

Request for Proposals Firm to conduct Statutory Audit on a Not For Profit Organisation in accordance with Swiss Law and Swiss Standards on Auditing (SA- CH)

RFP n#: 2025-7-FS-BCCHAUDIT
Location: Geneva
Start date: 18 September 2025
End date: 17 September 2028

Better Cotton key contact:
Graham Sutherland
Senior Director of Finance & Services
graham.sutherland@bettercotton.org



All applications must be submitted via this [form](#).

You may submit questions to tender@bettercotton.org - RFP n# 2026-FS-BCCHAUDIT until 24 July 2025

Questions, requests and applications sent after the deadline (31 July 2025) will only be considered in exceptional circumstances.

Description

Better Cotton is the world's largest cotton sustainability programme. Our mission: to help cotton communities survive and thrive, while protecting and restoring the environment. In difficult times, we are meeting the challenge head on. Through our network of field-level partners we have provided training on more sustainable farming practices to more than 2.9 million cotton farmers in 26 countries. More than a fifth of the world's cotton is now grown under the Better Cotton Standard and our membership network includes more than 2,400 members.

Better Cotton has united the industry's stakeholders, from ginners and spinners to brand owners, civil society organisations and governments. Everyone who cares about cotton and its sustainable future can now be part of something better.

Our Association now earns €42.9 Million in income and employees over 300 people around the world.

More information about Better Cotton can be found on our website: www.bettercotton.org

Background

We are seeking proposals from qualifying organisations to conduct the Statutory audit of the standalone and consolidated financial statements of Better Cotton Association for the period ending March 31, 2026.

Better Cotton's head offices are based in Châtelaine, Switzerland. Additionally, there is a regional office in China, branch offices in the UK, India and Uzbekistan. Better Cotton also has a separate entity in Pakistan - BCI Pakistan.

The accounting framework retained is that of the Swiss GAAP RPC and the functional currency of the Association is the EURO. The audited financial statements are to be prepared in English.

The scope and subject matter of the audit engagement are defined by law. In accordance with the provisions of Article 727 par. 1 CO, a statutory audit (as referenced under Article 728a ff CO) of standalone financial statements is to be conducted.

The object of the audit is to issue an opinion on whether the financial statements are in accordance with the law and the Association's statutes on one hand, and if an Internal Control System ("ICS") exists with respect to the preparation and presentation of the financial statements, and if it has been applied in accordance with the policies defined by the Council of the Association.

Scope of Work

The scope and subject matter of the audit engagement are defined by law. In accordance with the provisions of Article 727 par. 1 CO, a statutory audit (as referenced under Article 728a ff CO) of stand-alone financial statements is to be conducted.

The object of the audit is to issue an opinion on whether the financial statements are in accordance with the law and the Association's statutes on one hand, and if an Internal Control System ("ICS") exists with respect to the preparation and presentation of the financial statements, and if it has been applied in accordance with the policies defined by the Council of the Association.

The preparation of the consolidated and standalone financial statements will be carried out by the Association prior to the Audit. Well maintained accounting records, and an established Internal Control System ensure the financial statements are free from material misstatement. Appropriate accounting policies are applied along with the application of rules with respect to the proper presentation of the financial statements and the safeguard of the assets of the Association and the Group.

On identifying the preferred application, it is likely that the appointment as auditor will be for a minimum of three financial years. BCI's retiring auditors have reached the end of their term of engagement as laid down by the organisations policy.

In parallel with the Association, BCI has a Foundation named the Growth and Innovation Fund (GIF) which provides grants which benefit cotton-growing communities around the world. GIF is a separate legal entity. The audit of GIF may be available to the successful applicant in 2027 but does not form part of this RFP.

High-level Timeline

31 July 2025	Applications deadline All applications must be submitted via this form .
31 July –6 August 2025	Applications review & shortlisting / Interviews
7 August 2025	The successful applicant will be notified

	Unsuccessful <u>shortlisted</u> applicants will also be notified
18 September 2025	Start of the appointment
By 31 January 2026	ICS Audit
By 30 June 2026	Audit Fieldwork Complete
By 31 July 2026	Audit Report signed
By Mid September 2026	BCI Financial Statements adopted by General Assembly.

Required Skills & Knowledge

Skills, Knowledge and Experience
<i>Essential</i>
Experience of auditing Not For Profit organisations
Membership of Global/International Network
Ancillary services available (i.e. tax advice)
<i>Optional</i>
Fluent English: Better Cotton's language of operation is English

Application Requirements

Please note that we have changed our RFP submission protocol, and this is now in two phases;

- **Phase 1: Initial details will be submitted on the form found in this [link](#).**
- **Phase 2: You will receive an email with live links to upload relevant documents (please check your Spam and Junk folders)**

Proposals responding to this Request for Proposals should be a maximum of 10 pages (excluding CVs), and include the following:

- Overview of relevant experience
- Proposed methodology and timeline
- Detailed and transparent budget, in EUROS, including time allocation and daily/hourly rates

We thank all applicants for their interest; however only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

Applicants may be invited to an in-person meeting in early August in Geneva to discuss proposals in

more detail.

Better Cotton is committed to good practice and transparency in the management of natural, human and financial resources. All applications will be reviewed under the principles and subject to Better Cotton's policies on equal opportunity, non-discrimination, anti-bribery & corruption and conflict of interest.

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

Technical Evaluation Criteria

- Demonstrated understanding of this RFP
- Quality and clarity of the proposed approach and methodology
- Feasibility of the proposed activity plan and timeline, and appropriateness of time allocated to delivering each task
- Relevant professional experience of the proposed audit team
- Quality and relevance of the sample work submitted

Financial Evaluation Criteria

- Quality and clarity of budget provided, and level of detail included
- Alignment of the budget to the activity timeline detailed in the technical proposal
- Value for money