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Award

Replacement of PSTN Lines and related Telemetry Equipment (for use with Gas Controllers)

Wales & West Utilities Ltd

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2022/S 000-011772

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-033499

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Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

Wales & West Utilities Ltd

Wales & West House, Spooner Close, Coedkernew

NEWPORT

NP108FZ

Email

wwwprocurement@wwutilites.co.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

www.wwutilities.co.uk

I.6) Main activity

Production, transport and distribution of gas and heat

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Replacement of PSTN Lines and related Telemetry Equipment (for use with Gas Controllers)

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 32440000 - Telemetry and terminal equipment
 - KA06 - For the gas industry

II.1.3) Type of contract

Supplies

II.1.4) Short description

Wales and West Utilities Ltd (WWU) operate a UK Gas distribution network, This is a notice to award a contract for provision of Telemetry Hardware Equipment and associated digital communications required to profile and control a low pressure gas network without the use of copper phone lines or mains power.

Pressure control is critical to reduce excessive pressure and leakage in the network ensuring safety and environmental risks are limited. Self learning low pressure management and profiling is a key contributor to lowering gas emissions.

Ofcom have approved BT Openreach to remove wholesale line rental (PSTN Copper lines) in the UK by 2025 upon which the current gas control system relies and as such an alternative solution is required.

We require a self learning, forecast and profiling solution with control equipment and supporting communications solution capable of varying the outlet pressure of the governor to suit network demand; pressures must follow a self learnt profile to be raised at periods of high demand and decreased at periods of low demand automatically within safe limits. Logger data at low point extremities must feed into the profiling solution over a reliable communications solution without the use of copper phone lines PSTN

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

Main site or place of performance

Wales & South West of England

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Telemetry

The currently deployed low pressure gas control platform is unique to a single provider's proprietary solution; The current provider is Technolog Ltd and their forecast and profiling solution is used by all UK Gas Distribution networks. We believe that there are no alternative telemetry systems in the market with the capability to operate without mains power, without copper phone lines and with the ability to execute automatic control actions of a gas governor autonomously within fail safe limits.

Communications

The Technolog Ltd. telemetry solution relies upon mobile digital communications. The digital communications used must have 4G NB-IOT / CATM - IP or 5G NB-IOT / CATM - IP available in time to meet the commencement of the roll out in Q4 2022, to achieve the March 2025 completion deadline of the project.

The solution must be deployed in its entirety across 1671 sites to ensure continued operation of the gas network. The target completion date is the end of March 2025.

A telemetry solution, if offered, must -

1. Provide a self-learning, forecast and profiling solution with control equipment capable of varying the outlet pressure of the in situ Technolog Ltd. Gas governors to suit network demand; pressures must follow a self learnt profile to be raised at periods of high demand and decreased at periods of low demand automatically within safe limits.
2. Enable data from District Governors to feed into the profiling solution over a reliable communications solution without the use of copper phone lines PSTN.
3. Enable logger data at low point extremities to feed into the profiling solution over a reliable communications solution without the use of copper phone lines PSTN.

If a communications solution is offered it must meet the following requirements -

1. If a solution for both Telemetry and communications is offered -
 - a. The communications must work with the telemetry hardware proposed above
 - b. The communications must work without a PSTN line
 - c. The communication system must work without a mains power supply
 - d. The solution must include provision of a service for managing any failures within an agreed SLA for a Critical Network Infrastructure platform.
2. If a communication solution only is offered -
 - a. The communications must work with Technolog telemetry hardware - Rugged Modem Operations (RMO) and Gas Station 4 (GS4).
 - b. The communications must work without a PSTN line
 - c. The communication system must work without a mains power supply
 - d. If Mobile Digital communications is proposed
 - i. The solution must include provision of SIM cards
 - ii. The solution must include provision of Airtime
 - iii. The solution must include provision of a service for managing communication failures within an agreed SLA for a Critical Network Infrastructure platform.
 - iv. It must have 4G NB-IoT / CATM - IP or 5G NB-IoT / CATM - IP in time to meet the commencement of the roll out in Q3 / Q4 2022 to meet the March 2025 completion deadline of the project.

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of options

Contractual review and extension mechanisms

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Negotiated without a prior call for competition

- The works, supplies or services can be provided only by a particular economic operator for the following reason:
 - absence of competition for technical reasons

Explanation:

The currently deployed low pressure gas control platform is unique to a single provider's proprietary solution; The current provider is Technolog Ltd and their forecast and profiling solution is in use by all UK Gas Distribution networks. We believe that there are no alternative systems in the market with the capability of operating without mains power, without copper phone lines and with the ability to execute automatic control actions of a gas governor autonomously within fail safe limits.

The solution must be deployed in its entirety by end of March 2025 to ensure continued operation of the gas network.

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: No

Section V. Award of contract/concession

Contract No

WWU1198

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract/concession

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

6 May 2022

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Wales & West Utilities Limited

Newport

Country

United Kingdom