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Planning

#41208 – Preliminary market engagement exercise for de-icer product for third rail applications

NETWORK RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITED

UK2: Preliminary market engagement notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-020377

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-0510a0

Published 12 May 2025, 11:27am

Scope

Description

The purpose of this preliminary market engagement exercise is to identify de-icing products that might assist Network Rail in overcoming operational difficulties associated with the operation of third-rail traction systems during icy conditions.

Electric railway vehicles that obtain their power through a DC third rail system rely on the quality of the electrical connection between the conductor rail and the train's pick-up shoe.

In winter conditions, ice can form on the conductor rail degrading the quality of the electrical connection to such an extent that the trains are unable to function properly.

Network Rail operates a winter treatment program on Southern, and North West and Central, Regions where anti-ice products are deployed on the conductor rail to help prevent ice build-up, thereby maintaining the required electrical connection.

At present, Network Rail does not have a suitable de-icing product that can be deployed in the event of ice forming on the conductor rail and it is undertaking this preliminary market engagement exercise to identify products that might serve that purpose.

The Procurement Documents can be downloaded from Network Rail's BravoNR sourcing platform via this link.

<https://networkrail.bravosolution.co.uk/web/login.html>

From the welcome screen, access the 'Current Opportunities' link and select

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Total value (estimated)

- £300,000 excluding VAT
- £360,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 September 2025 to 31 August 2028
- 3 years

Main procurement category

Goods

CPV classifications

- 24951310 - De-icing agents

Contract locations

- UK - United Kingdom

Engagement

Engagement deadline

16 June 2025

Engagement process description

The purpose of this Procurement Event is to identify de-icing products that might assist Network Rail in overcoming operational difficulties associated with the operation of third-rail traction systems during icy conditions.

Participation

Particular suitability

- Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)
- Voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)

Submission

Publication date of tender notice (estimated)

1 August 2025

Procedure

Special regime

Utilities

Contracting authority

NETWORK RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITED

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PNZN-9524-VCQJ

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Region: UKI45 - Lambeth

Organisation type: Public authority - central government