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Tender

## **Ecological Services Framework 4 (EcoSF4)**

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (Defra Network eTendering Portal)

F02: Contract notice

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-007704

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-044750

Published 11 March 2024, 2:45pm

The closing date and time has been changed to:

**7 May 2024, 12:00pm**

See the [change notice](#).

### **Section I: Contracting authority**

#### **I.1) Name and addresses**

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (Defra Network eTendering Portal)

Seacole Building, 2 Marsham Street

London

SW1P 4DF

#### **Contact**

Harjinder Grewal

#### **Email**

[harjinder.grewal@defra.gov.uk](mailto:harjinder.grewal@defra.gov.uk)

**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**

The procurement documents are available for unrestricted and full direct access, free of charge, at

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

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted to the above-mentioned address

**I.4) Type of the contracting authority**

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

**I.5) Main activity**

Environment

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## **Section II: Object**

### **II.1) Scope of the procurement**

#### **II.1.1) Title**

Ecological Services Framework 4 (EcoSF4)

Reference number

C21744

#### **II.1.2) Main CPV code**

- 90700000 - Environmental services

#### **II.1.3) Type of contract**

Services

#### **II.1.4) Short description**

Lot 1 – Specialist Macroinvertebrate Services

This Lot covers services relating to all freshwater macroinvertebrate work in both rivers and lakes, needed to cover monitoring required for international, national and local drivers, as well as local investigatory and regulatory needs.

Lot 2 – Habitat and Species (including Invasive, Non-Native Species) Surveys, Evaluation and Report Writing Services

This Lot will be used to procure ecological surveys, reports and advice for a range of activities that will enable nature recovery as envisaged under the Government's Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) 2023. Projects will often be of an aquatic/riparian nature, including work in and adjacent to estuaries, coastal areas, rivers, lakes and wetlands. The work will contribute to EIP species abundance and extinction risk targets for a range of threatened, protected and priority species. It will also cover services relating to protected and priority habitats and natural capital assets, as well as invasive, non-native species.

Lot 3 – Geomorphology, River Restoration and Habitat Creation Services

There are multiple drivers from within Defra to seek opportunities to restore natural processes to manage, enhance and restore rivers and other habitats. This Lot will allow the Environment Agency and Natural England staff to supplement their in-house expertise

around this work area, with the additional resource and expertise that external suppliers can offer. In particular, this Lot focuses upon the supply of river restoration and habitat creation expertise to inform design and feasibility studies. This includes projects that improve natural geomorphological, hydrological and ecological processes for the purposes of reducing flood risk, restoring habitats and improving the movement of fish through catchments (specific fish pass design is covered in lot 4).

#### Lot 4 – Fish Passage Design Services

This Lot covers the design of fish passes that prioritise the use of nature-based solutions. This will include feasibility studies, options appraisal and detailed design. The final design will offer the maximum benefit in terms of fish passage (for multiple species), ecological connectivity, morphological processes and habitat creation.

It is the Authority's intention to have a maximum of 8 suppliers per Lot.

#### **II.1.6) Information about lots**

This contract is divided into lots: Yes

Tenders may be submitted for all lots

#### **II.2) Description**

##### **II.2.1) Title**

Lot 1 - Specialist Macroinvertebrate Services

Lot No

Lot 1

##### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 79311000 - Survey services

##### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

##### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

This Lot covers services relating to all freshwater macroinvertebrate work in both rivers and lakes, needed to cover monitoring required for international, national and local

drivers, as well as local investigatory and regulatory needs.

The core services are:

Surveys of macroinvertebrates, including field survey or sample collection.

Macroinvertebrate species identification and sample analysis.

Non-core services include:

Survey design.

Data analysis and production of reports.

Species verification.

Specialist training in sample collection, analysis and/or identification.

Quality Assurance is an important aspect of this lot, to ensure we maintain the accuracy and precision of data.

#### **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

#### **II.2.6) Estimated value**

Value excluding VAT: £2,500,000

#### **II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system**

Start date

1 October 2024

End date

30 September 2028

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

This Lot covers services relating to all freshwater macroinvertebrate work in both rivers and lakes, needed to cover monitoring required for international, national and local drivers, as well as local investigatory and regulatory needs.

#### **II.2.10) Information about variants**

Variants will be accepted: No

#### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: No

#### **II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds**

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

### **II.2) Description**

#### **II.2.1) Title**

Lot 2 - Habitat and Species (including Invasive, Non-Native Species)

Lot No

Lot 2

#### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 79419000 - Evaluation consultancy services

#### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

#### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

This Lot will be used to procure ecological surveys, reports and advice for a range of activities that will enable nature recovery as envisaged under the Government's Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) 2023. Projects will often be of an aquatic/riparian nature, including work in and adjacent to estuaries, coastal areas, rivers, lakes and wetlands. The work will contribute to EIP species abundance and extinction risk targets for a range of threatened, protected and priority species. It will also cover services relating

to protected and priority habitats and natural capital assets, as well as invasive, non-native species.

Lot 2 will cover the following services:

Habitat surveys and reports, including baseline assessments, post-project appraisal and ecological monitoring.

Species surveys and reports, including appropriate survey design, post-project appraisal and monitoring.

Surveys, advice and reports relating to the control of Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS).

Advice and reports relating to mitigation and enhancement for protected species.

Advice on matters relating to licensing and legislation for both protected species and INNS.

Specialist training in survey design, survey techniques, mitigation and enhancement and/or interpretation of data.

#### **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

#### **II.2.6) Estimated value**

Value excluding VAT: £5,500,000

#### **II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system**

Start date

1 October 2024

End date

30 September 2028

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

This Lot will be used to procure ecological surveys, reports and advice for a range of activities that will enable nature recovery as envisaged under the Government's Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) 2023. Projects will often be of an aquatic/riparian nature, including work in and adjacent to estuaries, coastal areas, rivers, lakes and wetlands.

### **II.2.10) Information about variants**

Variants will be accepted: No

### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: No

### **II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds**

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

## **II.2) Description**

### **II.2.1) Title**

Lot 3 - Geomorphology, River Restoration and Habitat Creation Services

Lot No

Lot 3

### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 45246200 - Riverbank protection works

### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

There are multiple drivers from within Defra to seek opportunities to restore natural processes to manage, enhance and restore rivers and other habitats. This Lot will allow the Environment Agency and Natural England staff to supplement their in-house expertise around this work area, with the additional resource and expertise that external suppliers

can offer. In particular, this Lot focuses upon the supply of river restoration and habitat creation expertise to inform design and feasibility studies. This includes projects that improve natural geomorphological, hydrological and ecological processes for the purposes of reducing flood risk, restoring habitats and improving the movement of fish through catchments (specific fish pass design is covered in lot 4).

This Lot will cover the following services:

Geomorphological investigation design, including general principles for survey design, recommendations for specific surveys, and pre- and post-project appraisal.

Desk based geomorphological assessments and reports, such as historical trend analysis, aerial photograph mapping, LiDAR mapping etc.

Field-based geomorphological surveys, assessments and monitoring, such as fluvial audits, catchment baseline surveys, geodynamic assessment, MoRPH surveys, River Habitat Surveys (RHS), river reconnaissance, site walkovers, drone surveys etc.

Input into the development of Natural Flood Management schemes and proposals.

River, wetland and other habitat enhancement, restoration, creation and management.

Development and delivery of geomorphological and working with natural processes training, and technical reference material.

#### **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

#### **II.2.6) Estimated value**

Value excluding VAT: £5,500,000

#### **II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system**

Start date

1 October 2024

End date

30 September 2028

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

There are multiple drivers from within Defra to seek opportunities to restore natural processes to manage, enhance and restore rivers and other habitats. This Lot will allow the Environment Agency and Natural England staff to supplement their in-house expertise around this work area, with the additional resource and expertise that external suppliers can offer.

### **II.2.10) Information about variants**

Variants will be accepted: No

### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: No

### **II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds**

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

## **II.2) Description**

### **II.2.1) Title**

Lot 4 - Fish Passage Design Services

Lot No

Lot 4

### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 90700000 - Environmental services

### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

This Lot covers the design of fish passes that prioritise the use of nature-based solutions. This will include feasibility studies, options appraisal and detailed design. The final design will offer the maximum benefit in terms of fish passage (for multiple species), ecological connectivity, morphological processes and habitat creation.

This Lot will cover the following services:

Production of feasibility reports, options appraisals and detailed designs for fish passage.

Collection of data to inform the fish passage design.

Obtaining fish passage approval for the proposed fish pass design.

Understanding of planning requirements and where required, undertake a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment of the fish passage design.

Understanding of and conforming to the Construction, Design and Management (CDM) Regulations and how they may apply to the design, construction and future maintenance of the fish pass.

Conforming to the EA's Safety, Health, Environmental and Welfare (SHEW) Code of Practice and Minimum Technical Requirements (MTR).

Be available to give fish passage design advice during the construction phase.

Post-construction monitoring/inspections of fish passes.

Calculate and document the carbon likely to be produced for the whole life of the project and, where possible, minimising this carbon through innovative design and material choice.

### **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

### **II.2.6) Estimated value**

Value excluding VAT: £5,500,000

### **II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system**

Start date

1 October 2024

End date

30 September 2028

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

This Lot covers the design of fish passes that prioritise the use of nature-based solutions. This will include feasibility studies, options appraisal and detailed design. The final design will offer the maximum benefit in terms of fish passage (for multiple species), ecological connectivity, morphological processes and habitat creation.

#### **II.2.10) Information about variants**

Variants will be accepted: No

#### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: No

#### **II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds**

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

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## **Section IV. Procedure**

### **IV.1) Description**

#### **IV.1.1) Type of procedure**

Open procedure

#### **IV.1.3) Information about a framework agreement or a dynamic purchasing system**

The procurement involves the establishment of a framework agreement

Framework agreement with several operators

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

### **IV.2) Administrative information**

#### **IV.2.2) Time limit for receipt of tenders or requests to participate**

Originally published as:

Date

22 April 2024

Local time

12:00pm

Changed to:

Date

7 May 2024

Local time

12:00pm

See the [change notice](#).

#### **IV.2.4) Languages in which tenders or requests to participate may be submitted**

English

**IV.2.6) Minimum time frame during which the tenderer must maintain the tender**

Duration in months: 6 (from the date stated for receipt of tender)

**IV.2.7) Conditions for opening of tenders**

Date

23 April 2024

Local time

12:00pm

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**Section VI. Complementary information**

**VI.1) Information about recurrence**

This is a recurrent procurement: Yes

**VI.4) Procedures for review**

**VI.4.1) Review body**

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (Defra Network eTendering Portal)

Seacole Building, 2 Marsham Street

London

SW1P 4DF

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

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