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Planning

## **Provision of ERP System Integrator Professional Services to Support the Implementation of SAP S/4 HANA**

Northern Ireland Electricity Networks Limited

F04: Periodic indicative notice – utilities

Periodic indicative notice only

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-031553

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-04a50c

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

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

Northern Ireland Electricity Networks Limited

120 Malone Road,

Belfast,

BT9 5HT

#### **Email**

[Emma.Rodgers@nienetworks.co.uk](mailto:Emma.Rodgers@nienetworks.co.uk)

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

**Region code**

UKN - Northern Ireland

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

[www.nienetworks.co.uk](http://www.nienetworks.co.uk)

**I.3) Communication**

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Electronic communication requires the use of tools and devices that are not generally available. Unrestricted and full direct access to these tools and devices is possible, free of charge, at

<https://e-sourcingni.bravosolution.co.uk>

**I.6) Main activity**

Electricity

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## **Section II: Object**

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

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

Provision of ERP System Integrator Professional Services to Support the Implementation of SAP S/4 HANA

Reference number

S1205

#### **II.1.2) Main CPV code**

- 72000000 - IT services: consulting, software development, Internet and support

#### **II.1.3) Type of contract**

Services

#### **II.1.4) Short description**

NIE Networks Ltd is the electricity Distribution Network Operator (DNO) and transmission network owner in Northern Ireland. NIE Networks will shortly be undertaking a tender process (in accordance with the Utilities Contracts Regulations 2016) to procure an SAP S/4 HANA Systems Integrator Services Contract (Contract), which Contract it is anticipated will commence in January 2026. It is currently expected that the Contract will include any or all of the following services: Programme and project management; detailed system and process design; system configuration; custom specification and developments; data migration; test; business change management and training; deployment and cutover; and go-live support and hypercare. Current estimated value is in the region of £40M - £81M. The estimated value range is broad due to the scoping of the project still being in progress. .

Before commencing the tender process, NIE Networks Ltd intends to undertake a preliminary market engagement (PME) exercise to inform the market about the scope of the Contract and seek input from potential bidders which will be used to inform the process. The purpose of this notice then is to invite interested parties to express and register their interest in attending a PME briefing event, which will be held in Belfast on 12th November 2024. At this PME briefing event, NIE Networks Ltd will provide interested parties with an overview of the requirements, objectives, proposed approach to the forthcoming procurement and anticipated timelines. Interested parties shall be solely responsible for any costs incurred participating in any aspect of this PME event.

Interested parties should register their interest and attendance via eSourcingNI (as below) by 5.00pm on 1st November 2024 providing the name(s) and contact email addresses of who will attend. Attendance shall be limited to a maximum of 3 attendees per organization. Registration for the PME briefing event(s) shall only be through eSourcingNI.

pqq\_4593 has been created on eSourcingNI where parties can register their interest to attend the session via the secure messaging function. Upon receipt of Suppliers' Expressions of Interest, we will provide additional information with further instructions on how to participate in the PME Briefing Event.

The PME briefing event shall consist of a presentation by NIE Networks Ltd with an opportunity afterwards for interested parties to raise clarification questions. Interested parties should note that any questions regarding the content of the PME briefing event or procurement process raised in advance of the PME briefing event through eSourcingNI will not be responded to by NIE Networks Ltd.

In the event that attendance at the PME Briefing Event has to be restricted due to available space, then the number of attendees per organisation may be further limited and if required organisations' attendance restricted on a First-Come, First-Served basis. Interested parties should note however that a copy of the presentation and Market Sounding Questionnaire and Solution Briefing Document (as referred to further below) will be made available to all interested parties that register an interest on or before 1st November 2024, regardless of whether or not they are able to attend the PME Briefing Event. Responses to the MSQ should be submitted by 5:00pm on 29th November 2024 via eSourcingNI.

There will be an opportunity for potential Suppliers to submit clarification questions as part of the Market Sounding Questionnaire. We will consider clarification questions up to 22nd November 2024 and will issue responses as promptly as possible. Responses to clarification messages will be anonymised and shared with all participating Suppliers.

### **II.1.5) Estimated total value**

Value excluding VAT: £81,000,000

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

This contract is divided into lots: No

## **II.2) Description**

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

- 48000000 - Software package and information systems

- 48100000 - Industry specific software package
- 48217000 - Transaction-processing software package
- 48430000 - Inventory management software package
- 48440000 - Financial analysis and accounting software package
- 48490000 - Procurement software package
- 72000000 - IT services: consulting, software development, Internet and support
- 72200000 - Software programming and consultancy services
- 72210000 - Programming services of packaged software products
- 72211000 - Programming services of systems and user software
- 72212442 - Financial systems software development services
- 72212451 - Enterprise resource planning software development services
- 72212490 - Procurement software development services
- 72212517 - IT software development services
- 72212700 - Software development services utilities
- 72220000 - Systems and technical consultancy services
- 72221000 - Business analysis consultancy services
- 72224000 - Project management consultancy services
- 72224100 - System implementation planning services
- 72224200 - System quality assurance planning services
- 72246000 - Systems consultancy services
- 72260000 - Software-related services
- 72265000 - Software configuration services

- 72300000 - Data services
- 72500000 - Computer-related services
- 72514000 - Computer facilities management services
- 72590000 - Computer-related professional services
- 79000000 - Business services: law, marketing, consulting, recruitment, printing and security
- 79400000 - Business and management consultancy and related services
- 79410000 - Business and management consultancy services

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

NUTS codes

- UKN - Northern Ireland

Main site or place of performance

Northern Ireland

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

NIE Networks Ltd has been operating on SAP products since 1999 when SAP ECC was implemented with SAP Business Objects and SRM was added in 2008. In 2012 the company made a strategic investment by implementing the utility application SAP IS-U (separate instance) and SAP BW, further adding to the utilisation of SAP products and establishing a core technology platform on NIE Networks Ltd IT estate. The SAP applications form a fundamental platform in supporting the core NIE Networks business and market processes. Multiple internal non-SAP applications and external partner systems are integrated with the SAP system estate, working together to provide end to end business capabilities and overall compliance with Regulatory, Market and Statutory obligations.

From the end of 2027, the current version of SAP ERP transitions to extended vendor support arrangements and will be out of full support by the end of 2030. NIE Networks Ltd plans to upgrade to SAP S/4 HANA to ensure interoperability with current systems be maintained and to fully leverage new technologies and functionalities on an established platform, thus maintaining a stable and secure system within the company's IT estate.

The purpose of the Contract will be the provision of Systems Integrator services to support

the design, build and deployment of the upgrade of the current SAP (ECC, SRM and IS-U) systems to the new S/4HANA solution and supporting applications. It is currently anticipated that the solution scope will include, but not limited to:

- Migrating from SAP ECC6.0, SRM and IS-U to SAP S/4 HANA
- Migrating from SAP Business Objects and Business Warehouse to a new SAP reporting architecture
- Migration of a bespoke Job Management System (JMS), which supports the New Connections function, to S/4 HANA

The Services Scope includes but is not limited to:

Programme and Project Governance & Management including Quality Assurance; Business Process Design & Gap Identification; SAP Detailed Design; SAP licensing; Solution Build (Configuration & RICEFWs) & Unit Testing; Data Cleansing & Non-SAP Extraction; Data Extraction and Data Transformation & Loading; Test Plan & Management; System Integration Testing; Test Scripts & Execution; User Acceptance Testing; Scripts, Execution, Training & Training Documentation; Cutover Planning & Management; Cutover Execution; Business Readiness & End-User Training; Go-live Support; SAP Technical Architecture & Basis; Organisational Change, Communications, Business Engagement and Readiness.

NIE Networks Ltd currently anticipates that the Contract will not be split into lots, however this is a specific element that NIE Networks Ltd will be seeking interested parties' feedback on as part of the PME. NIE Networks Ltd will finalise the procurement strategy (including, without limitation, whether or not to split the Contract into lots) once it has considered all feedback provided.

Nothing in this Prior Information Notice is intended to commit NIE Networks Ltd to a subsequent procurement. It is anticipated that the tendering process will commence in late January 2025.

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

31 January 2025

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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: Yes

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## **Section VI. Complementary information**

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

**\*IMPORTANT\*** pqq\_4593 has been created on eSourcingNI, where parties can register their interest to attend the PME briefing event. The **ONLY** way to register is via the secure messaging function in the project, by providing names and email addresses of up to three representatives from your organisation who will attend.

Please note that NIE Networks Ltd will be conducting this PME exercise in accordance with the principles of equal treatment, non-discrimination and transparency. To that end, it is important to stress that the structure, specification and all other aspects of the procurement will not be designed to give direct or indirect advantage to any interested party and all information concerning the forthcoming procurement will be disseminated to all interested parties.

It is important to note that this PIN and the PME briefing event do not constitute a call for competition, a pre-qualification questionnaire, part of any pre-qualification, selection process or a current tender opportunity. This PIN has been produced solely for the purpose of conducting a pre-market engagement exercise. All interested parties will need to express a formal interest in any future tender opportunity in due course once a contract notice (as appropriate) is published.

NIE Networks Ltd welcomes interest from all interested parties. Interested parties will not be prejudiced by any response or failure to respond to this PIN or the PME briefing event. Participation or non-participation in the PME exercise shall not prevent any interested parties from participating in any subsequent procurement exercise. All information shared with interested parties as part of the PME exercise (including, for the avoidance of doubt, a copy of the PME presentation and any questions and answers provided) will be made available to all parties that express an interest in participating in any subsequent procurement exercise. For the avoidance of doubt however, NIE Networks Ltd will not disclose any specific comments or feedback provided by any interested party, nor the identity of any party that chose to take part in the PME process.



NIE Networks Ltd may, at its absolute discretion, consider any questions or feedback provided during the PME exercise in finalising its procurement strategy, procurement process and/or any aspects of the procurement. NIE Networks Ltd also reserves the right to request additional information from any interested party in relation to any question raised or feedback provided as part of the PME exercise. The information provided in this PIN and as part of the PME exercise is preliminary in nature and is subject to amendment/updating by NIE Networks Ltd. No reliance may be placed by any party on the information contained in this PIN or provided as part of the PME exercise and no representation or warranty, express or implied, is or will be made in relation to such information.