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Planning

Unmanned Aerial Systems Framework

Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-026556

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-03fb0f

Published 8 September 2023, 8:24am

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd

Waterloo General Offices

London

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Contact

Graham Holbrook

Email

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Telephone

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Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

www.networkrail.co.uk

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

Railway Infrastructure

Section II: Object**II.1) Scope of the procurement****II.1.1) Title**

Unmanned Aerial Systems Framework

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 63710000 - Support services for land transport

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

Network Rail is seeking to put in place a UAS framework for the provision of services to help manage its national infrastructure and estate 365 days per year.

It is anticipated that the framework will consist of 3 lots, each with multiple suppliers serving England, Scotland and Wales.

The framework will provide Network Rail with access to several professional UAS operators/service providers to deliver survey capability across England, Scotland and Wales. Additionally, the framework will provide access to suppliers to support Network Rail in maintaining its existing in-house UAS hardware and operating capability.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: Yes

The contracting authority reserves the right to award contracts combining the following lots or groups of lots:

It is anticipated that the framework will consist of 3 lots, each with multiple suppliers:

Lot 1: Supply of UAV inspection and survey services for reactive and pre-planned work across England, Scotland and Wales.

Lot 2: Supply of UAS and related operational products to include servicing, maintenance and lease option packages for equipment.

Lot 3: Supply of CAA accredited UAS pilot training

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Unmanned Aerial Systems Framework - Training Services

Lot No

3

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 80531200 - Technical training services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

Main site or place of performance

National - England, Wales, Scotland

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Network Rail is seeking to put in place a UAS framework for the provision of services to help manage its national infrastructure.

The framework will provide Network Rail with access to several service providers support Network Rail in maintaining its existing in-house UAS capability through the training, to CAA standards, of UAS(drone) operators.

II.2.14) Additional information

Network Rail has used professional UAS operators since 2014 to survey its assets and undertake inspections. In 2019, it obtained its own CAA operational authorisation to conduct commercial drone operations and today it has over 200 volunteer pilots and a fleet of around 400 drones supplementing services from external drone service suppliers.

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

13 November 2023

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

Requests for further information and any questions or clarifications in respect of this RFI should be addressed to Graham.Holbrook@networkrail.co.uk

Please note any discussions which do occur will cease immediately should a formal competition ultimately be announced. Network Rail is committed to ensuring fairness, openness and transparency, and to following UK procurement regulations. The Periodic Indicative Notice is issued solely for the purpose of conducting pre-procurement market engagement via a request for information and does not constitute any commitment to undertake any procurement in the future. Interested parties will not be prejudiced by any response or failure to respond to the PIN event and a response to this PIN does not guarantee any invitation to participate in this event or any future procurement.

This PIN does not constitute a call for competition to procure any services, supplies or works mentioned in this PIN and Network Rail will not accept any proposals offered in response to this PIN. Network Rail is not liable for any costs, fees, or expenses incurred by any party in replying to or attending any PIN event. Any procurement of any services, supplies or works by Network Rail will be carried out strictly in accordance with the provisions of the Utilities Contracts Regulations 2016.

Network Rail would like to thank you in advance should you wish to respond to this Request for Information.