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Planning

Evaluation of the NCEA Programme (2021-2025)

Defra Network eTendering Portal

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-001736

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-039903

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Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Defra Network eTendering Portal

17 Nobel House

London

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Contact

Laura Hoile

Email

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Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs>

Buyer's address

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

I.3) Communication

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

National or federal Agency/Office

I.5) Main activity

Environment

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Evaluation of the NCEA Programme (2021-2025)

Reference number

P-30837

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 73000000 - Research and development services and related consultancy services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

Market Engagement:

Defra is developing a specification, to evaluate the Natural Capital Ecosystem Assessment programme (NCEA). This requirement is planned to be advertised in early 2023. The service is expected to be required up until approximately April 2025. Defra is holding market engagement events in the form of Microsoft Teams calls, to understand market capabilities and capacities for the requirement. NCEA staff will provide a short overview of the requirement and the NCEA Programme, and then open the floor to suppliers to provide feedback and ask questions.

If you wish to attend or have any queries about the event please contact laura.hoile@defra.gov.uk who will register your space and provide you with the MS teams link for the sessions:

Session 1: 31 Jan 15:30 – 17:00

Session 2: Monday 6 Feb 15:00 – 16:30

The procurement strategy and route to market is subject to change and market research, and Defra will start planning this after Session 2.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 73200000 - Research and development consultancy services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

Main site or place of performance

United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The NCEA (2021-2025) is a £140m Research and Development (R&D) programme delivered over three years through two separate portfolios, terrestrial (tNCEA) and marine

(mNCEA). It is a science innovation and transformation programme, which spans across land and water environments. It has been set up to collect data on the extent, condition and change over time of England's ecosystems and natural capital, and the benefits to society. Together, these approaches provide a more holistic and joined-up view of our natural environment, enabling us to identify connections, dependencies, and trade-offs between policy ambitions and to make better-informed decisions that truly benefit people and nature. Defra require services to evaluate this programme, and before finalising the specification of requirements, DEFRA is conducting a market engagement exercise to gather feedback on how best to structure this evaluation project.

We welcome feedback from suppliers on the following:

- Overall, is this package of work (a mNCEA evaluation, a tNCEA evaluation and a synthesis of findings) feasible to deliver as one evaluation project, by one supplier?
- Would there be cost efficiencies in having one evaluation project delivered by one supplier, as opposed to separately contracted evaluations of the two portfolios?
- Is it viable for one supplier to provide the necessary skills and expertise in the required quantities to evaluate both portfolios? This includes:
 - Expertise in planning and delivering evaluation of large-scale, complex R&D programmes, including data and science programmes.
 - Experience working with marine AND terrestrial policy and evidence (environmental, ecological, social, and economic).
 - Programme management
 - Integrating business change
 - Understanding of digital platforms, GIS systems, data processing software and managing user feedback.

II.2.14) Additional information

The NCEA programme is a partnership across Defra and its ALBs, in addition to building cross-government, private sector and non-profit collaborations. More detail of the programme can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/natural-capital-and-ecosystem-assessment-programme/natural-capital-and-ecosystem-assessment-programme#working-with-us>

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

20 January 2023

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.8) Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: No

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

The objectives are to assess the relevance, effectiveness (including cost-effectiveness), outcomes and sustainability (i.e. long-term durability and integration into “business as usual” ways of working and systems) of the NCEA. The evaluation will go beyond the monitoring of outputs (which will be led by the Programme Management Offices) to identify the mechanisms through which change takes place; and assess the likelihood of long-term effects being sustained through the adoption of a natural capital approach across business areas. It will provide an accountability function for a significant investment of public funds, and capture learning throughout the lifetime of the programme to shape programme delivery. Some of the identified benefits will arise after the lifetime of the programme, and the supplier will be asked to demonstrate how further evaluation and assessment can be undertaken post-programme to understand these impacts. The programme is also developing a Benefits Management Framework, which will have some common data sources. Key audiences for the evaluation include: NCEA Strategic Programme Board, Infrastructure Projects Authority, HM Treasury, mNCEA and tNCEA PMOs, project delivery partners, and NCEA customers.