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Planning

Composite Switch & Crossing Bearers

Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2021/S 000-009905

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-02ae22

Published 6 May 2021, 10:55pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd

1 Eversholt Street

London

NW1 2DN

Email

Laura.Wray@networkrail.co.uk

Telephone

+44 1908781000

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

www.networkrail.co.uk

I.3) Communication

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.5) Main activity

General public services

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Composite Switch & Crossing Bearers

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 34946000 - Railway-track construction materials and supplies

II.1.3) Type of contract

Supplies

II.1.4) Short description

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II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 34946000 - Railway-track construction materials and supplies

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

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II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

31 May 2022

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: No

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

As part of the UK railway sustainability strategy, and in the wake of the recently awarded composite sleeper tender, Network Rail would like to understand what technical innovations are available in the area of switch and crossing bearers. In particular, the use of sustainable “composite” materials as an alternative to wood and timber. In order to maximise the benefit to the railway, we would like to understand what commercially available “composite” products are available and understand more about these prior to inviting suppliers to tender.

There are 2 elements to this PIN:

1. Network Rail wishes to identify all Suppliers of composite products suitable for use in railway infrastructure. All Suppliers have the opportunity to participate in working groups to contribute to the development of the Network Rail Standard for the use of Composites in Track, and to the development of the technical specification prior to a competitive tender process taking place. If you are a Supplier of composite products suitable for use in railway infrastructure, and ARE NOT currently in contact with Network Rail regarding these products, please respond to this PIN by Friday 21st May 2021 to express your interest in being included in future working groups.

2. Network Rail wishes to identify any technical innovations available in the area of switch and crossing bearers. If you are a provider of these products, please respond to this notice by Friday 4th June 2021 with answers to the following questions:

Where possible please provide the following information: (Note: any information provided shall be treated as confidential by Network Rail and shall be used solely for the purposes of development of the Network Rail Standard for the use of composites in track, and development of the technical specification prior to a competitive tender process)

1) Examples of current bearer designs including fully dimensioned drawings detailing width, height and maximum length attainable

- 2) Details of the sizes of S&C baseplates and types that can be fixed to the bearer without overhanging or clashing with other internal elements
- 3) Details of any complex S&C layouts where non-conventional bearer placement was adopted
- 4) Details of installations where your bearer system has been used within S&C including infrastructure owner, year of install, axle loads, through/turnout speeds, equivalent gross tonnage per annum and approval status.
- 5) Details of any new developments being pursued for S&C bearers
- 6) Specific unique selling point details for your bearers designs
- 7) Details of point equipment types attached to your bearers and the mounting/fastening type used
- 8) Evidence of conformity to the relevant national or notified technical rules or user requirements
- 9) An outline of the manufacturing process including % use of recycled material used within the material composition and whole life sustainability considerations.
- 10) Evidence of bend test performance and to which test criteria this was assessed against
- 11) Evidence of creep and/or fatigue test performance including test criteria this was assessed against
- 12) Evidence of pull out test performance for the baseplate/rail seat screw fastenings.
- 13) Density of material and any handling or assembly limitations.