

1st Invitation
to manufacturers of medicinal products for the treatment of neglected tropical diseases to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) for product evaluation to the WHO Prequalification of Medicines Programme
(May 2011)

To support national and global efforts to increase access to and the affordability of care and treatment of neglected tropical diseases, WHO invites manufacturers of selected pharmaceutical products to submit **Expressions of Interest (EOIs)** for product evaluation.

Article 1. Procedure for this EOI

The current Invitation is published in accordance with the *Procedure for prequalification of pharmaceutical products*, adopted in 2001 by the 37th WHO Expert Committee on Specifications for Pharmaceutical Preparations, and amended subsequently as part of the 43rd report of the Committee, published as [No. 953 of the WHO Technical Report Series](#) in 2009.

Assessment of product(s) submitted under this Invitation for EOI includes evaluation of:

- product dossiers, which must include product data and information as specified in the [guidelines for submission](#)
- manufacturing sites, which must adhere to [good manufacturing practices](#) (GMP)
- clinical sites (if applicable), which must adhere to [good clinical practices](#) (GCP).

If evaluation demonstrates that a product and its corresponding manufacturing (and clinical) site(s) meet WHO recommended standards, it will be included in the [list of medicinal products](#) that are considered to be acceptable for procurement by UN organizations and others.

Article 2. Medicinal products included in the 1st Invitation

The aim of this 1st EOI is to ensure the availability of quality assured diethylcarbamazine for the treatment of lymphatic filariasis. The recommended active ingredient, dosage form and strength listed in this document have been identified by WHO's Neglected Tropical Disease Department for effective treatment of people suffering from lymphatic filariasis. This formulation is included either in the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines¹ and/or in the WHO standard treatment guidelines²

¹ WHO Model List of Essential Medicines. 16th list, March 2009

http://www.who.int/selection_medicines/committees/expert/17/sixteenth_adult_list_en.pdf

WHO Model List of Essential Medicines. For Children. Second list, March 2009

http://www.who.int/selection_medicines/committees/expert/17/second_children_list_en.pdf

² Preventive chemotherapy in human helminthiasis - Coordinated use of anthelmintic drugs in control interventions: A manual for health professionals and programme managers in human helminthiasis
http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2006/9241547103_eng.pdf

Products included in the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines are those which satisfy the priority health care needs of a population. They are selected on the basis of disease prevalence, evidence on efficacy and safety, and comparative cost-effectiveness.

Products included in WHO treatment guidelines are selected on the basis of an assessment of the quality of evidence for benefits, harms, costs, and appropriateness for use in a variety of situations, taking into account needs of special populations, and the values and preferences of the groups (professional and patient) using them.

Interested manufacturers are encouraged to submit documentation for the medicinal product as specified below:

Single ingredient medicines to treat lymphatic filariasis

- Diethylcarbamazine tablet 100mg

Article 3. How to submit an EOI

In order to submit an expression of interest for product evaluation, the manufacturer must send the required documentation, arranged according to the information provided on the WHO Prequalification of Medicines Programme web site at www.who.int/prequal section "Information for Applicants".

Article 4. Quality assessment procedure following submission of an EOI by a manufacturer

The quality assessment is undertaken to assess whether the pharmaceutical product being evaluated meets the requirements recommended by WHO, and is manufactured in compliance with good manufacturing practices (GMP).

The procedure established by WHO for quality assessment incorporates:

- general understanding of the production and quality control activities of the manufacturer;
- assessment of product data and information on safety, efficacy and quality submitted by the manufacturer, including product formulation, manufacture and test data and results;
- assessment of the manufacturing site's adherence to GMP, and its consistency in production and quality control of starting materials, with specific emphasis on active pharmaceutical ingredients, and finished product;
- assessment of clinical testing units or organizations (i.e. parties performing one or more clinical trials with the product) for compliance with good clinical practices and good laboratory practices, as appropriate;
- random sampling and testing of medicines supplied.

Previous evaluation conducted by the relevant National Drug Regulatory Authority (NDRA) may be taken into account during the evaluation conducted by WHO, provided that the NDRA has expertise in the product area. If appropriate, the relevant NDRA may be invited to collaborate with WHO on the quality assessment. Any manufacturer who submits a

product for evaluation, is therefore encouraged to authorize its NDRA to discuss relevant product files with WHO representatives, during assessments and inspections, if required (subject to appropriate confidentiality provisions, if necessary).

Once WHO is satisfied that quality assessment has been completed for the manufacturer of the relevant starting materials, the finished pharmaceutical product, and the clinical testing units, and that the product meets WHO recommended standards, the product (as produced at the specified manufacturing site) is added to the [WHO List of Prequalified Medicines](#).

Article 5. References and further information

For further information on the WHO Prequalification of Medicines Programme, please visit the Programme's web-site at: www.who.int/prequal. Should you have any questions relating to the procedure for responding to an EOI, please write to the WHO Prequalification of Medicines Programme at its email address: prequal@who.int. Your question(s) will be directed to the prequalification team member who can best advise you.