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Pipeline

Strategic File Management (SFM)

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

UK1: Pipeline notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2026/S 000-007548

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-056090 ([view related notices](#))

Published 28 January 2026, 12:08pm

Changes to notice

This notice has been edited. The [previous version](#) is still available.

Additional CPV codes added.

Scope

Reference

P-36293

Description

Narrative:

Further to the previously published early engagement notice, please be aware that the Buyer plans to publish the Invitation to Tender (ITT) for this (PA 2023) Competitive Flexible Procedure by early February 2026.

It should be noted that this planned procurement is subject to internal governance and approvals. The EA reserves the right to alter any aspect of this planned procurement notice before a tender notice is published, or to not proceed with the procurement in any way. This notice summarises certain aspects of the procurement but does not purport to contain complete descriptions of it, nor to be all inclusive or contain all the information that a prospective tenderer may require when determining whether to take part in any subsequent tender notice to be published.

Description

The Strategic File Management (SFM) project has been established by the Environment Agency (EA) to deliver a “Secure by Design”, compliant, and streamlined file management solution for asset management, including a Common Data Environment (CDE) process to support whole lifecycle asset management information.

A commercial-of-the-shelf (COTS) CDE solution is therefore required to serve as a single, consistent source of truth for all asset management files and data, past and present, across the full asset lifecycle. This will involve migration works from our existing third party CDE system.

The objectives of SFM are:

- (a) Implement a compliant, centralised file management system for asset management.
- (b) Create a single source of truth supporting the entire asset lifecycle.
- (c) Enable accurate, trusted business intelligence.
- (d) Enhance user experience and raise user engagement and satisfaction
- (e) Improve file accessibility, storage, sharing, and user experience.
- (f) Enhance data governance and risk mitigation (e.g., reduced security and legal risks).
- (g) Reduce inefficiencies, such as duplication and process waste.

(h) Support carbon reduction and improved sustainability through streamlined practices.

Through its procurement process, the EA will be seeking suppliers that can provide:

- (a) A unified system with strong standardisation and governance.
- (b) Centralised information storage with consistent formats and locations.
- (c) Streamlined processes to reduce inefficiencies, duplication, and costs.
- (d) Enhanced data accessibility to support informed decision-making and effective risk management.
- (e) Compliance with ISO 55000, 19650, and 9000.
- (f) A simple, intuitive, and partially automated user experience.
- (g) A unified approach, with integrated solutions being acceptable.
- (h) Migration of existing records with metadata tagging.
- (i) File retrieval using metadata and spatial context.
- (j) AI/ML use to improve user experience including metadata creation, Retrieval Augmented Generation to provide answers to questions and AI powered document search.
- (k) Full export of files, metadata, and configurations.

Total value (estimated)

- £5,400,000 including VAT

Contract dates (estimated)

- 10 August 2026 to 9 August 2031
- Possible extension to 9 August 2036

- 10 years

Main category

Services

CPV classifications

- 48311100 - Document management system
- 72317000 - Data storage services
- 72000000 - IT services: consulting, software development, Internet and support
- 72322000 - Data management services

Participation

Particular suitability

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

Submission

Publication date of tender notice (estimated)

16 February 2026

Procedure

Procedure type

Competitive flexible procedure

Above or below total value threshold

Above or equal to threshold

Contracting authority

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PNWW-1475-NYLN

Seacole Building, 2 Marsham Street

London

SW1P 4DF

United Kingdom

Email: procurement@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 FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Summary of their role in this procurement: Procurement facilitated via Defra group Commercial

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PNBD-3289-CDGX

Seacole Building, 2 Marsham Street

London

SW1P 4DF

United Kingdom

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

Region: UKI32 - Westminster

Contact organisation

Contact ENVIRONMENT AGENCY for any enquiries.