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Planning

Inspections and surveys of dry open voids-Prometheus R&D

Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd

F04: Periodic indicative notice – utilities

Periodic indicative notice only

Notice identifier: 2022/S 000-007259

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-0322f5

Published 16 March 2022, 10:45pm

Section I: Contracting entity

I.1) Name and addresses

Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd

1 Eversholt Street

London

NW1 2DN

Email

Kalpana.Bhatt@networkrail.co.uk

Telephone

+44 1908781000

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.networkrail.co.uk/>

I.3) Communication

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

I.6) Main activity

Railway services

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Inspections and surveys of dry open voids-Prometheus R&D

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

There are over 5000 recorded and numerous other unrecorded locations across the network where shallow mine workings may constitute a risk to the operation of the railway. The primary risk relates to the collapse of shallow workings causing subsidence at the surface that has the potential to damage railway assets including track possibly resulting in derailment.

To manage the risks posed by shallow mine workings it is necessary to understand both the extent and condition of the workings. Only a small percentage of the shallow mine workings can be accessed, inspected and surveyed by suitably qualified engineers, the remainder are inaccessible or too dangerous. There are a limited number of techniques available to investigate those mine workings that cannot be accessed including geophysical methods and the drilling of multiple boreholes at each location, these have the following disadvantages:

1. Geophysical techniques rarely give reliable results in a railway environment, gaining access to track requires expensive possessions
2. The drilling of boreholes has the following challenges;
 - The process can be expensive, labour intensive and time consuming;
 - There can be difficulties gaining access near or on the operational railway;
 - The drilling of boreholes can initiate the collapse of mine workings;
 - The data obtained is limited to the borehole location and not the wider workings;

- Interpretation of results can be very subjective.

The first phase of the project saw Network Rail work with a consortium of small-to-medium sized enterprises and universities to develop the Prometheus drone to Rail Industry Readiness Level (RIRL) 3. The key motivation for this second-phase project is to develop a solution to RIRL6 that enables for these challenging sites to be inspected and surveyed through safer and more automated methods, by eliminating the need for human-entry.

Network Rail would like to invite prospective suppliers to submit a Request for Information (RFI) Submission Template, which addresses this challenge statement. Network Rail would also like to understand indicative costs in delivering a product trial. Network Rail reserves the rights to hold discussions with Suppliers, following a response to this RFI.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 73000000 - Research and development services and related consultancy services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

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II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

28 February 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

To access the instruction/guidance on how to be apart of the initial Pre Market engagement and to access the Pre Market engagement support document please follow below link. Deadline for responding is 14th April'22.

<https://networkrail.bravosolution.co.uk/esop/guest/go/opportunity/detail?opportunityId=53682>

Send your completed RFI submission template via email as an attachment to Kalpana.bhatt@networkrail.co.uk with the email subject "project_32604 - #25935 - Prometheus R&D"