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Tender

## Groundwater Capability Framework

Radioactive Waste Management

F02: Contract notice

Notice identifier: 2021/S 000-018130

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-0294da

Published 29 July 2021, 4:42pm

The closing date and time has been changed to:

**16 September 2021, 1:30pm**

See the [change notice](#).

## Section I: Contracting authority

### I.1) Name and addresses

Radioactive Waste Management

Building 329, Thomson Avenue

Didcot

OX11 0GD

### Contact

James Gatawa

### Email

[James.gatawa@nda.gov.uk](mailto:James.gatawa@nda.gov.uk)

**Telephone**

+44 1925802823

**Country**

United Kingdom

**NUTS code**

UKJ14 - Oxfordshire

**National registration number**

8920190

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/case-studies/shared-services-alliance-ssa-for-nuclear-decommissioning-estate>

Buyer's address

<https://sharedsystems.eu-supply.com/ctm/Company/CompanyInformation/Index/3510>

**I.3) Communication**

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

[https://sharedsystems.eu-supply.com/app/rfq/rwlentrance\\_s.asp?PID=13886&B=SELLAFIELD](https://sharedsystems.eu-supply.com/app/rfq/rwlentrance_s.asp?PID=13886&B=SELLAFIELD)

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted electronically via

[https://sharedsystems.eu-supply.com/app/rfq/rwlentrance\\_s.asp?PID=13886&B=SELLAFIELD](https://sharedsystems.eu-supply.com/app/rfq/rwlentrance_s.asp?PID=13886&B=SELLAFIELD)

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

Nuclear Decommissioning

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## **Section II: Object**

### **II.1) Scope of the procurement**

#### **II.1.1) Title**

Groundwater Capability Framework

Reference number

RWM433

#### **II.1.2) Main CPV code**

- 90733700 - Groundwater pollution monitoring or control services

#### **II.1.3) Type of contract**

Services

#### **II.1.4) Short description**

This tender relates to the establishment of a groundwater capability framework (hereafter 'the framework'). It is intended for advancement of the Scientific and Technology Readiness Levels (SRL/TRL) of groundwater tools, techniques and workflows commensurate with the needs of the GDF programme.

There are 3 Lots under this framework. namely:

- Lot 1: Laboratory and field techniques and tools for the collection of hydrogeochemical/hydrogeological geomicrobiological data (e.g. laboratory based

geochemical, hydrogeological and mineralogical studies, extending to tool validation in the field).

- Lot 2: Conceptual understanding and numerical representation – using hydrogeological and geochemical information to understand a site / setting, including the past and possible future evolution. This may include groundwater model rehearsals .
- Lot 3: Provision of expert advice, including peer review, support for hydrogeological workflow development and technical integration.

### **II.1.5) Estimated total value**

Value excluding VAT: £4,000,000

### **II.1.6) Information about lots**

This contract is divided into lots: Yes

Tenders may be submitted for all lots

The contracting authority reserves the right to award contracts combining the following lots or groups of lots:

The contracting authority reserves the right to award contracts combining the following lots or groups of lots:

Lot 1,

Lot 2,

Lot 3

Bidders have the opportunity to submit bids for all or any combination of lots.

## **II.2) Description**

### **II.2.1) Title**

Laboratory and field techniques and tools for the collection of hydrogeochemical/hydrogeological geomicrobiological data

Lot No

1

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

- 71900000 - Laboratory services
- 90733700 - Groundwater pollution monitoring or control services

**II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UKJ14 - Oxfordshire
- UKJ - South East (England)
- UK - United Kingdom

Main site or place of performance

United Kingdom

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

Developing and maintaining specialist tools and techniques for collection of groundwater samples and in-situ and laboratory analysis of groundwaters. The nature of tasks may include the following:

- i. Recovery of pore waters from highly consolidated clays: understanding of existing, and potential development of alternative, approaches to recover porewater from diffusive / low permeability materials, both in the field and laboratory
- ii. Delivery of specialist analysis for the interpretation of groundwater age / residence time for the full range of rock types which may be expected along the groundwater flow path. This will include high transmissivity, near-surface systems as well as deep, ancient waters. Specifically, stable and/or radioactive isotope analysis and reactive / nonreactive tracers is expected (e.g.  $^4\text{He}$ ,  $^{81}\text{Kr}$ ,  $^{36}\text{Cl}$ ,  $^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$  and  $^{14}\text{C}$ )
- iii. Advancing analytical approaches to reduce sample volume requirements, and/or to enhance speed of testing, understanding options for QA/QC / data reporting and control of analytical data
- iv. Advancing tools for geomicrobiological characterisation

- v. Interpretation and evaluation of analytical data
- vi. Experimental work to support definition of reference groundwaters (e.g. water-rock-EBS interaction studies)
- vii. Development / contribution to laboratory and field manuals, for example for definition of the equipment needs and sampling approaches and techniques
- viii. Advanced core analysis techniques for hydro-geological/ -geochemical parameterisation
- ix. Testing of existing specialist down hole tools for shallow and deep groundwater testing appropriate for GDF programme, such as PFL / Chemmac3 for example\*
- x. Development of new down-hole techniques for accurate determination of unstable parameters such as Eh, dissolved oxygen and sulphide. This may involve partnership working for the innovation and development of new tools and techniques to support surface-based and intrusive site investigations
- xi. Development of novel remote sensing techniques to gather regional hydrogeological information

### **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: £1,700,000

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

Duration in months

48

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

Option for an extension for a period of 1 year.

### **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**

Conceptual understanding and numerical representation – using hydrogeological and geochemical information to understand a site / setting, including the past and possible future evolution.

Lot No

2

### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 90733700 - Groundwater pollution monitoring or control services
- 72242000 - Design-modelling services

### **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**

Lot 2 comprises desk-based activities, developing conceptual and numerical models to build understanding of regional and local hydrogeological systems, and how these will evolve following disturbance by GDF construction, during post closure evolution and as a result of external impacts such as future climate change. The nature of tasks may include the following:

- i. Gathering and QA/QC checks of historical data / 'dummy' data, for the development of conceptual hydrogeological models.
- ii. Development of conceptual hydrogeological models for candidate sites based mainly on pre-existing desk study and, when relevant, new seismic data, to support development of the site descriptive models (SDMs).
- iii. Development of simple groundwater flow models based upon site conceptualisation, considering variable density flow, in order to support early performance assessments
- iv. Coupled-process modelling to represent the interaction between components of the system and to understand impacts on regional flow (including rock structure, stresses and mechanical properties, hydrology, thermal gradients, geochemistry (including viscosity and the movement of dense brines), petrology, mineralogy and geomicrobiology
- v. Reactive transport modelling
- vi. Predictive (hind/fore-cast) modelling to provide understanding of system evolution, including verification, validation, sensitivity testing and code comparison exercises
- vii. Consideration of methods for modelling strongly heterolithic, dual-porosity sedimentary media with low (diffusive) matrix permeability and layer-bound fracture systems.

Effective uncertainty management, quantification and communication will be a crucial element of all modelling activities, please refer to RWM (2017)

### **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: £1,900,000

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



Duration in months

48

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

Option for an extension for a period of 1 year

### **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**

Provision of expert advice, including peer review, support for hydrogeological workflow development and technical integration.

Lot No

3

### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 90733700 - Groundwater pollution monitoring or control services
- 71351200 - Geological and geophysical consultancy services
- 71621000 - Technical analysis or consultancy services

### **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**

Lot 3 provides a call-off resource to support RWM colleagues with the development of internal and external workflows, processes and technical advice / support relating to groundwater relevant to the GDF programme. This is a strategic level lot which will be called upon at pressure points in the GDF, the nature of tasks may include the following:

- State of knowledge reviews
- Participation in RWM strategic governance such as the Groundwater Review Group
- Facilitation and curation of workshops, for example for the elicitation of requirements
- Expert review of internal documents, such as technical notes, reports and specifications
- Peer review of supply chain led technical work, as required for publication to RWM's bibliography

The number of suppliers qualifying for Lot 3 will not be limited.

### **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: £400,000

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

Duration in months

48

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

Option for an extension for a period of 1 year

### **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

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## **Section III. Legal, economic, financial and technical information**

### **III.1) Conditions for participation**

#### **III.1.1) Suitability to pursue the professional activity, including requirements relating to enrolment on professional or trade registers**

List and brief description of conditions

Bidders will be assessed in accordance with Section 5 of the 2015 Public Contract Regulations (implementing the Directive) on the basis of information provided in response to an Invitation to Tender (“ITT”).

Registering for access.

This procurement will be managed electronically via the CTM eSourcing portal. This will be the primary route for sharing all information and communicating with bidders.

If not already registered, you will first need to register your organisation on the portal.

To register, you will need to:

1. Go to the URL: <https://>

[sharedsystems.eu-supply.com/app/rfq/rwlenrance\\_s.asp?PID=12954&B=SELLAFIELD](https://sharedsystems.eu-supply.com/app/rfq/rwlenrance_s.asp?PID=12954&B=SELLAFIELD)

#### **III.1.2) Economic and financial standing**

Selection criteria as stated in the procurement documents

#### **III.1.3) Technical and professional ability**

Selection criteria as stated in the procurement documents

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## **Section IV. Procedure**

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

#### **IV.1.1) Type of procedure**

Open procedure

#### **IV.1.3) Information about a framework agreement or a dynamic purchasing system**

The procurement involves the establishment of a framework agreement

Framework agreement with several operators

Envisaged maximum number of participants to the framework agreement: 250

#### **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: [2021/S 000-005841](#)

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

Originally published as:

Date

2 September 2021

Local time

1:30pm

Changed to:

Date

16 September 2021

Local time

1:30pm

See the [change notice](#).

#### **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**

Tender must be valid until: 3 December 2021

#### **IV.2.7) Conditions for opening of tenders**

Date

2 September 2021

Local time

1:30pm

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## **Section VI. Complementary information**

### **VI.1) Information about recurrence**

This is a recurrent procurement: No

### **VI.4) Procedures for review**

#### **VI.4.1) Review body**

Royal Courts of Justice

Strand

London

London

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

<http://www.justice.gov.uk>

#### **VI.4.2) Body responsible for mediation procedures**

Royal Courts of Justice

Strand

London

London

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

<http://www.justice.gov.uk>

### **VI.4.3) Review procedure**

Precise information on deadline(s) for review procedures

Precise information on deadline(s) for review procedures:

Any appeals should be promptly brought to the attention of the contact specified in Section I above, and will be dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. Any appeals must be brought within the timescales specified by the applicable law, including without limitation, the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. In accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, the Contracting Authority will also incorporate a minimum 10 calendar day standstill period from the date information on award of contract is communicated to tenderers.

### **VI.4.4) Service from which information about the review procedure may be obtained**

Radioactive Waste Management Ltd

Didcot

Country

United Kingdom