



*Dipartiment tar-Restawr u l-Presewazzjoni*

*Restoration and Preservation Department*

REST34/2023/A

24 April 2024



**Call for Quotations for the Supply of Pre-mixed mortar to be used for Plastic Repair**

Reference is being made to the letter of objection dated 20<sup>th</sup> April 2024, submitted by Dr. Alessandro Lia on behalf of Vaults Co. Ltd. In relation to above captioned subject.

Further to the two claims brought forward by the appellant, the following are to be noted:

**Non-compliance with respect to colour:**

“Submitted offer is a bit on the yellow side when it comes to colour” was the justification for non-compliance based on trial sample carried out on site using product provided by the bidder.

After application and drying, what started out as one homogeneous colour, became two separate colours with a distinct yellowing occurring at the interface of the newly applied mortar and the surrounding *franka* limestone. Please refer to photo below which was taken after the sample had dried.





This colour migration has also been observed on sites where this product was applied as per photo below.



Therefore, irrespective of RAL colour compliance, the presence of two distinguishable colours in number which results from the applied proposed product makes it non-compliant with the requested single colour specified in the CFQ.

#### **Non-compliance with respect to grain size:**

“It is very hard to finish due to large grains,” was the justification given for non-compliance based on the specification requested in the CFT where the Pre-Mixed mortar is stipulated “to be used for plastic repair.” Plastic repair techniques include thicknesses that are below 10mm, where grain sizes in premixed mortars are gauged accordingly, but the proposed product Calcinto Betoncino is not able to be applied in thicknesses below 10mm, partly due to its larger-sized grains, making it non-compliant for plastic repair in its entirety which this framework agreement needs to cover.

Although an example of plastic repair use of the proposed product was submitted in the objection letter, where this was applied to a flat barrel vault, where the works involved included filling, this does not cover the full scope of plastic repair which includes the building up of sculptural details which invariably incorporate these lower than 10mm thicknesses. A case scenario of this is exemplified in the photo below.





We therefore respectfully submit that our communicated decision to the Economic Operator was technically correct and in line with Article 18.3(a) of the General Rules governing Tenders.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Norbert Gatt', written over a faint, light blue oval-shaped background.

Norbert Gatt  
Director General (RPD)  
Head CA

