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Planning

## **?South East Strategic Resource Options (SESRO) Market Engagement Briefing Event? & PIN**

THAMES WATER UTILITIES LIMITED

F04: Periodic indicative notice – utilities

Periodic indicative notice only

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-028037

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-040303

Published 22 September 2023, 12:47pm

### **Section I: Contracting entity**

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

THAMES WATER UTILITIES LIMITED

Reading

RG1 8DB

#### **Email**

[procurement.support.centre@thameswater.co.uk](mailto:procurement.support.centre@thameswater.co.uk)

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

#### **Region code**

UKJ11 - Berkshire

#### **Companies House**

02366661

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<https://www.thameswater.co.uk/>

**I.3) Communication**

Access to the procurement documents is restricted. Further information can be obtained at

[www.thameswater.co.uk/procurement](http://www.thameswater.co.uk/procurement)

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

**I.6) Main activity**

Water

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**Section II: Object**

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

**II.1.1) Title**

?South East Strategic Resource Options (SESRO) Market Engagement Briefing Event? & PIN

**II.1.2) Main CPV code**

- 66000000 - Financial and insurance services

**II.1.3) Type of contract**

Services

**II.1.4) Short description**

Thames Water Utilities Ltd (TWUL) is participating in a market engagement briefing event, on 20th October (morning) in London. The purpose of the event is to inform interested parties of the current proposals to deliver several reservoirs as part of the Strategic

Resource Options (SROs) programme, including the Southeast Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO), a new raw water storage reservoir in Oxfordshire - helping to build a resilient future in the long term.

The purpose of this PIN is to give notice of the event, which is being organised by the Regulators' Alliance for Progressing Infrastructure Development (RAPID) and held in collaboration with Anglian Water, and to encourage interested parties to register their interest with RAPID. It is not a call for competition.

TWUL will also be requesting that interested parties complete our Request for Information (RFI) after the event, to provide more detailed feedback on our emerging delivery proposals for SESRO. The event invite and subsequent RFI will be accessible through TWUL's eSourcing platform IASTA SmartSource. Please see Section VI.3 Additional Information on how to request access to the SESRO Market Engagement project.

TWUL intends to use this event to introduce the project to the market and encourage interested parties to engage with us as we develop the project further, including through selective bilateral discussions to be held after the event, in order to explore RFI responses in greater depth. The objectives of the engagement half day are:

- \* To introduce the SRO Programme, including SESRO and other reservoir schemes being developed by other water companies.
- \* To explain the project's needs case, scope and key components / assets.
- \* To introduce key considerations related to the commercial model and delivery strategies under consideration.
- \* To provide an opportunity for interest parties to ask questions.
- \* To identify parties who would be interested in engaging with us further after the event.

To access the invite which includes a link to register your interest in attending the event with RAPID, please refer to Section VI.3 Additional Information.

### **II.1.6) Information about lots**

This contract is divided into lots: No

## **II.2) Description**

### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 43123000 - Tunnelling machinery

- 43320000 - Construction equipment
- 45000000 - Construction work
- 50000000 - Repair and maintenance services
- 63712320 - Tunnel operation services
- 65100000 - Water distribution and related services
- 65320000 - Operation of electrical installations
- 66122000 - Corporate finance and venture capital services
- 66152000 - Financial market regulatory services
- 71000000 - Architectural, construction, engineering and inspection services

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

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

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

Meeting the water resource supply-demand balance to ensure resilient supplies during droughts is becoming ever more challenging with increasing pressures from climate change, population growth, societal expectations and increasing environmental aspirations.

In response, OFWAT have established RAPID comprising the three water industry regulators: Ofwat, the Environment Agency and Drinking Water Inspectorate - to support and oversee the development of SROs in order to secure long-term drought resilience on behalf of customers while protecting the environment and benefiting wider society.

The South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO) is a new storage reservoir which would be sited in the Upper Thames catchment, south west of Abingdon in Oxfordshire. SESRO is envisaged as a regional asset and is being developed by Thames Water on behalf of three water companies - Thames Water, Affinity Water and Southern Water. The reservoir would be filled with water pumped from the river Thames during periods of high river flow. When river levels drop, or demand for water increases, water would be released under gravity back into the river Thames, for re-abstraction downstream. The reservoir would help to protect supplies and manage future water quality issues created by a changing climate as well as offering regional and local benefits, including environmental and biodiversity improvements and public access and recreation.

A range of reservoir sizes have been considered through the regional planning process overseen by Water Resources South East (WRSE). In our revised draft WRMP (published on 31 August 2023) we set out that we consider a 150 Mm3 option presents the best value solution. To view the WRMP click here: <https://thames-wrmp.co.uk/document-library/>

The reservoir is needed to be operational by 2040.

Important Additional Information - Additional supporting documents can be found on our sourcing platform, IASTA. To access the project in IASTA please follow the instructions listed on <https://www.thameswater.co.uk/procurement> and use the following project details:

IASTA Project Name: South East Strategic Resource Options (SESRO) Market Engagement Briefing Event & PIN

#### **II.2.14) Additional information**

The CPV codes set out in this PIN are included to give an indication of the likely scope of services. TWUL does not guarantee that all the activities referenced by the CPV codes will form part of any future contract notice(s), nor is the list exhaustive of all activities which may be included in any procurement process under this project.

#### **II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice**

31 March 2027

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### **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

#### **IV.2) Administrative information**

##### **IV.2.4) Languages in which tenders or requests to participate may be submitted**

English

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## Section VI. Complementary information

### VI.3) Additional information

We would like to thank you in advance for participating in this market engagement process. Please note that the event itself is being managed by Ofwat (on behalf of RAPID) and may be subject to capacity constraints.

This PIN is not a call for competition and any information in this PIN maybe subject to change prior to publication of the contract notice and associated procurement documents. This market engagement is open to any organisation that wishes to respond. This market engagement is a standalone exercise intended to gather information and it does not form part of any formal procurement process. There is no guarantee the market engagement will progress into a procurement event, and participation in this market engagement process will not support or hinder supply chain involvement in any future possible procurement event related to the SRO programme.

The information available through IASTA SmartSource (details below) is not exhaustive and has been prepared to provide the market with relevant background information about the event. Thames Water accepts no liability or responsibility to any person (including a legal person) as a consequence of relying on the information set out in these documents.

Thames Water may use any responses to this PIN to inform any potential future SESRO procurement processes, and to inform future regulatory submissions. At the same time, Thames Water reserves the right not to conduct any SESRO procurement process. In the event that TWUL decide to conduct any SESRO procurement process, this survey does not commit TWUL to any particular timeline, process, scope or value of procurement. If TWUL carry out an SESRO procurement process, any responses to this PIN will not be considered as part of any pre-qualification or tender stage. Your participation in this market engagement will not automatically include or exclude you from any future SRO procurement processes.

Subject to a respondent's express consent (to be provided or withheld in the context of a response to this market engagement), TWUL reserves the right to share responses with one or more water companies to the extent that they are or become a party to an SESRO scheme in relation to which you have provided relevant feedback. Please inform us if you do not consent to TWUL sharing your response, or part of your response, with one or more of the listed partners.

TWUL is not liable for any costs, fees or expenses incurred by any party participating in this Market Engagement Briefing Event. TWUL cannot guarantee that it will incorporate all or any feedback received at the event into any subsequent procurement event(s) or that TWUL will proceed with one or more procurement event(s).

## Registration Details

The Market Engagement Briefing Event will take place in central London (venue tbc) on the morning of 20 October 2023 (timing to be confirmed). Please kindly mark this date in your calendars. Details of the final venue in Central London and timings will be confirmed shortly and official calendar invites will be sent out once registration has closed. At this stage, due to space constraints, we are asking each company to send no more than one representative. Should further places become available, we will let all companies who have RSVP'd know. We will share copies of presentations and a written summary of the Q&A available after the event on request.

The event invite can be found on the TWUL's eSourcing platform IASTA SmartSource. All suppliers who wish to attend the event should request access to IASTA SmartSource by using the web link in Section I.3 or as shown here - [www.thameswater.co.uk/procurement](http://www.thameswater.co.uk/procurement).

The project title in IASTA is South East Strategic Resource Options (SESRO) Market Engagement PIN & Briefing Event.

TWUL's Procurement Support Centre will subsequently send you an email providing login details. If you have any further questions, please email [procurement.support.centre@thameswater.co.uk](mailto:procurement.support.centre@thameswater.co.uk)

Whilst the registration link for the event may have been shared through other means by RAPID and Anglian Water, it's important to note that following the event, the RFI for SESRO and supporting information will be made available through IASTA SmartSource and therefore, early access to the project on this platform is encouraged. The platform will be used by TWUL to share information and manage responses.

By completing and submitting the registration form you confirm that you consent to Ofwat processing and sharing your data for the purposes of this market engagement event and all subsequent correspondence and engagement specifically related to market engagement activity associated with the development of the SESRO, Fens Reservoir and Lincolnshire Reservoir schemes. We will always treat your personal details with the utmost respect and never sell them to or share them with other third-party organisations for marketing or sales purposes.