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Award

Services-Contract-River Dee Monitoring

UNITED UTILITIES WATER LIMITED

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2022/S 000-029173

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-03764c

Published 17 October 2022, 2:26pm

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

UNITED UTILITIES WATER LIMITED

Haweswater House,Lingley Mere Business Park, Lingley Green Avenue, Great Sankey

WARRINGTON

WA53LP

Contact

Adam Almond

Email

Adam.Almond@uuplc.co.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKD61 - Warrington

Companies House

United Utilities Water Limited

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.unitedutilities.com/corporate>

Buyer's address

<https://www.unitedutilities.com/corporate>

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Other type

Utilities

I.5) Main activity

Other activity

Water

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Services-Contract-River Dee Monitoring

Reference number

PRO004566

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 71600000 - Technical testing, analysis and consultancy services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

This requirement is being let by the Dee Steering Committee (DSC) on behalf of the Water Companies taking potable water from the River Dee. United Utilities, Welsh Water and Severn Trent are the companies who form the DSC.

Requirements include; monitoring of water at specific points in the River Dee, carrying out analysis of samples and providing reporting based on sampling.

The main elements of the contract are as follows:

- The Deesit (Dee Situation Report)
- Intake Protection Stations
- Deepol (Dee Pollution Incident) and Operational Trigger incidents

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.1.7) Total value of the procurement (excluding VAT)

Value excluding VAT: £3,806,204

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 38341500 - Contamination-monitoring devices
- 38344000 - Pollution-monitoring devices
- 38500000 - Checking and testing apparatus
- 71620000 - Analysis services
- 71700000 - Monitoring and control services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKD - North West (England)

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The Deesit (Dee Situation Report)

The Deesit is the name given to the routine analysis carried out on samples taken from the River Dee.

The Deesit monitoring system requires the Contractor to take twice daily samples from the River Dee, provide analysis of those samples and subsequent reporting. Any evidence of visible pollution, such as discolouration, foaming or dead fish, and an assessment of odour shall be recorded, by the sampling Contractor, at the time of each sampling event. The samples (Deesits 1 and 2) shall be taken by the Contractor such that Deesit sampling events are separated by 12 hours + or - 2 hours. The results from the Deesits 1 and 2 must be available by 13.00 and 20.00 hours respectively. The earliest morning sample should be no earlier than 01:00 at Newbridge and the evening sample should be no earlier than 11:00 at Newbridge. The Contractor is, as well as collecting the Deesit samples, required to operate a UKAS accredited laboratory capable of analysing the samples and of reporting the results to the parties making up the DSC. The location of the laboratory is required to be within 30 minutes of the catchment area, due to strict sampling and reporting turnarounds, and also to react to pollution events as quickly as possible.

Intake Protection Stations

The Contractor will operate a full standby cover system in respect of the IPS. This will operate 24 hours per day, 365 days per year, as part of the monitoring system for IPS. Such a system will deal with instrument failures and incident related alarms. Such standby staff will ascertain the root cause of the alarm and take appropriate action as required.

Following receipt of an alarm by the contractor, remote monitoring and interrogation will be carried out by the Contractor. This could result in a number of possible actions;

- a) An immediate site visit. An immediate site visit is defined as arriving at the Intake Protection Station
- b) Continuation of monitoring and interrogation.
- c) A next day routine site visit.
- d) Report on actions and findings

No additional charge whatsoever will be made by the Contractor for remote monitoring and interrogation following receipt of an alarm as it is intrinsic to the service provided.

Contractor must ensure that information from the intake protection stations is made available remotely in real time to the Duty Analyst, Deepol officer and Duty Abstractor to assist in management of incident situations.

Deepol (Dee Pollution Incident) and Operational Trigger incidents

Non-routine analytical and reporting requirements will be carried out by the Contractor in the event of a Deepol. A Deepol is an abbreviation for a River Dee Pollution Incident. The Contractor will also be required to take additional samples on the River Dee in the event of a Deepol in accordance with a sampling strategy devised by the Deepol officer and Duty Abstractor at the time of the incident. The Contractor must maintain capability to take such samples on a 24 hour basis as required with a response time for initiation of sampling of no more than 4 hours.

The Contractor will, in the event of a Deepol, provide a Duty Chemist and a Duty Analyst.

The Contractor's laboratory shall, in the event of a Deepol, be capable of carrying out a variety and number of tests including inorganic analysis outside the scope of the normal Deesit reporting.

The Contractor shall ensure that such tests are capable of being carried out 24 hours per day. If necessary, additional staff and equipment shall be made available to facilitate and analyse for the Deesit as well as a Deepol. Any evidence of visible pollution, such as discolouration, foaming or dead fish and an assessment of odour shall be recorded, by the sampling Contractor, at the time of each sampling event. The Contractor will be expected to provide monthly and annual reports detailing contract performance.

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: No

II.2.14) Additional information

N/A

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Award of a contract without prior publication of a call for competition in the cases listed below

- The procurement falls outside the scope of application of the regulations

Explanation:

Type of procedure: Award of a contract without prior publication of a call for competition

Explanation:

This procurement falls under Regulation 50 (c) (ii) Competition is absent for technical reasons.

Following a market intelligence exercise, and knowledge sharing between the Water Companies who form the DSC, we have concluded that competition is absent for technical reasons.

- Location of UKAS accredited laboratory

Due to issues with sampling and reporting timescales, and also delays in tracking pollution events under previous procurements, the DSC requires this laboratory to be within a 30 minute radius of the catchment area.

Due Diligence:

United Utilities completed the following due diligence:

- A Prior Information Notice was prepared and published to the market via Merrell UK (EU Supply) on 08/11/2021 and responses were returned on 22/11/2021. We received 2 responses, both of whom did not have the UKAS accredited laboratory within the catchment range, and both planned to subcontract to ALS Global (the incumbent).
- The Water Companies who form the Dee Steering Committee run this tender, in turn, every 5 years. The Water Company who ran the previous procurement and confirmed that 2 Suppliers and ALS Global were successful through pre-qualification. During the contract that this WC procured, one of the Suppliers were acquired by ALS Global. The other Supplier, confirmed they were unable to fulfil the scope in terms of capacity and resource.

- The DSC members have confirmed that there is limited interest from laboratories regarding this requirement, and that through their experience tendering this requirement the market has not grown.
- United Utilities internal laboratory team were contacted and confirmed that they currently outsource some testing requirements to 3 Suppliers, one of whom are ALS Global. One of the Suppliers identified did not have a UKAS accredited lab within the catchment area, and the other Supplier was unable to offer a sampling service and could only complete laboratory analysis. Additional market intelligence identified a further Supplier who may have been able to support, however, they confirmed they would need to recruit and expand capacity within the region and did not have the laboratory facility within the catchment area.
- During the term of this contract, United Utilities and the DSC will continue to monitor the market, and should there be more competitors in the future then there may be an opportunity for United Utilities and the DSC to issue a formal tender for this agreement.

IV.1.8) Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: No

Section V. Award of contract/concession

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract/concession

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

17 October 2022

V.2.2) Information about tenders

The contract has been awarded to a group of economic operators: No

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire

ALS Laboratories (UK) Limited

Coventry

CV4 9GU

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKD - North West (England)

Companies House

ALS LABORATORIES (UK) LIMITED

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

V.2.4) Information on value of contract/lot/concession (excluding VAT)

Initial estimated total value of the contract/lot/concession: £3,806,204

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £3,806,204

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

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VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

High Court of England and Wales

London

Country

United Kingdom