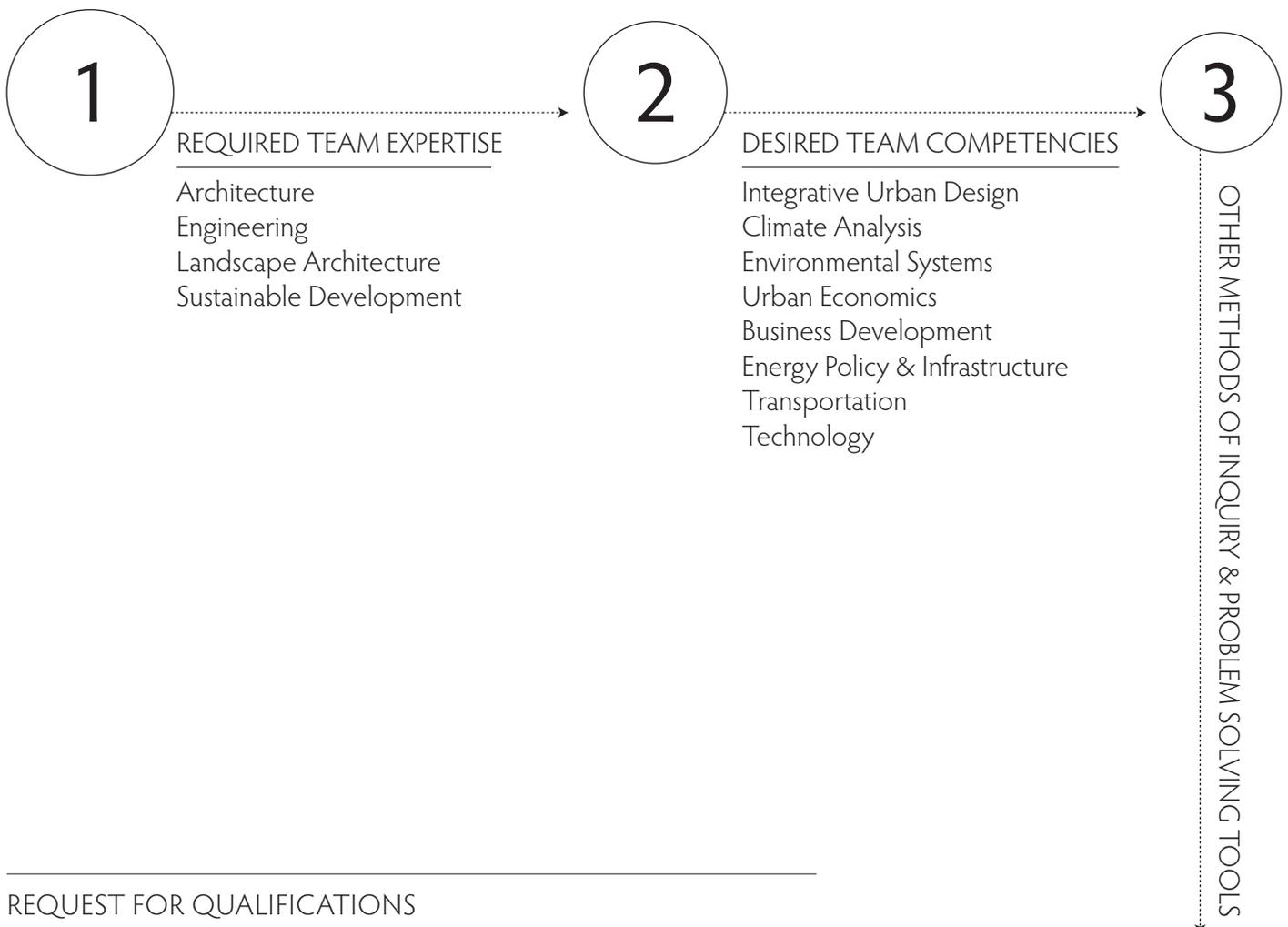


Low2No

A Sustainable Development Design Competition
Jätkäsaari, Helsinki



INVITATION & BACKGROUND

Sitra, the Finnish Innovation Fund—in collaboration with the City of Helsinki—invites you to submit your professional qualifications for consideration in selection of finalists to participate in a sustainable development design competition. The purpose of the competition is to select a team or teams with the right mix of competencies to provide design services for a low/no carbon emissions, mixed-use building complex on a reclaimed goods harbour at the southwestern edge of Helsinki's central business district. The development site will include a headquarters for an innovation driven organization; housing; retail; and potentially other programs that support a sustainable approach to urban development as determined by the entrants.

A committee within Sitra will select up to five finalist teams from the response to this RFQ. Each team will be given a 50.000 euro honorarium and approximately four weeks in June 2009 following the Helsinki workshop to complete their proposals for a review by an interdisciplinary jury. In addition, Sitra will cover related expenses in Finland during invited events and up to 6.000 euro for travel. Sitra retains the right to use material generated in the competition for future exhibitions and publications in accordance with the competition rules.

Sitra is developing the competition to help stir innovation and competitiveness in the field of energy efficiency and sustainable development. In its work, Sitra frequently promotes and supports work on critical issues that are often left underdeveloped as they may fall between the seams of interests; where there is no one clear owner, or where other organizations would be unwilling to take risks. Sitra's role in the competition will include, among other things, funding of the design team through implementation to protect the quality and cohesion of the design proposals.

SCOPE OF SERVICES

Selected teams will be asked to develop a design strategy that will allow a transition from a low to a no carbon emissions building complex in the energy context of Helsinki. This strategy will form the basis for an architectural masterplan and program organization for the 7.100+ m² site on Jätkäsaari. This site is currently limited to a 22.000 m² maximum floor area according to standard zoning restrictions of the city. It is too early to suggest an overall construction budget, but comparable construction in Helsinki has priced at approximately 2.000-3.000 euro/m². The merits of each masterplan must be communicated visually through provocative diagrams, renderings and drawings as determined by the entrants. In addition, teams will be asked to develop an indicator of sustainability appropriate to this type of urban development. This indicator will be used to evaluate this project and future development scenarios.

REQUIRED SKILLS & EXPERIENCE

Sitra's first order consideration for the selection of respondents will be the mix of competencies that team leaders will assemble to form the final competition teams. It is expected that competition teams will include professionals from the architectural, engineering, economics, landscape, technological, urban planning and energy infrastructure worlds, representing the mix of stakeholders and issues at play in urban development. We require teams to have expertise in architecture, engineering, landscape architecture, and sustainable development professional services. We expect that architects will lead these teams in most cases, but are open to other team configurations.

All team members need not necessarily have worked directly on issues of sustainability in the past, but should demonstrate related expertise and most importantly, a high-level capacity to approach the complex problems of sustainability and development with seriousness and rigour. Team leaders should have demonstrable success in tackling urban development.

It is preferred that teams have competencies such as integrative urban design, climate analysis, environmental systems, urban economics, business development, energy policy & infrastructure, transportation, and technology. Other related areas of knowledge are also encouraged.

SUBMITTAL CONTENT

Respondents should include the following basic information:

- Sustainable systems design experience (not necessarily realized in a building)
- Evidence of working problems at a systemic level
- Examples of recent work that is relevant or demonstrates capacity for complex problem solving
- Examples of projects with high architectural, spatial and social value

The primary goal of this information is to expose the potential of a team to engage a complex set of issues and deliver a focused, pertinent response with tremendous potential for immediate and future development. Please include other information as is necessary to meet this goal.

RESPONDENT EVALUATION PROCESS

A committee within Sitra will review the submittals and score the respondents based on the following minimum criteria:

Quality of the team

0-40 points

- Complementary competencies including some or all of the following: integrative urban design, climate analysis, environmental systems, urban economics, business development, energy policy and infrastructure, transportation, and technology
- Overall good balance of competencies, with particular focus on sustainability
- Competencies addressing the behavior, demand and choice principles that drive the long-term efficacy of sustainable solutions.
- Knowledge of the scientific principles of environmental, climate, and climate change issues

Experience of the team members

0-40 points

- Record of professional experience in design, building, and innovation by individual team members, especially in the area of sustainability
- International experience of the individual team members, especially in the area of sustainability
- Experience with large-scale, mixed-use development, especially in the area of sustainability
- Experience working in multidisciplinary teams, especially in the area of sustainability

Evidence of systemic thinking

0-20 points

- Experience with developing scalable solutions
- Experience coordinating and implementing large-scale innovations
- Experience in analysis of urban systems (energy, transportation, ecological, etc.)

The teams will be measured through the lens of past rigorous work on sustainability or the clear interest in pursuing sustainability as a central design motive. A maximum of five teams will be selected to continue with the design competition.

SUBMITTAL PROCEDURES

Submittals must be received by Sitra no later than 22 April 2009. In most cases, the submittal can be a press-ready PDF uploaded to a secure location found under the "Resources" tab at our website. The team contact will receive an email confirmation once we receive the submittal. It is also acceptable for respondents to print, bind and mail (to Sitra's office) their submittals if control over printing is important. Questions should be directed to Sitra during the first ten days of the RFQ period.

Submittals must be A4/A3 formatted with the following guidelines:

Cover to the Submittal: (1-2 pages, 10 point font minimum, no graphics)

- 300 word provocation-expressing team approach & value
- List of principle leads/firms with synoptic description
- Team leader contact information

Submittal: (30 sheets or less double sided)

- List of relevant projects
- Selected projects shown in detail
- Abridged CV's of key team members

Respondents must commit to working on the project during the entire design solution process. A person can be nominated only in one team submitting to this competition. It is the responsibility of individuals to inform team members if the consultancy that they represent has other individuals in other teams.

SCHEDULE

If you respond to this RFQ, ensure that key team members are available for the meeting in Helsinki June 01, 2009.

April 01, 2009	RFQ submittal period begins
April 22, 2009	RFQ submittal due
May 06, 2009	Selection of best qualified teams announced
Week of May 11, 2009	Competition brief available at our website
June 1-3, 2009	Selected teams in Helsinki for 2-3 day competition introduction & workshop
July 01, 2009	Competition proposals due
September 01, 2009	Winning team announced
September 2009	Selected teams return to Helsinki for a "next steps" workshop

Note: all dates are subject to change.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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WEBSITE

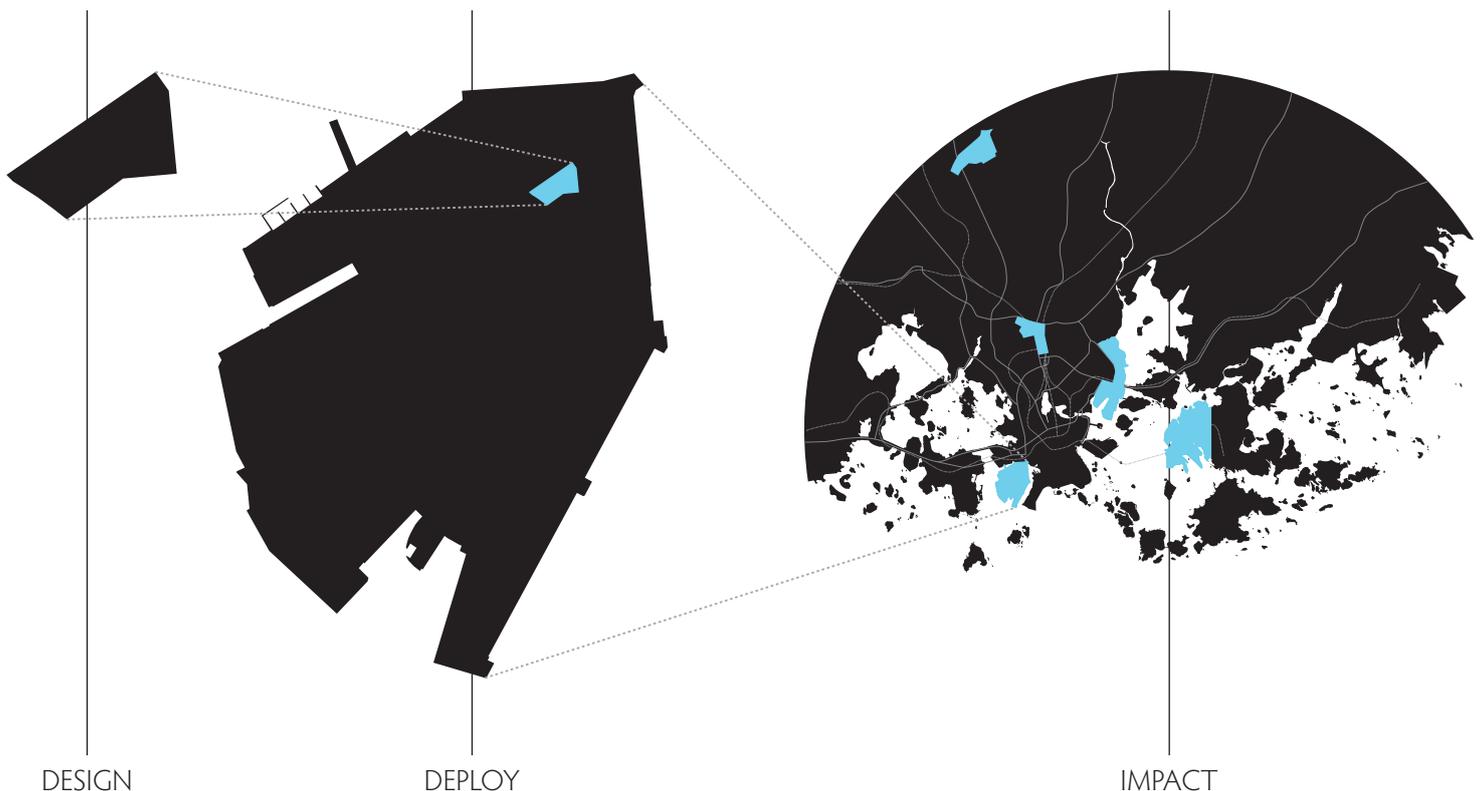
www.low2no.org/competition

Downloads, schedule updates, the competition overview, a comprehensive competition brief, responses to questions and the competition rules will be available on the web site.

Visit www.low2no.org/competition/resources/ to upload your RFQ submittal.

QUESTIONS

competition@sitra.fi



**Because Sitra is a public procurement entity under public procurement legislation (Finnish Act on Public Contracts), public procurement rules shall apply to competition process.

In collaboration with the **City of Helsinki**
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