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Planning

Framework for a Radioactive Waste Quality Checking Service

Environment Agency

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2022/S 000-003065

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-031293

Published 2 February 2022, 10:44pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Environment Agency

Horizon House

Bristol

BS1 5AH

Email

network.procurement@defra.gov.uk

Telephone

+44 2072385921

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency>

I.2) Information about joint procurement

The contract is awarded by a central purchasing body

I.3) Communication

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Electronic communication requires the use of tools and devices that are not generally available. Unrestricted and full direct access to these tools and devices is possible, free of charge, at

<https://defra.bravosolution.co.uk/web/login.html>

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

I.5) Main activity

Environment

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Framework for a Radioactive Waste Quality Checking Service

Reference number

Project_35301

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 71600000 - Technical testing, analysis and consultancy services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

The Environment Agency is looking to issue a tender for the provision of Waste Quality Checking Services for Radioactive Wastes. The contract will provide the Environment Agency and other bodies, with the capability to undertake, independent verification and assurance activities of lower activity radioactive wastes prior to their treatment or disposal. This checking will take place at sites throughout England, Wales and Scotland. Such radioactive wastes predominantly comprise Low Level Radioactive Waste but may also include short-lived Intermediate Level Wastes that form part of radioactive waste consignments appropriate for management in near-surface environments. The contract will also be open for use by Natural Resources Wales (NRW), the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Defra and its associated bodies.

The service provision should be suitable to give assurance to the Environment Agencies' regulatory staff that radioactive wastes originating from nuclear sites have been characterised and consigned appropriately. The assurance service will be used to support regulatory activities related to compliance with the relevant radioactive substances activity permissions (e.g. permits or authorisations). Work would be targeted on a risk basis, to include consideration of new treatment and disposal routes, and seeking to check radioactive wastes arising from across all nuclear sites over a given period. In addition the work may include checking of Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) wastes being received for treatment or disposal at permitted sites.

Assurance activities will include: in-situ monitoring of individual items, drums or ISO containers of waste to assess the radioactivity content; seizing items of radioactive waste

and drums (small quantities) for independent analysis for radioactivity (including transport to and from analytical facilities); auditing site operators' procedures and operations for the consignment or receipt of radioactive wastes for treatment and disposal; audit and review the assurance approaches established by waste consignees', including the Low Level Waste Repository (LLWR) operator, relating to any radioactive waste management services they obtain under contract; storing and utilising existing reference materials (including drums and packages) for testing of site operators' own monitoring systems and, potentially, the design and creation of new reference materials.

The Supplier may also be called up on to provide technical advice, training and represent the Environment Agency at relevant meetings - nationally and internationally.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: Yes

Maximum number of lots that may be awarded to one tenderer: 1

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Lot No

1

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 71600000 - Technical testing, analysis and consultancy services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The Environment Agency is looking to issue a tender for the provision of Waste Quality Checking Services for Radioactive Wastes. The contract will provide the Environment Agency and other bodies, with the capability to undertake, independent verification and assurance activities of lower activity radioactive wastes prior to their treatment or disposal. This checking will take place at sites throughout England, Wales and Scotland. Such radioactive wastes predominantly comprise Low Level Radioactive Waste but may also include short-lived Intermediate Level Wastes that form part of radioactive waste consignments appropriate for management in near-surface environments. The contract

will also be open for use by Natural Resources Wales (NRW), the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Defra and its associated bodies.

The service provision should be suitable to give assurance to the Environment Agencies' regulatory staff that radioactive wastes originating from nuclear sites have been characterised and consigned appropriately. The assurance service will be used to support regulatory activities related to compliance with the relevant radioactive substances activity permissions (e.g. permits or authorisations). Work would be targeted on a risk basis, to include consideration of new treatment and disposal routes, and seeking to check radioactive wastes arising from across all nuclear sites over a given period. In addition the work may include checking of Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) wastes being received for treatment or disposal at permitted sites.

Assurance activities will include: in-situ monitoring of individual items, drums or ISO containers of waste to assess the radioactivity content; seizing items of radioactive waste and drums (small quantities) for independent analysis for radioactivity (including transport to and from analytical facilities); auditing site operators' procedures and operations for the consignment or receipt of radioactive wastes for treatment and disposal; audit and review the assurance approaches established by waste consignees', including the Low Level Waste Repository (LLWR) operator, relating to any radioactive waste management services they obtain under contract; storing and utilising existing reference materials (including drums and packages) for testing of site operators' own monitoring systems and, potentially, the design and creation of new reference materials.

The Supplier may also be called up on to provide technical advice, training and represent the Environment Agency at relevant meetings - nationally and internationally.

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

4 April 2022

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: Yes

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

The requirement is for a single supplier to provide services under this framework. The framework is intended to be available for use by Natural Resources Wales (NRW), the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Defra and its associated bodies.