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Tender

## **RBGKEW1308 Expanding the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in root fungal colonisation assessment**

Royal Botanic Gardens

F02: Contract notice

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-021794

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-047daa

Published 16 July 2024, 12:05pm

### **Section I: Contracting authority**

#### **I.1) Name and addresses**

Royal Botanic Gardens

Royal Botanic Gardens,, The Herbarium, Kew Green,

Richmond

TW9 3AE

#### **Contact**

Jamal Jimenez

#### **Email**

[procurement@kew.org](mailto:procurement@kew.org)

#### **Telephone**

+44 2083325000

**Country**

United Kingdom

**Region code**

UKI75 - Hounslow and Richmond upon Thames

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

[www.kew.org](http://www.kew.org)

**I.3) Communication**

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

<https://www.delta-esourcing.com/tenders/UK-UK-Richmond:-Research-and-development-services-and-related-consultancy-services./ZETY78UYK8>

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted electronically via

<https://www.delta-esourcing.com/tenders/UK-Richmond:-Research-and-development-services-and-related-consultancy-services./ZETY78UYK8>

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted to the above-mentioned address

**I.4) Type of the contracting authority**

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

**I.5) Main activity**

Environment

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## **Section II: Object**

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

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

RBGKEW1308 Expanding the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in root fungal colonisation assessment

Reference number

RBGKEW1308

#### **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**

RBG Kew require a consultancy service, to expand the work developed during phase 1, to adapt AMFinder, an AI visualisation tool developed by Evangelisti et al (2021) to assess fungal-colonisation, for use with more complex field root samples. The work in phase 2 would focus on improving the accuracy of the outputs that AMFinder generates and expanding its functionality to detect different mycorrhizal types. This will build on the preliminary work carried out in phase 1, exploring the potential of a semi-supervised learning approach, and improving the user experience of the tool, by editing the dashboard interfaces and developing pipelines. The AMFinder tool should provide a method for rapid quantification of fungal colonisation in plant roots. Input to the tool will be images of ink-stained fungal structures inside roots mounted on microscopy slides, taken with a digital slide scanner (Panoramic Midi II) at RBG Kew. Adherence to data regulation and standards is essential.

#### **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.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UKI75 - Hounslow and Richmond upon Thames

Main site or place of performance

Hounslow and Richmond upon Thames

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

The total contract value for the Core Work Requirements is £250,000 excluding VAT. Tenders above this value will be excluded. Additional Work Requirements are subject to the needs of RBGKEW and will also form part of the contract. The total contract value is anticipated to be between £200,000 - £500,000 excluding VAT.

### **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Quality criterion - Name: Technical Criteria / Weighting: 75

Price - Weighting: 25

### **II.2.6) Estimated value**

Value excluding VAT: £500,000

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

Start date

9 September 2024

End date

31 March 2025

This contract is subject to renewal

No

### **II.2.10) Information about variants**

Variants will be accepted: Yes

### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: Yes

Description of options

The contract may be extended by up to 31.03.2026 depending on the requirements of RBGKEW.

### **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 IV. Procedure**

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

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

Open procedure

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

Date

15 August 2024

Local time

12:00pm

#### **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**

Duration in months: 3 (from the date stated for receipt of tender)

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

Date

15 August 2024

Local time

12:02pm

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## **Section VI. Complementary information**

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

This is a recurrent procurement: No

### **VI.3) Additional information**

For more information about this opportunity, please visit the Delta eSourcing portal at:

<https://www.delta-esourcing.com/tenders/UK-UK-Richmond:-Research-and-development-services-and-related-consultancy-services./ZETY78UYK8>

To respond to this opportunity, please click here:

<https://www.delta-esourcing.com/respond/ZETY78UYK8>

GO Reference: GO-2024716-PRO-26900999

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

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

Head of Procurement & Contract Management, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

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Richmond

TW9 3AE

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+44 2083325000

Country

United Kingdom