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Award

Met office services

Natural Resources Wales

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-010880

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-03bf00

Published 17 April 2023, 8:55am

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

Natural Resources Wales

Ty Cambria House, 29 Newport Road

Cardiff

CF24 0TP

Email

procurement.enquiries@naturalresources.wales.gov.uk

Telephone

+44 3000653000

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKL - Wales

Internet address(es)

Main address

<http://naturalresourceswales.gov.uk>

Buyer's address

https://www.sell2wales.gov.wales/search/Search_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA0110

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.5) Main activity

Environment

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Met office services

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 71351610 - Meteorology services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

We currently procure our meteorological and coastal forecasting data from the UK Met Office both directly (via this contract) or through other UK partnerships (for example the UK Coastal Flood Forecasting partnership).

The use of Met office meteorological and coastal forecasting data is part of a wider long-term working relationship with the Met Office whereby we use this data in conjunction with “added value” consultancy services delivered by the Flood Forecasting Centre (procured under separate arrangements) and the Met Office to provide NRW with a complete integrated assessment of the meteorological forecast and so enable us to determine the resulting flood risk for Wales

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: £295,778.60

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKK43 - Devon CC

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Flood Data Feeds & 24/7 Service Desk Support

The provision of near real time observational and forecast data feeds, supporting 24/7 helpdesk support. The real time data feeds are taken directly into our operational FEWS Wales flood forecasting system for making forecasts of river and coastal flooding across Wales. This data includes rainfall (meteorological forecast and weather radar observations), forecast wind, astronomic tide, forecast storm surge and forecast waves. The contract also provisions for 24/7 helpdesk support given the business-critical nature of these near real time data services to NRW.

Water Resources management and reporting data (MORECS Data and Monthly Areal Rainfall Datasets)

The provision of weekly and monthly MORECS data (including soil moisture and evaporation data) and daily and monthly NCIC areal rainfall data used for NRW water resources situation reporting and assessments across Wales.

Rain gauge network inspection & data quality control

This includes:

Routine physical site audits by a Met Office inspector to ensure our rain gauge sites comply with Met Office and World Meteorological Office (WMO) standards for the measurement of precipitation. This is an unaccompanied inspection on a three-year cycle to observer manual gauges and an accompanied inspection on a 6 year cycle, on a risk-based approach, to automatic gauges

Quality assurance of measured precipitation data to ensure compliance with national standards and in statistical compliance with geographically similar rain gauges

Return of the quality assured rain gauge data to NRW for uploading to our WISKI7 hydrometric archive for use by NRW hydrologist and water resource specialists.

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

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:

Met Office is the gov sponsored provider of UK public weather services and are a provider of quality control and audit services for the rainfall observation network across the UK. To fulfil this requirement elsewhere would be disproportionately costly and cause difficult technical issues.

Met Office provide compatibility by using the same underpinning data and forecasts for NRW flood forecasting, warning and informing service.

MORECS Data and Areal Rainfall Datasets are used to assess and report on the water situation, which is particularly important in dry weather to inform our decisions on drought management. These are the only datasets, which Met Office have exclusive rights to the IPR, that enable us to calculate long term average statistics on rainfall and soil moisture deficits at a strategic Wales and area level.

The Met Office quality control all rainfall data from gauge sites within Wales (i.e. NRW and Met Office gauges) that have been registered with the Met Office in order to meet BS7843 standards requirements and send this data to NRW in a format compliant with NRW's IT systems, including all quality control comments indicating any changes made to the data during the quality control process. They have bespoke tools designed specifically to quality control rainfall data incorporating manually read rainfall data, automatically read rainfall data, radar data, storm event data including lightning event records and crowd source information, as well as elements specified by NRW, ensuring the quality-controlled data is of the highest possible quality.

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

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 April 2023

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

MET OFFICE

FITZROY ROAD

EXETER

EX13PB

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKK4 - Devon

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: £295,778.60

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

NOTE: To register your interest in this notice and obtain any additional information please visit the Sell2Wales Web Site at

https://www.sell2wales.gov.wales/Search/Search_Switch.aspx?ID=130621.

(WA Ref:130621)

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