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Planning

## **UKRI-3201 New England Shelf Hydrogeology**

UK Research & Innovation

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-016466

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-046b5f

Published 24 May 2024, 2:05pm

### **Section I: Contracting authority**

#### **I.1) Name and addresses**

UK Research & Innovation

North Star Avenue

Swindon

SN2 1FL

#### **Contact**

Kate Richardson

#### **Email**

[Nercprocurement@ukri.org](mailto:Nercprocurement@ukri.org)

#### **Telephone**

+44 7562167366

**Country**

United Kingdom

**Region code**

UKK14 - Swindon

**National registration number**

Polaris House

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

[www.ukri.org](http://www.ukri.org)

**I.3) Communication**

Additional information can be obtained from 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

<http://www.ukri.delta-esourcing.com>

**I.4) Type of the contracting authority**

Body governed by public law

**I.5) Main activity**

Other activity

Research

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**Section II: Object****II.1) Scope of the procurement**

**II.1.1) Title**

UKRI-3201 New England Shelf Hydrogeology

Reference number

UKRI-3201

**II.1.2) Main CPV code**

- 76320000 - Offshore drilling services

**II.1.3) Type of contract**

Services

**II.1.4) Short description**

The British Geological Survey (BGS), acting on behalf of the European Consortium for Ocean Research Drilling (ECORD), requires a marine coring capability and suitable vessel to operate offshore New England, USA, for a scientific drilling, coring and groundwater sampling campaign for a period of between 60 – 90 days (estimated) between May and August 2025. This scientific coring project seeks to extend our understanding of the current and past states of fluid composition, pressure, and temperature in continental shelf environments. In many coastal settings worldwide, the distribution of freshwater within continental shelf sediments is far out of equilibrium with modern sea level. One of the most remarkable examples is found on the Atlantic continental shelf off New England where groundwater within shallow Pliocene-Pleistocene sand aquifers over 100 km offshore has low salinity (3000 mg/l or less). This project will test several hypotheses to help constrain rates, directions, and mechanisms of groundwater flow and chemical fluxes in continental shelf systems.

**II.1.5) Estimated total value**

Value excluding VAT: 26,000,000 USD

**II.1.6) Information about lots**

This contract is divided into lots: No

**II.2) Description****II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 34514000 - Floating or submersible drilling or production platforms
- 43124900 - Rock-drilling equipment
- 45262422 - Subsea drilling work
- 76340000 - Core drilling

### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- US - United States

Main site or place of performance

United States

### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

The project requires a contractor to provide a suitable platform from which to deploy coring apparatus to achieve near-continuous core samples (min. diameter 64mm) from seabed to a total depth (TD) of 550 mbsf (meters below sea floor) at each of 3 pre-determined sites. Additionally, the project requires to drill (not core) 2 boreholes at 2 of the 3 pre-determined sites for groundwater testing and sampling at specific intervals selected using the results from the cored boreholes. The contractor will be responsible for supplying the vessel and personnel; and undertaking the drilling, coring and groundwater testing/sampling requirements.

### **II.2.14) Additional information**

UKRI are seeking to engage with interested contractors prior to going to market. Contractors are encouraged to express their interest in the opportunity via the Delta sourcing portal. Following an expression of interest, contractors may be invited to further engagement opportunities.

### **II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice**

1 July 2024

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## **Section IV. Procedure**

### **IV.1) Description**

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

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## **Section VI. Complementary information**

### **VI.3) Additional information**

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

<https://ukri.delta-esourcing.com/tenders/UK-UK-Swindon:-Offshore-drilling-services./88M76V55Z8>

To respond to this opportunity, please click here:

<https://ukri.delta-esourcing.com/respond/88M76V55Z8>

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