

This is a published notice on the Find a Tender service: <https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Notice/011903-2025>

Tender

Environment Agency Essential Site, Plant and Equipment Training

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

UK4: Tender notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-011903

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04fa18

Published 31 March 2025, 8:44am

Changes to notice

This notice has been edited. The [previous version](#) is still available.

Updated Lot numbers

Scope

Description

This notice is linked to the Prior Information Notice, 2024/S 000-035194, which was published on 30 October 2024:

<https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Notice/035194-2024>. The Preliminary Market Engagement event, which took place on 10 December 2024, was advertised in this Prior Information Notice. The EA wishes to put in place a training contract for 3 years with the option to extend the contract for a further two 12-month periods. The training is to ensure that staff can operate and maintain equipment safely and competently and will be split into nine lots: • Lot 1 - Chainsaw and Arboriculture • Lot 2 - Confined Spaces • Lot 3 - General Health and Safety • Lot 4 - Heavy Plant and Machinery • Lot 5 - Lifting and Winching • Lot 6 - MEICA electrical • Lot 7 - Site Management and Incident Response • Lot 8 - Vegetation Control • Lot 9 - Vocational Drivers

Total value (estimated)

- £9,906,250 excluding VAT
- £11,887,500 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 11 August 2025 to 10 August 2028
- Possible extension to 10 August 2030
- 5 years

Description of possible extension:

Extensions will be approved provided that the training cannot be fulfilled via the Cabinet Office's Government Skills and Curriculum Unit and will be subject to demand for courses and performance of the contract(s).

Options

The right to additional purchases while the contract is valid.

Two 12-month extensions are possible.

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 80510000 - Specialist training services
- 80511000 - Staff training services
- 80531200 - Technical training services
- 80560000 - Health and first-aid training services
- 80420000 - E-learning services

Lot constraints

Description of how multiple lots may be awarded:

There are no limits to the number of Lots in which any one Tenderer can be awarded a Contract and if a Tenderer is successful in more than one Lot, the Authority may enter into a single Contract for all Lots awarded to that Tenderer.

Lot 1 (was a2XTu000000X9hFMAS). Chainsaw and Arboriculture training

Description

Full suite of professional standards in chainsaw operations and tree management structured across Level 2 and Level 3 awards to enable operations field teams to carry out routine maintenance and incident response activities on standing and fallen timber in all conditions. It covers foundational skills such as chainsaw maintenance, cross-cutting, and the use of powered pole pruners, as well as tree felling and processing for small to large trees. In addition, specialised modules address unique operational contexts, including in-channel obstruction removal and chainsaw use on floating platforms, ensuring adaptability to diverse environmental and operational challenges.

Lot value (estimated)

- £1,523,197 excluding VAT
- £1,827,836 including VAT

Same for all lots

CPV classifications, contract dates and options are shown in the Scope section, because they are the same for all lots.

Lot 2 (was a2XTu000000X9irMAC). Confined Spaces

Training

Description

Delivery of the suite of 6160 City and Guilds Accredited confined space entry and rescue courses (Water Based). This Lot also includes the delivery of 'Confined Space Awareness for Managers and Supervisors - R87' (similar to an Appointed Persons Course). The main audience for these courses are operational field-based staff who are required to enter confined spaces routinely. The types of confined spaces entered varies from culverts, penstocks, flow control structures, and pumping station wet wells. The R87 training is to help supervisors and managers ensure that suitable controls are in place, and for ensuring general legal compliance. The successful Tenderer(s) must have the ability to deliver on-site training via the use of a City and Guilds approved mobile entry simulator.

Lot value (estimated)

- £121,212 excluding VAT
- £145,454 including VAT

Same for all lots

CPV classifications, contract dates and options are shown in the Scope section, because they are the same for all lots.

Lot 3 (was a2XTu000000X9kTMAS). General Health and Safety Training

Description

A general Lot that focuses on equipping individuals with the technical skills and safety knowledge required for a range of operational tasks. Key areas include safe digging practices under EUSR standards, with novice and refresher courses to locate and manage utility services effectively. Other safety-oriented courses cover the use and inspection of fall arrest harnesses, ladders, scaffold towers, and working-at-height equipment. Training on hand tools, circular and band saws, and abrasive wheels ensures competence in handling both manual and power-driven equipment.

Lot value (estimated)

- £1,216,210 excluding VAT
- £1,459,452 including VAT

Same for all lots

CPV classifications, contract dates and options are shown in the Scope section, because they are the same for all lots.

Lot 4 (was a2XTu000000X9m5MAC). Heavy Plant and Machinery Training

Description

Delivery of a wide range of training covering the use of heavy plant and machinery including for use in construction and agricultural operations as well as to support the organisations operational and response work. The primary audience for this Lot is Environment Agency Field Operations staff with the purpose to enable them to operate heavy plant and machinery to a safe, effective and efficient standard to deliver their assigned work.

Lot value (estimated)

- £1,521,409 excluding VAT
- £1,825,691 including VAT

Same for all lots

CPV classifications, contract dates and options are shown in the Scope section, because they are the same for all lots.

Lot 5 (was a2XTu000000X9nhMAC). Lifting and Winching Training

Description

Delivery of training covering lifting and winching including during agricultural and forestry operations as well as to support the organisations operational and response work. The primary audience for this Lot is Environment Agency Field Operations staff with the purpose to enable them to safely and efficiently deliver lifting and winching operations to undertake their assigned work.

Lot value (estimated)

- £1,304,824 excluding VAT
- £1,565,789 including VAT

Same for all lots

CPV classifications, contract dates and options are shown in the Scope section, because they are the same for all lots.

Lot 6 (was a2XTu000000X9qvMAC). MEICA Electrical training

Description

The MEICA electrical Lot comprises of the following training courses: 1) Electrical Safety (General) - 2-day face to face course 2) Electrical Safety for the Management of Electrical Work - 2-day face to face course 3) Electrical Safety for Environmental Monitoring Teams - 1-day virtual course 4) Electrical Safety for Environmental Monitoring Teams, Wiring, Installation and Testing. 2-day practical face to face 5) Extra low voltage generation and battery storage - 1-2-day face to face

Lot value (estimated)

- £168,643 excluding VAT
- £202,372 including VAT

Same for all lots

CPV classifications, contract dates and options are shown in the Scope section, because they are the same for all lots.

Lot 7 (was a2XTu000000X9sXMAS). Site Management and Incident Response Training

Description

This Lot covers a broad spectrum of safety, operational, and maintenance skills including several levels of training for the New Roads and Street Works Act (NRSWA) in Signing, Lighting, and Guarding for both operatives and supervisors. Additionally, there are specialised courses such as Pollution Response Training, Vehicle Marshalling, and practical training in deployment of Temporary Barriers and Small Pumps. These programs aim to equip individuals with hands-on experience and the necessary knowledge to handle site-specific challenges effectively. It also includes provision of safety-focused certifications like the Site Managers Safety Training Scheme (SMSTS) for novices, and Site Supervisors Safety Training Scheme (SSSTS) as well as a bespoke course for hazard awareness and risk assessment. This course is designed to improve the participants' ability to identify risks and manage safety in complex work environments, ensuring a safer and more efficient approach to operations and maintenance.

Lot value (estimated)

- £1,248,821 excluding VAT
- £1,498,585 including VAT

Same for all lots

CPV classifications, contract dates and options are shown in the Scope section, because they are the same for all lots.

Lot 8 (was a2XTu000000X9u9MAC). Vegetation Control Training

Description

A Lot covering a wide range of equipment used for vegetation management. Courses include the operation and maintenance of various plant utilised for vegetation management,

including low gravity mowers, pedestrian and ride-on mowers, and Robomowers. The lot also covers heavier duty plant such as tractor-mounted flail cutters, front-end loaders, and weed-cutting boats. As a multi discipline Lot, we are also looking to cover hand tools such as brushcutters & hedge trimmers as well as more niche activities like stump grinders, woodchippers and chemical control including pesticide plugs, stem injection, and pesticide spraying certification. Novice and Refresher courses are required for each topic, to develop foundation knowledge in new staff, as well as testing that knowledge and competency on a 3 or 5-year refresher cycle.

Lot value (estimated)

- £1,995,608 excluding VAT
- £2,394,730 including VAT

Same for all lots

CPV classifications, contract dates and options are shown in the Scope section, because they are the same for all lots.

Lot 9 (was a2XTu000000X9vIMAC). Vocational Drivers' Training

Description

To deliver National (international not required) Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (DCPC) training in blocks of seven hours either remotely or in a classroom environment at one of our premises. One of these blocks can be e-learning. Demountable body for Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) novice and refresher courses. (multi-lift - Hook loader vehicle) - This training should be approved to count as DCPC hours through the successful Tenderer(s). Mounted Hydraulic Operated Crane (Novice & Refresher) (Attachments). This training should be approved to count as DCPC hours through the successful Tenderer(s). Plant Loader securer (Novice/Refresher) - This training should be approved to count as

DCPC hours through the successful Tenderer(s). Plant Mover - This training should be approved to count as DCPC hours through the successful Tenderer(s). Online Toolbox talks - Delivery (monthly) through an online platform with assessments. To maintain HGV drivers Continuing Professional Development (CPD) outside of DCPC and in line with the requirements of the Traffic Commissioner. This forms part of operator licence compliance and assists us with the accreditation of our Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) Earned Recognition award. Alternative Fuel Vehicles (AFVs) - For staff who do not hold a C, C1, C1E or C+E driving licence category and are required to drive our 4.25t Electric Vans (EV) must complete the required 5 hours of training designed to equip category B licence holders with the knowledge and skills required to operate zero emission vehicles weighing up to 4.25t. The primary audience for this Lot is Environment Agency Field Operations teams.

Lot value (estimated)

- £806,326 excluding VAT
- £967,591 including VAT

Same for all lots

CPV classifications, contract dates and options are shown in the Scope section, because they are the same for all lots.

Participation

Particular suitability

Lot 1 (was a2XTu000000X9hFMAS). Chainsaw and Arboriculture training

Lot 2 (was a2XTu000000X9irMAC). Confined Spaces Training

Lot 3 (was a2XTu000000X9kTMAS). General Health and Safety Training

Lot 4 (was a2XTu000000X9m5MAC). Heavy Plant and Machinery Training

Lot 5 (was a2XTu000000X9nhMAC). Lifting and Winching Training

Lot 6 (was a2XTu000000X9qvMAC). MEICA Electrical training

Lot 7 (was a2XTu000000X9sXMAS). Site Management and Incident Response Training

Lot 8 (was a2XTu000000X9u9MAC). Vegetation Control Training

Lot 9 (was a2XTu000000X9vIMAC). Vocational Drivers' Training

- Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)
- Voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)

Submission

Enquiry deadline

14 April 2025, 12:00pm

Submission type

Tenders

Tender submission deadline

6 May 2025, 12:00pm

Submission address and any special instructions

The procurement documents are available for unrestricted and full direct access, free of charge, at <https://defra-family.force.com/s/Welcome> Any questions, requests to participate or tender submissions must be submitted electronically via this portal.

Tenders may be submitted electronically

Yes

Languages that may be used for submission

English

Award decision date (estimated)

23 July 2025

Recurring procurement

Publication date of next tender notice (estimated): 1 February 2030

Award criteria

Name	Type	Weighting
Technical Evaluation	Quality	50.00%
Commercial Evaluation	Cost	40.00%
Social Value Evaluation	Quality	10.00%

Other information

Applicable trade agreements

- Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Competitive flexible procedure

Competitive flexible procedure description

This Competitive Flexible Procedure will not use a down-select stage but will use a supplementary process of a Preferred Supplier Stage with the winning tenderer(s). This will be used to clarify and confirm commitments made in the tender(s), address any weaknesses in the submission and discuss economies of scale if a tenderer has been successful in more than one Lot. Please note that any modifications will not result in anything that would have the effect of altering the award outcome. This stage will consist of a meeting on Teams of about an hour between the Tenderer's and the Authority's representatives. The Authority reserves the right not to conduct this stage for each Lot if it feels that the discussions detailed above are not required.

Contracting authority

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PNWW-1475-NYLN

Seacole Building, 2 Marsham Street

London

SW1P 4DF

United Kingdom

Email: network.procurement@defra.gov.uk

Website: <https://defra-family.force.com/s/Welcome>

Region: UKI32 - Westminster

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government

Other organisation

These organisations are carrying out the procurement, or part of it, on behalf of the contracting authorities.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Summary of their role in this procurement: Defra group Commercial will manage this procurement on behalf of the Environment Agency.

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PNBD-3289-CDGX

Seacole Building, 2 Marsham Street

London

SW1P 4DF

United Kingdom

Contact name: Defra group Commercial

Email: network.procurement@defra.gov.uk

Website: <https://defra-family.force.com/s/Welcome>

Region: UKI32 - Westminster

Contact organisation

Contact [ENVIRONMENT AGENCY](#) for any enquiries.