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Contract

## **FCP: Rural Payments Service Continuity Project**

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-009603

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-048671

Published 17 March 2025, 11:25am

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

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

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Seacole Building, 2 Marsham Street

London

SW1P 4DF

#### **Contact**

Navid Ghamsari

#### **Email**

[navid.ghamsari@defra.gov.uk](mailto:navid.ghamsari@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.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**

FCP: Rural Payments Service Continuity Project

Reference number

C27326

**II.1.2) Main CPV code**

- 72000000 - IT services: consulting, software development, Internet and support

**II.1.3) Type of contract**

Services

**II.1.4) Short description**

Defra is responsible for responsible for improving and protecting the environment. We aim

to grow a green economy and sustain thriving rural communities. We also support our world-leading food, farming and fishing industries. For further information please visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs>

The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) is an executive agency, sponsored by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs. We pay out over £2 billion each year to support a thriving farming and food sector, supporting agricultural and rural communities to create a better place to live. The Rural Payments service (RPS) is Defra's online registration system for farmers, animal keepers and rural traders and businesses.

At its core is the payments policy and rules engine application ABACO Agri (previously known as SITI Agri). This has been developed over a number of years and delivers > 80% of the large, complex, reoccurring land-based grants/schemes offered by Defra such as Basic Payment Scheme (BPS), Countryside Stewardship (CS), Combined Offer (CO), Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) among others for more than 90,000 farmers.

As part of Defra's digital strategy this application will be replaced with a new solution/service as part of the Farming Countryside Programme (FCP) that is also delivering major policy changes over the next few years.

To provide sufficient time to implement, transition and migrate to a new solution/service, the Authority requires a contract for the support, maintenance and development of schemes/grants on Defra's existing deployment of ABACO Agri for up to 3 years.

#### **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: £27,000,000

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

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

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

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

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

Quality criterion - Name: Technical / Weighting: 60

Quality criterion - Name: Sustainability / Weighting: 10

Cost criterion - Name: Commercial / Weighting: 30

#### **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.1.8) 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 000-024005](#)

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

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

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

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

31 October 2024

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

Number of tenders received: 1

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

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

ABACO(UK) LIMITED

5th Floor, Aldermay House 10-15 Queen Street, C/O Pirola Pennuto Zei & Associati Ltd,  
London

London

EC4N 1TX

Email

[procurement@abacogroupuk.com](mailto:procurement@abacogroupuk.com)

Telephone

+44 7757038203

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

National registration number

14444842

Internet address

[www.abacogroupuk.com](http://www.abacogroupuk.com)

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: £27,000,000

Total value of the contract/lot: £27,000,000

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## **Section VI. Complementary information**

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

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

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

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>