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Planning

Defra - Future Network Procurement Project

Defra Network eTendering Portal

F01: Prior information notice
Prior information only
Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-016613
Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-03d590
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Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Defra Network eTendering Portal

17 Nobel House

London

SW1P 3JR

Contact

Alexander Ede

Email

alexander.ede@defra.gov.uk

Telephone

+44 7927275531

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs

Buyer's address

https://defra-family.force.com/s/Welcome

I.2) Information about joint procurement

The contract is awarded by a central purchasing body

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

https://defra-family.force.com/s/Welcome

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

I.5) Main activity

Environment

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Defra - Future Network Procurement Project

Reference number

Project_34627

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 72000000 - IT services: consulting, software development, Internet and support

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

This is a Prior Information Notice (PIN) for the Future Network Procurement Project (FNPP), which is for the provision of the enhanced continuation of Defra's connectivity services. The Invitation to Tender (ITT) will be via Crown Commercial Service's (CCS's) Network Services 3 (Lot 1a and Lot 2a), and is expected to be published on Monday 17 July.

The FNPP supplier shall transform and manage Defra's Connectivity as a whole, including but not limited to WAN (SD-WAN and DIA), LAN (LAN and WLAN), Foundation Services (DNS, DHCP, IPAM, and NTP), Gateway proxy services and secure VPN licences & support and Digital Experience Monitoring.

Further information is detailed within the 'Description of Procurement' section.

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

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

This is a Prior Information Notice (PIN) for the Future Network Procurement Project (FNPP), which is for the provision of the enhanced continuation of Defra's connectivity services. The Invitation to Tender (ITT) will be via Crown Commercial Service's (CCS's) Network Services 3 (NS3) Framework (Lot 1a and Lot 2a), which is expected to be published on Monday 17 July.

Atamis will be used during the procurement for all communications, ITT documentation access, and Bidder Tender response document uploads. The link for Bidders to register to Atamis is below:
https://defra-family.force.com/s/Welcome

Clinked will be used as a Data Room for Defra-wide documents that are referred to in the ITT and Bidders need to view (policies, strategies etc). Bidders can only access Clinked via invite, so if you are an interested Bidder on both NS3's Lot 1a and Lot 2a, then please contact the below email address with your organisation's representative email address:
Alexander.Ede@Defra.gov.uk

The FNPP supplier shall transform and manage Defra's Connectivity as a whole. FNPP moves from traditional MPLS to SD-WAN and Dedicated Internet Access (DIA), and moves from traditional fully-wired LAN to Wi-Fi by default. Its scope includes:
- Wide Area Network (WAN): SD-WAN, DIA, and Internet
- Local Area Network (LAN): To support Wi-Fi, with traditional-wired LAN where Wi-Fi is not possible
- Foundation Services: IP Address Management, Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol, Private Domain Name Service, and Network Time Protocol.
- Remote Access Service (RAS): Hardware and software capabilities to remotely connect the user to Defra's servers.
- Secure Gateway: Cloud Internet Proxy and Virtual Private Network (VPN) capabilities and support for Secure Internet Access & Web Content Filtering for end user devices providing access to the internet.
- Digital Experience Monitoring: A solution for reporting on real-life performance of the network, generating synthetic transactions for an end-to-end view
- Security Operations Centre (SOC): Detecting and responding to cyber-attacks through Protective Monitoring. This will either be part of FNPP's scope or brought in-house to Defra.

This FNPP service will connect circa 300 sites across the United Kingdom for up to 32,000 staff, consisting of Defra and its Agencies and Non-Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs):
- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)
- Environment Agency (EA)
- Rural Payments Agency (RPA)

- Natural England (NE)
- Marine Management Organisation (MMO)
- Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

FNPP will consist of a circa 14-month transition period, 5-year business as usual (BAU), and a 2-year optional extension. It will also include an optional 18-month Termination Assistance Period (TAP).

The Supplier must provide a service which recognises the Defra Group priority to minimise environmental and social impacts, whilst delivering additional benefits, by upholding Defra Groups published sustainability objectives and targets.

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

17 July 2023

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: No