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Planning

PIN Peer Review of Initial Site Evaluations

Nuclear Waste Services Limited

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-019056

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-050d05

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Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Nuclear Waste Services Limited

Pelham House, Pelham Drive,

Calderbridge, Seascale

CA20 1DB

Contact

Patrick Butler

Email

patrick.butler@nuclearwasteservices.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKD1 - Cumbria

National registration number

05608448

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/nuclear-waste-services/about>

Buyer's address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/nuclear-waste-services/about>

I.3) Communication

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.5) Main activity

Other activity

Disposal of Nuclear Waste

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

PIN Peer Review of Initial Site Evaluations

Reference number

C25208

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 Consultant's team should consist of a minimum of two peer reviewers. The peer reviewers should be independent of the Employer's work to develop the ISE and the associated permit applications. Give the novel nature of the ISE and associated permit application, direct experience of the staged regulation guidance and ISE development is therefore not possible.

The peer reviewers should have significant (10 years +) international experience of the development of Environmental Safety Cases for geological disposal facilities and the associated regulatory requirements. The Consultant should describe in their tender how the skills and experience of their team will benefit the peer review process and overall quality of the ISE submissions.

We are looking for Suppliers to provide views on:

- Firm bidding intention
- The Contract Technical Specification (CTS)
- Availability and feasibility of the procurement timescale

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £500,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 73200000 - Research and development consultancy services
- 90712000 - Environmental planning
- 73210000 - Research consultancy services
- 73110000 - Research services
- 44421722 - Safety cases
- 90711200 - Environmental standards other than for construction

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Nuclear Waste Services is responsible for implementing geological disposal of the UK's most hazardous radioactive waste and is currently working towards identifying potential sites for a geological disposal facility (GDF). Non-intrusive investigations and site evaluations have found that Search Areas under consideration have the potential to host a GDF. Further site investigations, including intrusive (deep borehole) investigations, are now needed to underpin GDF feasibility and environmental safety arguments. These assessments will then support decision-making on the preferred locations for the surface and sub-surface elements of a GDF associated with each Search Area.

The Environment Agency has set out a process of 'staged regulation' of the GDF implementation process [3]. Staged regulation begins with an application for an environmental permit to undertake surface-based intrusive investigations to obtain

information about sub-surface conditions. Preparation of an Initial Site Evaluation (ISE) to support such an environmental permit application is consistent with the environmental regulators' guidance on implementing geological disposal (the GRA) [3] and preliminary guidance on the scope and content of an ISE (the 2014 ISE Guidance) [7]. The development of an ISE for a GDF has no precedent and EA has never determined a Schedule 23 application for intrusive investigation works. Consequently, there is a degree of uncertainty surrounding the approaches and expectations from both an applicant and regulatory perspective.

This PIN should be read in conjunction with the following documents, all of which can be viewed on Atamis: <https://atamis-2464.my.site.com/s/Welcome>

- Contract Technical Specification
- Request for Information
- Atamis Supplier User Guide
- Overview of the BATs Marketplace

You will be required to register on Atamis, and once registration is complete you can search for this PIN using the Atamis search box and using the title as a reference – PIN BATs - PEER REVIEW OF INITIAL SITE EVALUATIONS (ISE) - C25208

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

2 May 2025

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