

This is a published notice on the Find a Tender service: <https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Notice/015612-2024>

Tender

Chemical Testing for Northern Ireland

Food Standards Agency

F02: Contract notice

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-015612

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-045a2d

Published 16 May 2024, 3:51pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Food Standards Agency

Floors 6 and 7, Clive House, 70 Petty France

London

SW1H 9EX

Contact

FSA Commercial

Email

fsa.commercial@food.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKI32 - Westminster

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.food.gov.uk/>

Buyer's address

<https://www.food.gov.uk/>

I.3) Communication

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

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

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted electronically via

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

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

Electronic communication requires the use of tools and devices that are not generally available. Unrestricted and full direct access to these tools and devices is possible, free of charge, at

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

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

I.5) Main activity

General public services

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Chemical Testing for Northern Ireland

Reference number

FS900109e / C285155

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 National Reference Laboratory(ies) for Chemical and Contaminant Testing for Northern Ireland (NI) will play a vital role in protecting consumers from illness that could arise from the consumption of food or feed contaminated with chemical contaminants such as metals, nitrogenous compounds, processing contaminants and halogenated persistent organic pollutants. The NRL will provide specialist advice as requested by the FSA and technical support to the NI enforcement process for food, feed and products thereof.

This is a multiple lot tender. Tenders are invited to bid for all lots, several lots together or one lot.

The designated laboratory(ies) will carry out the provision of Services for the NRLs for NI for the following areas:

Lot 1 NRL for Metals and Nitrogenous Compounds in Feed and Food

Lot 2 NRL for Processing Contaminants

Lot 3 NRL for Halogenated Persistent Organic Pollutants

This is a 4 year contract with an optional 2 year extension.

The estimated value of the Contract is estimated to be between £0 - £252,000 (inc VAT) for the total duration, including the 2 year extension. The FSA is not required to take the extension.

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £1

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: Yes

Tenders may be submitted for all lots

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

2. Lot 1 NRL for Metals and Nitrogenous Compounds in Feed and Food

Lot No

1

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 73111000 - Research laboratory services
- 73000000 - Research and development services and related consultancy services
- 71900000 - Laboratory services
- 73000000 - Research and development services and related consultancy services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

Main site or place of performance

www.food.gov.uk

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Contamination of food and feed with metals and nitrogenous compounds can pose various risks to human health and chronic exposure can lead to long-term health problems. Acute poisoning due to sudden high exposure can cause symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, and neurological disturbances, with vulnerable populations being more susceptible to the adverse effects of contamination. Maximum allowable limits for these contaminants in food have been set to protect public health.

Heavy metals in foods are contaminant substances that have not been intentionally added. They may be present in food as a result of the various stages of production, packaging, transport or holding. They can also result from environmental contamination. Such contamination has a negative impact on the quality of food and may imply a risk to human health. European legislation (EU 2023/915) lays down maximum allowed limits in foodstuffs including heavy metals such as cadmium, lead, mercury, inorganic arsenic, total arsenic and inorganic tin.

Nitrogenous compounds include chemicals such as nitrates and nitrites. Nitrites and nitrates are naturally present in vegetables such as spinach, lettuce, celery and beetroot. These are the main sources of dietary exposure to nitrates with only around 5% coming from use as a food additive. Nitrites and Nitrates are also used as preservatives in certain cheeses and cured meats and excessive consumption can lead to the formation of nitrosamines, which are potential carcinogens but their main role as a food additive is to reduce the growth of harmful microorganisms such as *Clostridium botulinum*. High levels of ammonia in food can also cause gastrointestinal issues, liver damage, and respiratory problems and can lead to kidney dysfunction.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

II.2.6) Estimated value

Value excluding VAT: £1

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

Start date

1 April 2025

End date

31 March 2029

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

The FSA is entitled to extend the Contract by 2 years subject to giving notice in accordance with the terms of the Contract. See the Award Form and Core Terms of the Contract for more information.

II.2.10) Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: No

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

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

3. Lot 2 NRL for Processing Contaminants

Lot No

2

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 73000000 - Research and development services and related consultancy services
- 73000000 - Research and development services and related consultancy services
- 71900000 - Laboratory services
- 73111000 - Research laboratory services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

Main site or place of performance

www.food.gov.uk

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Food processing contaminants are substances that form in food or in food ingredients when they undergo chemical changes during processing. Processing methods include high-temperature cooking, fermentation, smoking, drying, refining of vegetable and animal fats. These chemicals may be harmful to health and some are carcinogenic. Examples include acrylamide, 3-MCPD and glycidyl esters, Furans and Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs).

II.2.5) Award criteria

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

II.2.6) Estimated value

Value excluding VAT: £1

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

Start date

1 April 2025

End date

31 March 2029

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

The FSA is entitled to extend the Contract by 2 years subject to giving notice in accordance with the terms of the Contract. See the Award Form and Core Terms of the Contract for more information.

II.2.10) Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: No

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

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

4. Lot 3 NRL for Halogenated Persistent Organic Pollutants

Lot No

3

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 73111000 - Research laboratory services
- 73000000 - Research and development services and related consultancy services
- 71900000 - Laboratory services
- 73111000 - Research laboratory services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

Main site or place of performance

www.food.gov.uk

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Halogenated Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) contaminants can be found in food and feed. They are toxic and persistent chemicals and their effects on human health include dermal toxicity, immunotoxicity, reproductive effects and teratogenicity, endocrine disruption and carcinogenicity. They are present in the environment, especially from pollution events and there are concerns around negative human health effects from long-term exposure to even the smallest amounts of Halogenated Persistent Organic

Pollutants (POPs). Examples include PCBs and dioxins, brominated and fluorinated persistent contaminants such as flame retardants.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

II.2.6) Estimated value

Value excluding VAT: £1

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

Start date

1 April 2025

End date

31 March 2029

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

The FSA is entitled to extend the Contract by 2 years subject to giving notice in accordance with the terms of the Contract. See the Award Form and Core Terms of the Contract for more information.

II.2.10) Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: No

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

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

Date

8 July 2024

Local time

12:00pm

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

English

IV.2.6) Minimum time frame during which the tenderer must maintain the tender

Duration in months: 6 (from the date stated for receipt of tender)

IV.2.7) Conditions for opening of tenders

Date

8 July 2024

Local time

12:00pm

Place

All bids will be opened using the e-procurement site Atamis.

Information about authorised persons and opening procedure

All bids will be opened at noon on the tender closing date, bids received after this time may be excluded and may not be evaluated.

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.1) Information about recurrence

This is a recurrent procurement: Yes

Estimated timing for further notices to be published: The FSA is entitled to extend the Contract by 2 years subject to giving notice in accordance with the terms of the Contract. See the Award Form and Core Terms of the Contract for more information.

VI.3) Additional information

This is a 4 year contract with an optional 2 year extension.

The estimated value of the Contract is estimated to be between £0 - £252,000 (inc VAT) for the total duration, including the 2 year extension. The FSA is not required to take the extension.

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

High Court of Justice for England and Wales

The Strand

London

WC2A 2LL

Country

United Kingdom