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Award

## **Priority Habitat Management Pilot**

Welsh Government

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2022/S 000-007988

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-0325ce

Published 24 March 2022, 12:19pm

### **Section I: Contracting authority/entity**

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

Welsh Government

Corporate Procurement Services, Cathays Park

Cardiff

CF10 3NQ

#### **Contact**

Kate Smith

#### **Email**

[kate.smith@gov.wales](mailto:kate.smith@gov.wales)

#### **Telephone**

+44 3000257095

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

**NUTS code**

UKL - Wales

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<http://wales.gov>

Buyer's address

[https://www.sell2wales.gov.wales/search/Search\\_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA0007](https://www.sell2wales.gov.wales/search/Search_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA0007)

**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**

Priority Habitat Management Pilot

#### **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**

Welsh Government have commissioned a project to deliver and manage an environmental land-management based pilot research project. The pilot is targeted at specific grassland priority grassland habitat types that are under threat. These are listed as 'of principal importance to Wales' at Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016: Unimproved Lowland Neutral Grassland. The aim of the pilot is to bring this priority grassland habitat into optimum condition over the next five years.

The pilot will be utilising newly-designed outcome based methodology to assess habitat condition in ecological terms and reward participants accordingly (Results-based Agricultural Payment Scheme (RBAPS)). This methodology and newly developed technical assessment process has been specifically designed and developed by RSK ADAS Ltd. This novel outcome based methodology approach is different to current conventional land-management schemes that pay farmers to deliver specific prescriptions on an income forgone principle.

The outcome of the project is to support the Section 6 of the Environment Act (public authorities' duty to maintain & enhance biodiversity & resilience of ecosystems) & inform development of our post-Brexit farming support mechanism: Sustainable Farming Scheme (SFS), by Land Management Reform Unit. One of the key actions proposed in the new SFS is support for management of priority habitats, and this pilot project can provide a baseline mechanism for delivery of that action. The results will also make a contribution to support the Programme for Government "creating a new system of farm support that will maximize the protected power of nature through farming".

#### **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: £233,939

## **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

- UKL - Wales

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

Welsh Government have commissioned a project to deliver and manage an environmental land-management based pilot research project. The pilot is targeted at specific grassland priority grassland habitat types that are under threat. The aim of the pilot is to bring this priority grassland habitat into optimum condition over the next five years.

The pilot will be utilising newly-designed outcome based methodology to assess habitat condition in ecological terms and reward participants accordingly (Results-based Agricultural Payment Scheme (RBAPS)) This methodology and newly developed technical assessment process has been specifically designed and developed by RSK ADAS Ltd.

### **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**

Award of a contract without prior publication of a call for competition in the cases listed below

- The procurement falls outside the scope of application of the regulations

Explanation:

This contract has been awarded without prior publication in the FTS / OJEU as it can be met compliantly by relying on Regulation 32(2)(b)(iii) of the Public Contract Regulations 2015:

RSK ADAS holds the exclusive rights of the unique methodology developed specifically for Welsh conditions as well as holding the intellectual property rights of the complex calculations to work the methodology. No reasonable alternative or substitute exists for this, as it is an outcome-based technical methodology which incorporates

comprehensive and expert knowledge of the project area and local networks.

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

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

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

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

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

4 March 2022

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

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

#### **V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire**

RSK ADAS Limited

Spring Lodge, 172 Chester Road, Helsby

Frodsham

WA60AR

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

Yes

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

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £233,939

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## **Section VI. Complementary information**

### **VI.3) Additional information**

(WA Ref:119849)

### **VI.4) Procedures for review**

#### **VI.4.1) Review body**

High Court

Royal Courts of Justice, The Strand

London

WC2A 2LL

Telephone

+44 2079477501

Country

United Kingdom