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Tender

UKRI-3131 Innovation Support Hub for Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs (Defra) Farming Innovation Programme ADOPT Fund.

UK Research & Innovation

F02: Contract notice

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-014431

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-03eae2

Published 3 May 2024, 7:05pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

UK Research & Innovation

Polaris House, North Star Avenue

Swindon

SN2 1FL

Email

corporateprocurement@ukri.org

Telephone

+44 1793867000

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.ukri.org>

I.3) Communication

The procurement documents are available for unrestricted and full direct access, free of charge, at

<https://www.delta-esourcing.com/tenders/UK-UK-Swindon:-Research-and-development-services-and-related-consultancy-services./7Y995DHD55>

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted to the above-mentioned address

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.5) Main activity

Other activity

Research

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

UKRI-3131 Innovation Support Hub for Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs (Defra) Farming Innovation Programme ADOPT Fund.

Reference number

UKRI-3131

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 73000000 - Research and development services and related consultancy services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

The ADOPT fund aims to support on-farm trials to evaluate tools, technology, systems, and approaches that can enhance the profitability, productivity, and sustainability of farmers, growers, and foresters in England. The funding aligns with the broader goals of the Farming Innovation Programme (FIP), with a specific focus on 1-to-2-year projects that meet these criteria:

Innovative Solutions: Funding is provided for practices or technologies that aren't widely used but show potential to improve farm productivity and sustainability.

Farmer-Led: Projects are centred on groups led by farmers.

Collaborative: They involve cooperation among farmers, industry, and researchers.

Scientifically Grounded: Trials are based on rigorous scientific methods with detailed measurement and recording.

Knowledge Sharing: Projects are open to sharing results and lessons learned with others.

Innovate UK oversees the scope of competitions and project eligibility

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £6,000,000

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

UNITED KINGDOM

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The UK is focusing on innovation and technology to increase agricultural productivity, improve environmental sustainability, and meet the demands of a growing global population. The country has strong capabilities in bioscience and research, supported by notable institutions and innovative farmers. The UK Government has invested significantly in agricultural technology through the £270 million Farming Innovation Programme (FIP), managed by the Department for Food, Environment, and Rural Affairs (Defra) in partnership with UKRI Innovate UK, which oversees funding and grant competitions.

A grant support hub is being established to complement the grant competitions for the ADOPT fund. This hub aims to guide applicants and is considered vital for the fund's success. Its role is to encourage more on-farm trials and innovation in agriculture and horticulture. Previous experiences with the European Innovation Partnership for Agriculture Productivity and Sustainability (EIP-Agri) showed that inconsistent support and knowledge-sharing limited the effectiveness of the program. The new grant support hub is designed to address these issues by providing consistent guidance and facilitating better knowledge exchange among participants.

The support hub for the ADOPT fund has several key objectives:

Raise Awareness: Promote the ADOPT fund to the target market to increase awareness and generate interest.

Encourage Quality Applications: Drive a high number of quality applications to ensure a competitive selection process and support impactful projects.

Provide a Supportive Interface: Act as a friendly and accessible 'front door' to help applicants understand the ADOPT fund and have a positive initial experience.

Offer Specialist Advice: Give guidance to potential applicants on how to gather insights, find partners, and access resources for their applications.

Direct Unqualified Applicants: Signpost other relevant services for those whose proposals don't fit the ADOPT fund's criteria.

Enhance Project Success: Advise funded projects on effective trial management, open innovation, and peer-to-peer knowledge exchange to maximise success.

Promote Knowledge Sharing: Support projects in communicating and sharing their research findings with farmers and other stakeholders during and after project completion to maximise the fund's impact.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Criterion 1 / Weighting: 80

Cost criterion - Name: Criterion 1 / Weighting: 20

II.2.6) Estimated value

Value excluding VAT: £6,000,000

II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system

Start date

5 August 2024

End date

3 August 2029

This contract is subject to renewal

No

II.2.10) Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: No

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of options

The Contract duration shall be for a period of 3 years with optional extensions of 2 years (1 year + 1 year)

II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

II.2.14) Additional information

To respond to this opportunity please click here: <https://ukri.delta-sourcing.com/respond/7Y995DHD55>

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: [2023/S 000-021835](#)

IV.2.2) Time limit for receipt of tenders or requests to participate

Date

24 June 2024

Local time

2:00pm

IV.2.4) Languages in which tenders or requests to participate may be submitted

English

IV.2.7) Conditions for opening of tenders

Date

24 June 2024

Local time

2:00pm

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.1) Information about recurrence

This is a recurrent procurement: No

VI.3) Additional information

The contracting authority considers that this contract may be suitable for economic operators that are small or medium enterprises (SMEs). However, any selection of tenderers will be based solely on the criteria set out for the procurement.

For more information about this opportunity, please visit the Delta eSourcing portal at:

<https://ukri.delta-esourcing.com/tenders/UK-UK-Swindon:-Research-and-development-services-and-related-consultancy-services./7Y995DHD55>

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GO Reference: GO-202453-PRO-25945298

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

UK Research and Innovation

Polaris House,, North Star Avenue

Swindon

SN2 1FL

Email

commercial@ukri.org

Country

United Kingdom