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Planning

Multi-level, Mass Fatalities Body Storage capability - Request for Information

Home Office

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-025062

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-03f6ee

Published 25 August 2023, 9:57am

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Home Office

London

Email

Collaborativeprocurement@homeoffice.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

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

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

Public order and safety

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Multi-level, Mass Fatalities Body Storage capability - Request for Information

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 33942000 - Cadaver carriers

II.1.3) Type of contract

Supplies

II.1.4) Short description

Multi-level, Mass Fatalities Body Storage capability - Request for Information

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £250,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 33941000 - Cadaver storage racks
- 33942000 - Cadaver carriers
- 33944000 - Morgue cabinet refrigerators or freezers
- 33949000 - Body transport containers

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The Authorities seek to determine market potential and consider market views on the requirements with a view to ensure such views are considered for any potential procurement that the Authorities may wish to launch.

In the event of an incident resulting in a large number of fatalities, it is feasible that it would overwhelm the usual body storage capacity at the relevant local authority. In such a situation, a relevant authority may call upon the body storage capacity of neighbouring authorities under existing mutual aid arrangements.

In addition, the authority may also draw upon the Home Office-provided 'mass fatalities' capability. These are steel ISO body storage units, provided on a regional basis across the country (covering the nine regions of England, plus Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales) with specified local authorities being responsible for the oversight of these units within their region. There are approximately 45 such units, with each region or devolved administration being allocated between 3 or 4 units each. With a body storage capacity of 16 persons per unit (expandable to 20), this equates to a total body storage capacity of approximately 576 persons in England (expandable to 720). In the devolved administrations, the body storage capacity is 64 person (expandable to 80). Thus, although the mass fatalities body storage capability is intended to be available nationally, it is regionally delivered. Hence it is termed 'Regional Emergency Mortuary Arrangements' (REMA).

However, as the body storage units are now over ten years old, with some units no longer functional and others needing repair, the mass fatalities capability is currently patchy across the country – with some regions having access to a largely functional and fit-for-purpose capability, and other regions discounting the REMA capability altogether and having to make their own alternative arrangements. This is clearly unsatisfactory. Consequently, Home Office are looking to replace the current REMA capability with a bold new alternative.

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

8 January 2024

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: No

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

The Contracting Authority is issuing this Prior Information Notice (PIN) as a Request for Information (RFI) to gather market intelligence/information, to gain a better understanding of the capacity and appetite of the market.

It is important to note that this PIN/RFI is not a call for competition and as such potential providers will need to express an interest in any future tender opportunity once a contract notice is published in Find a Tender Service and on Contracts Finder.

It should be noted that this PIN/RFI invites individuals and organisations to express an interest in this RFI exercise only, and it is NOT a pre-qualification questionnaire, and is NOT part of any pre-qualification or selection process.

To request access to the RFI document please email CollaborativeProcurement@homeoffice.gov.uk and request the RFI document related to Mass Fatalities Body Storage capability. The document will then be sent for completion and should be returned to the same email address before the deadline. Responses are required as soon as possible to inform next steps, but the RFI will remain open until 12PM on 11/09/23

Interested parties should not make direct contact with policy officials, all enquires/communication should only via the approved communication channel.