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Planning

Automated Online Product Search Tool (WebCrawler Procurement)

Business Energy and Industrial Strategy

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2022/S 000-021579

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-03595e

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Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Business Energy and Industrial Strategy

1 Victoria Street

London

SW1H0ET

Contact

David Boston

Email

david.boston@beis.gov.uk

Telephone

+44 7721235728

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKI32 - Westminster

Justification for not providing organisation identifier

Not on any register

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-business-energy-and-industrial-strategy>

I.3) Communication

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

I.5) Main activity

General public services

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Automated Online Product Search Tool (WebCrawler Procurement)

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 48000000 - Software package and information systems

II.1.3) Type of contract

Supplies

II.1.4) Short description

An automated online tool is required to search the web for potentially unsafe products at a much faster rate than is possible through manual process. A web crawler/scrapper style tool will combine image and key word recognition, with the ability to automate searches. Distinguish between webpages offering products for sale and not just mention that product. Products for sale in the UK with UK shipping but not webpages offering something for sale but not available for purchase in the UK. To be able to capture screenshots to an evidential standard when a listing is identified as part of a search. This is then saved ready to be reviewed and used by an officer later.

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

The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS), part of the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), was created in January 2018 to deliver consumer protection and to support business confidence, productivity, and growth. We regulate a wide range of products with a focus on their safety and integrity. We work with local, national, and international regulators, with consumer representatives and with

businesses to deliver effective protections and to support compliance.

Our mission is to be a trusted product regulator for the UK. This means protecting people and places, enabling business to thrive and empowering consumers to make good choices. We will be a leader of good regulatory practice and a champion of local regulation.

OPSS is:

- the national regulator for all consumer products, except for vehicles, medicines, and food.
- the national regulator for legal metrology, ensuring weighing and measuring instruments are accurate and reliable.

Suppliers are strongly encouraged to read the text at the following link to gain a full understanding of the role of the enforcement services with Government:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-regulation-enforcement-services>

A growing area of work is enforcing product safety and standards for products being sold via online marketplaces. Our Online Regulation Team (EPE) is responsible for regulating this space, in particular identifying and removing unsafe products from the market.

The Online Regulations Team (EPE) currently undertake manual web searches for known non-compliant/unsafe products. The searches are made by individual team members checking for the presence of unsafe products being sold by online retailers or seller websites using keywords and image searches. When unsafe products are found, a team member would contact the retailer or Primary Authority and ask them to remove the product from sale on safety grounds. Results are currently saved on an Excel spreadsheet saved on OPSS SharePoint.

The current process is labour intensive and utilises limited resources. No sooner are non-compliant/unsafe products removed from websites they are often re-listed under different descriptions and revised images on alternative sites.

An automated online tool is required to search the web for potentially unsafe products at a much faster rate than is possible through manual process. A web crawler/scrapper style tool will combine image and key word recognition, with the ability to automate searches. Distinguish between webpages offering products for sale and not just mention that product. Products for sale in the UK with UK shipping but not webpages offering something for sale but not available for purchase in the UK. To be able to capture screenshots to an evidential standard when a listing is identified as part of a search. This is then saved ready to be reviewed and used by an officer later.

BEIS is hosting a pre-market supplier event for this project which will take place on Wednesday 7th September 2022 at 14:00 - 16:0 via MS Teams. If you would like to attend this event, please contact David Boston on the details provided within this advertisement.

If this event provides sufficient information BEIS will proceed to market with a procurement at the end of September 2022

This supplier engagement event provides an opportunity for suppliers to ask questions and highlight any potential issues.

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

1 November 2022

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