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Award

Kidlington Waste Clearance

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

UK5: Transparency notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2026/S 000-000755

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-060042 ([view related notices](#))

Published 6 January 2026, 3:23pm

Scope

Reference

P-39284

Description

The Environment Agency requires immediate specialist waste clearance services to mitigate a significant fire risk at the Kidlington waste site, as identified by Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service. A fire at this location would have serious consequences for public safety, including air quality impacts from smoke, disruption to critical infrastructure such as the A34 major highway, and risks to the local environment.

The contract covers the urgent clearance of approximately 21,000 tonnes of illegally deposited mixed waste at the site. The supplier will deliver a full end-to-end waste management service, including site preparation, waste characterisation, segregation, safe handling, loading, transport, and disposal at appropriately permitted facilities.

The contract value is estimated at this time, with an anticipated start date of 19 January 2026 and an estimated duration of 12-months with a 12-month defect period.

Contract 1

Supplier

- Acumen Waste Services Limited

Contract value

- £8,000,000 excluding VAT
- £9,600,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Earliest date the contract will be signed

16 January 2026

Contract dates (estimated)

- 19 January 2026 to 31 December 2027
- Possible extension to 31 December 2028
- 2 years, 11 months, 13 days

Description of possible extension:

The initial contract term will follow the first Accepted Programme in accordance with the NEC ECC. The Authority may extend the contract where required to reflect any extensions to the programme.

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 90500000 - Refuse and waste related services

Contract locations

- UKJ14 - Oxfordshire

Participation

Particular suitability

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

Other information

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Direct award

Direct award justification

Extreme and unavoidable urgency

Approximately 21,000 tonnes of mixed waste have been illegally deposited at the site. Independent advice from Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service (OFRS) confirms a rapidly increasing fire risk, driven by the volume and composition of the waste, the limited ability to safely access and control a fire if one were to start, and the lack of viable options to contain or manage firewater.

A fire at this location would have a severe impact; including:

- Lead to the closure of the A34, a major transport corridor between the South coast and the Midlands
- Disrupt emergency services, local utilities and essential services
- Cause pollution to the River Cherwell, which would impact on public water abstraction downstream on the River Thames and surrounding environment
- Produce significant smoke affecting nearby communities

These serious risks require immediate intervention to protect public safety, the environment and critical infrastructure because of the increasing risk of spontaneous combustion of the waste and the inability for the OFRS to access the site and tackle any fire. Work needs to start immediately not only to remove the fire risk but also to avoid the upcoming bird nesting season which could impact on site clearance works.

The use of the extreme and unavoidable urgency provision is justified because:

- The situation could not reasonably have been foreseen, arising from an unexpected

significant increase in the likelihood of spontaneous combustion at the site identified by OFRS in December.

- The urgency is not attributable to the contracting authority. EA does not clear illegal waste sites, such as this site at Kidlington, except in exceptional circumstances. The decision to clear this site was based on the exceptional circumstances created by the rapidly escalating fire and environmental risks .
- The time limits for any competitive procurement procedure cannot be met without creating unacceptable risk to people, the environment, and critical infrastructure.

Supplier

Acumen Waste Services Limited

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PPLQ-9621-JRQL

Acumen House, Headlands Lane

Knottingley

WF11 0LA

United Kingdom

Email: info@acumenwaste.co.uk

Region: UKE45 - Wakefield

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): Yes

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 1

Contracting authority

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PNWW-1475-NYLN

Seacole Building, 2 Marsham Street

London

SW1P 4DF

United Kingdom

Email: nick.kynman@defra.gov.uk

Website: <https://defra-family.force.com/s/Welcome>

Region: UKI32 - Westminster

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government

Other organisation

These organisations are carrying out the procurement, or part of it, on behalf of the contracting authorities.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Summary of their role in this procurement: Procurement Lead

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PNBD-3289-CDGX

Seacole Building, 2 Marsham Street

London

SW1P 4DF

United Kingdom

Email: nick.kynman@defra.gov.uk

Website: <https://defra-family.force.com/s/Welcome>

Region: UKI32 - Westminster

Contact organisation

Contact ENVIRONMENT AGENCY for any enquiries.