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Planning

Lower Thames Crossing Market Engagement- Detailed design services for contestable gas assets

Highways England

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2021/S 000-005238

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-029be7

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Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Highways England

Lateral, City Square

Bedford

MK41 7LW

Email

LTCProcurement@highwaysengland.co.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UK - UNITED KINGDOM

Internet address(es)

Main address

www.highwaysenqland.co.uk

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://highways.bravosolution.co.uk/web/login.shtml>

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

National or federal Agency/Office

I.5) Main activity

General public services

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Lower Thames Crossing Market Engagement- Detailed design services for contestable gas assets

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 71322200 - Pipeline-design services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

Highways England is the government company charged with operating, maintaining and improving England's motorways and major A roads. We want to engage with suppliers to inform our approach to procuring support for delivery of the Lower Thames Crossing scheme (LTC). The LTC scheme includes new roads and Europe's largest bored tunnels. It will connect Essex and Kent to improve capacity of the road network for the South East.

LTC represents a significant opportunity for businesses that want to be involved in the development of the project. This Prior Information Notice is being issued to start a dialogue process between Highways England and the market on the contract for detailed design services for contestable gas assets affected by the proposed LTC. It will be a process of listening to what interested parties have to say and using the responses to shape the project's development and the approach to this contract. We are issuing this PIN to understand the level of market interest.

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £800,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 44161100 - Gas pipelines
- 45230000 - Construction work for pipelines, communication and power lines, for highways, roads, airfields and railways; flatwork
- 65000000 - Public utilities
- 71322200 - Pipeline-design services
- 79415200 - Design consultancy services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - UNITED KINGDOM
- UKH3 - Essex
- UKH32 - Thurrock
- UKI - LONDON

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The LTC project affects a number of statutory undertakers' assets. This contract is to undertake the detailed design for the diversion of approximately 20 affected low, intermediate and medium pressure gas pipelines, which are owned by Cadent Gas Ltd (Cadent) and have been deemed to be contestable by Cadent. These assets are located along the LTC route between the proposed north tunnel portal and the proposed junction with the M25. The length of each individual diversion ranges from 100m to several kilometres, with a total length of pipelines to be diverted of approximately 15km. The detailed design study will conclude by obtaining a letter of acceptance from Cadent.

The majority of contestable assets within scope have been agreed with Cadent during the initial LTC NRSWA/C2 enquiry and have been accepted by Cadent via submission of a Feasibility Study Report. However, a small number of those assets are known to be within the LTC works area but have not been assured to date via site investigations, so the location, characteristics and extent of the works is assumed. This will be required to be investigated to highlight any discrepancies and refine the extent of the scope for detailed design. The designer will undertake a gap analysis on the information provided and agree any further site investigations with Highways England, which will be delivered via LTC's existing contracts.

These assets do not have an accepted Feasibility Study Report and as such may require an additional submission to Cadent to obtain acceptance at Cadent Stage Gate “Final Design Review – Refresh (FDR-R)”.

The designer will work with LTC throughout the detailed design to coordinate their design with LTC’s and third parties’ (in particular, other statutory undertakers) designs. The designer will also engage with Cadent via LTC to meet the requirements of the Cadent Stage Gate Definitions and Guidance.

The designer will be Gas Industry Registration Scheme (GIRS) accredited to provide design services.

We will use our e-Sourcing Portal Bravo, to communicate and undertake market engagement activities with those interested in this contract. If you are interested in participating, please register on the Bravo to receive information about the Detailed design services for contestable gas assets contract by visiting: www.highways.bravosolution.co.uk , (ITT_6048)

Note: Highways England is committed to ensuring fairness, openness, and transparency. This Prior Information Notice (PIN) is to understand the level of market interest and does not constitute any commitment by Highways England to undertake any public procurement exercise. Highways England is not liable for any costs, fees or expenses incurred by any party responding to this PIN or any party who may participate in the market engagement exercise.

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

29 April 2021

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