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Contract

RBGKEW1308 Expanding the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in root fungal colonisation assessment

Royal Botanic Gardens

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-034768

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-047daa

Published 25 October 2024, 7:05pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Royal Botanic Gardens

Royal Botanic Gardens,, The Herbarium, Kew Green,

Richmond

TW9 3AE

Contact

Jamal Jimenez

Email

procurement@kew.org

Telephone

+44 2083325000

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKI75 - Hounslow and Richmond upon Thames

Internet address(es)

Main address

www.kew.org

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

I.5) Main activity

Environment

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

RBGKEW1308 Expanding the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in root fungal colonisation assessment

Reference number

RBGKEW1308

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 73000000 - Research and development services and related consultancy services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

RBG Kew require a consultancy service, to expand the work developed during phase 1, to adapt AMFinder, an AI visualisation tool developed by Evangelisti et al (2021) to assess fungal-colonisation, for use with more complex field root samples. The work in phase 2 would focus on improving the accuracy of the outputs that AMFinder generates and expanding its functionality to detect different mycorrhizal types. This will build on the preliminary work carried out in phase 1, exploring the potential of a semi-supervised learning approach, and improving the user experience of the tool, by editing the dashboard interfaces and developing pipelines. The AMFinder tool should provide a method for rapid quantification of fungal colonisation in plant roots. Input to the tool will be images of ink-stained fungal structures inside roots mounted on microscopy slides, taken with a digital slide scanner (Panoramic Midi II) at RBG Kew. Adherence to data regulation and standards is essential.

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: £500,000

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKI75 - Hounslow and Richmond upon Thames

Main site or place of performance

Hounslow and Richmond upon Thames

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The total contract value for the Core Work Requirements is £250,000 excluding VAT. Tenders above this value will be excluded. Additional Work Requirements are subject to the needs of RBGKEW and will also form part of the contract. The total contract value is anticipated to be between £200,000 - £500,000 excluding VAT.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Technical Criteria / Weighting: 75

Price - Weighting: 25

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of options

The contract may be extended by up to 31.03.2026 depending on the requirements of RBGKEW.

II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Open procedure

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

IV.2) Administrative information

IV.2.1) Previous publication concerning this procedure

Notice number: [2024/S 000-021794](#)

Section V. Award of contract

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

15 August 2024

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 8

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

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

D-fine GmbH

An der Hauptwache 7 60313, Frankfurt, Registration number : HRB 48 103, Amtsgericht
Frankfurt a.M., Germany

Frankfurt

Country

Germany

NUTS code

- DE712 - Frankfurt am Main, Kreisfreie Stadt

National registration number

N/A

The contractor is an SME

No

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

Initial estimated total value of the contract/lot: £500,000

Total value of the contract/lot: £500,000

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

To view this notice, please click here:

<https://www.delta-esourcing.com/delta/viewNotice.html?noticeId=896966890>

GO Reference: GO-20241025-PRO-28288115

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Head of Procurement & Contract Management, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

1 Kew Palace Flats, Royal Botanic Gardens,, Kew Green

Richmond

TW9 3AE

Telephone

+44 2083325000

Country

United Kingdom