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Planning

Heat Network Technical Assurance Scheme Training Provider

Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

UK2: Preliminary market engagement notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-009458

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04ed5a

Published 14 March 2025, 2:04pm

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Scope

Reference

prj_5113

Description

The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) wishes to establish a contract for a Training Provider to provide all aspects of training for the Heat Network Technical Assurance Scheme (HNTAS).

Upcoming regulation is due to mandate certain technical requirements for heat networks, under HNTAS. These requirements are set to span across several elements of a network (i.e. energy centre, district distribution network, communal distribution network, thermal substation, and consumer connection), and also apply temporally across a range of stages within a network's lifecycle (i.e. feasibility, design, commissioning and operation

and maintenance). The introduction of these requirements is due to apply to both new build and existing networks and introduce the need for the vast majority of existing networks to undertake works to meet performance and reliability thresholds.

As such, we know that there will be increased demand for existing heat network skills, some of which are already being supported through the Heat Training Grant. However, HNTAS is likely to introduce entirely new roles. Most of the new roles (e.g. HNTAS assessors) will result from the new regulatory obligations to track the compliance of networks with technical standards through HNTAS. Individuals will be required to attend and pass specific training courses before they are allowed to undertake these roles.

DESNZ appointed a 'Shadow Training Provider' in December 2024 to design and deliver a set of HNTAS courses. A large proportion of materials will have been developed by the Shadow Training Provider, therefore the majority of the deliverables under the new contract will relate to the delivery of courses, with some development of training required for specific aspects of the scheme. The HNTAS Training Provider would build on the courses already designed and develop these further subject to industry demand and feedback.

The Energy Act also provides for Ofgem to award a licence to a technical standards Code Manager. The Code Manager, as Ofgem's licensee, is the entity that must carry out the requirements of that licence. DESNZ are currently working to establish the form of legal entity that the code manager will take.

The Code Manager may take the form of an incorporated entity, called HNTAS Ltd, which would be limited by guarantee. The primary functions of the Code Manager include overall responsibility for HNTAS, operating the scheme, and maintaining the Code. The Code documents may comprise of technical specifications, assurance procedures and assessor requirements. We expect that the Code Manager will subcontract many of these functions.

We anticipate that DESNZ will procure the contract, with a possibility that the contract is novated or assigned to the technical standards code manager at a later date. We anticipate that the contract would last for 2 years beginning in October 2025, with options to extend for 6 months + 6 months at the end of year 2 and midway through year 3 respectively. The commencement of the contract is prior to the introduction of minimum standards, planned for 2026, in order to provide the necessary lead-in and setup time.

Further information can be found at Heat Network Technical Assurance Scheme (HNTAS) - GOV.UK

We are looking for a supplier, or consortium of suppliers, to provide the following services:

- Develop/maintain a HNTAS training plan/programme
- Set and monitor entry levels for training courses
- Further develop, update and manage an existing suite of training materials
- Deliver training courses
- Manage any requirements for refresher courses
- Manage the accreditation of courses
- Manage testing and examinations
- Gather feedback from courses to inform HNTAS development
- Track course attendance and outcomes, liaising with a Scheme Operator and Certification Body to ensure the smooth operation of the assurance scheme
- Build a library of FAQs and case studies to enhance HNTAS training
- Maintain a register of Licensed Assessors
- Promote the Heat Network Technical Assurance Scheme and the training programme to maximise course participation from qualified professionals
- Develop formal Competent Persons Schemes for parts of HNTAS, where possible

Estimated Contract value: Likely to be up to £1m for initial term plus optional extension up to £0.5m

Estimated Contract duration: potentially 2 years initial term plus optional 6 months + 6 months extensions

Please answer the below question and send your responses to
Michael.oneill@energysecurity.gov.uk by 5pm GMT on 27th April 2025.

Interest: Are you provisionally interested in bidding for the contract we are looking to procure? If you would like to send any clarification questions, please use the email address above.

Total value (estimated)

- £1,500,000 excluding VAT
- £1,800,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 31 October 2025 to 30 October 2027
- Possible extension to 30 October 2028
- 3 years

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 80531200 - Technical training services
- 71356000 - Technical services
- 80500000 - Training services
- 80531000 - Industrial and technical training services

Contract locations

- UK - United Kingdom

Engagement

Engagement deadline

27 April 2025

Engagement process description

Supplier Engagement Call on 14th April at 2pm UK time – details (1 hour call only):

Microsoft Teams:

Meeting ID: 312 410 807 946

Passcode: Wv7r9mS6

Dial in by phone:

+44 20 3321 5238,,179812573# United Kingdom, City of London

Phone conference ID: 179 812 573#

For any questions please contact: michael.oneill@energysecurity.gov.uk

If you would like to receive more information and receive the EOI (expression of interest) document, please contact michael.oneill@energysecurity.gov.uk

Participation

Particular suitability

- Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

- Voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)

Submission

Publication date of tender notice (estimated)

1 July 2025

Contracting authority

Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PDHQ-2163-WYMH

55 Whitehall

London

SW1A 2HP

United Kingdom

Email: commercialexcellence@ics.gov.uk

Region: UKI32 - Westminster

Organisation type: Public authority - central government