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Contract

## **DFE – The Provision of Expert Mine Engineering Advice**

Department for the Economy

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-007820

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04b448

Published 4 March 2025, 11:58am

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

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

Department for the Economy

39/49 Adelaide Street

BELFAST

BT2 8FD

#### **Contact**

SSDAdmin.CPDfinance-ni.gov.uk

#### **Email**

[ssdadmin.cpd@finance-ni.gov.uk](mailto:ssdadmin.cpd@finance-ni.gov.uk)

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

#### **Region code**

UK - United Kingdom

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<https://etendersni.gov.uk/epps>

Buyer's address

<https://etendersni.gov.uk/epps>

**I.2) Information about joint procurement**

The contract is awarded by a central purchasing body

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

Body governed by public law

**I.5) Main activity**

General public services

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## **Section II: Object**

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

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

DFE – The Provision of Expert Mine Engineering Advice

Reference number

5552793

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

- 71000000 - Architectural, construction, engineering and inspection services

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

Services

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

The Department for the Economy (DfE), the Department's Agencies and dependent bodies require a Contractor to provide advice and expertise in all aspects of mine engineering. The Contractor will provide advice on the safety and remediation options for abandoned mines throughout Northern Ireland, thereby assisting the Department to carry out its functions under the Mineral Development Act (Northern Ireland) 1969. In addition, the Contractor will be required to review operational and planned underground mining activities including the Kilroot Salt Mine, Carrickfergus, Co Antrim (owned and operated by the Irish Salt Mining and Exploration Co Ltd ("ISME")).

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

This contract is divided into lots: No

#### **II.1.7) Total value of the procurement (excluding VAT)**

Value excluding VAT: £170,000

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

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

- 71310000 - Consultative engineering and construction services

- 71332000 - Geotechnical engineering services

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

NUTS codes

- UKN - Northern Ireland

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

The Department for the Economy (DfE), the Department's Agencies and dependent bodies require a Contractor to provide advice and expertise in all aspects of mine engineering. The Contractor will provide advice on the safety and remediation options for abandoned mines throughout Northern Ireland, thereby assisting the Department to carry out its functions under the Mineral Development Act (Northern Ireland) 1969. In addition, the Contractor will be required to review operational and planned underground mining activities including the Kilroot Salt Mine, Carrickfergus, Co Antrim (owned and operated by the Irish Salt Mining and Exploration Co Ltd ("ISME")).

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

Quality criterion - Name: Chief Mining Expert Substitute Chief Mining Expert / Weighting: 35

Quality criterion - Name: Proposed team / Weighting: 21

Quality criterion - Name: Contract Management / Weighting: 3.5

Quality criterion - Name: Social Value / Weighting: 10.5

Cost criterion - Name: Total Contract Price / Weighting: 30

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

Options: Yes

Description of options

option to extend for up to and including 2 periods of 12 Months.

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

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

#### **IV.2.1) Previous publication concerning this procedure**

Notice number: [2024/S 000-035908](#)

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## **Section V. Award of contract**

### **Contract No**

1

### **Title**

DFE – The Provision of Expert Mine Engineering Advice

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

### **V.2) Award of contract**

#### **V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract**

28 February 2025

#### **V.2.2) Information about tenders**

Number of tenders received: 3

Number of tenders received from SMEs: 0

Number of tenders received from tenderers from other EU Member States: 0

Number of tenders received from tenderers from non-EU Member States: 1

Number of tenders received by electronic means: 3

The contract has been awarded to a group of economic operators: No

**V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor**

WARDELL ARMSTRONG LLP

SIR HENRY DOULTON HOUSE FORGE LANE

STOKE-ON-TRENT

ST1 5BD

Email

[jdavies@wardell-armstrong.com](mailto:jdavies@wardell-armstrong.com)

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://etendersni.gov.uk/epps>

The contractor is an SME

No

**V.2.4) Information on value of contract/lot (excluding VAT)**

Initial estimated total value of the contract/lot: £170,000

Total value of the contract/lot: £170,000

## Section VI. Complementary information

### VI.3) Additional information

The successful Contractor's performance will be managed as per the specification and regularly monitored. Contractors not delivering on contract requirements is a serious matter. It means the public purse is not getting what it is paying for. If a contractor fails to reach satisfactory levels of contract performance they will be given a specified time to improve. If, after the specified time, they still fail to reach satisfactory levels of contract performance, the matter will be escalated to senior management in CPD for further action. If this occurs and your performance does not improve to satisfactory levels within the specified period this can be considered grounds for termination of the contract at your expense as provided for in the Conditions of Contract. In lieu of termination, CPD may issue a Notice of Written Warning or a Notice of Unsatisfactory Performance. A supplier in receipt of multiple Notices of Written Warning or a Notice of Unsatisfactory Performance may, in accordance with The Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as amended) be excluded from future public procurement competitions for a period of up to three years.

### VI.4) Procedures for review

#### VI.4.1) Review body

The UK does not have any special review body with responsibility for appeal/mediation procedures in public procurement competitions. Any challenges are dealt with by the High Court Commercial Division to which proceedings may be issued regarding alleged breaches of the Public Contracts Regulation.

uk

Country

United Kingdom

#### VI.4.3) Review procedure

Precise information on deadline(s) for review procedures

CPD complied with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as amended) and incorporated a standstill period (i.e. a minimum of 10 calendar days) at the point information on the award of contract was communicated to tenderers. That notification provided full information on the award decision. This provided time for the unsuccessful tenderers to challenge the award decision before the contract was entered into.