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Planning

****SOFT MARKET TESTING** Solar Farms on Essex County Council owned Landholdings**

Essex County Council

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2022/S 000-035043

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-038c94

Published 12 December 2022, 11:33am

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Essex County Council

County Hall, Market Road

Chelmsford

CM1 1QH

Contact

Ms Natasha I-Goldsmith

Email

Natasha.I-Goldsmith2@essex.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKH3 - Essex

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/>

Buyer's address

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/>

I.2) Information about joint procurement

The contract is awarded by a central purchasing body

I.3) Communication

The procurement documents are available for unrestricted and full direct access, free of charge, at

<https://procontract.due-north.com/Login>

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Regional or local authority

I.5) Main activity

General public services

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

****SOFT MARKET TESTING**** Solar Farms on Essex County Council owned Landholdings

Reference number

DN647029

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 45200000 - Works for complete or part construction and civil engineering work

II.1.3) Type of contract

Works

II.1.4) Short description

Essex County Council (the Council) has a commitment in Everyone's Essex 2021 to 2025 to accelerate the county's transition to renewable and sustainable energy. As part of this, the Council has set a target for its core estate to reach net zero by 2030. Electricity consumption is projected to decrease over the coming years through investment in energy efficiency and estate rationalisation, but the Council also has a commitment, through its renewable electricity strategy, to access 100% of its energy requirement from renewable sources and to maximise opportunities for both onsite and offsite renewable electricity generation.

As part of this commitment, the Council is keen to explore opportunities to develop solar generation on land assets that it owns. This could include both private wire and grid connected opportunities, with the potential for the Council to act as an off-taker for any projects that come forward.

The Council has reviewed its landholdings and identified FOUR sites for development consideration. These sites have all undergone various land assessments to determine risk. The Council wants to determine the feasibility of developing ground mounted solar farms on these four sites and invites interested parties to respond to the Q&A pack prepared as part of this soft market testing.

Responses will be reviewed, and shortlisted parties invited for a virtual Q&A session on the 30th or 31st January 2023. At this stage this opportunity is soft market test only and NOT A CALL FOR COMPETITION.

This market test exercise is to allow the Council to ascertain interest from the market,

investigate potential options, and consider the best route for a potential future contract opportunity.

Further details and a questionnaire pack can be located via the Council's e-sourcing portal, ProContract: <https://procontract.due-north.com/Login> Please note that you will need to register a supplier account to access the soft market test questionnaire pack. However, the registration process is free of charge and provides access to all the current and forthcoming procurement opportunities for Essex County Council alongside several other public sector organisations.

The deadline for the soft market test responses will be Friday 13th January 2023 at 12:00pm; all responses and clarifications must be submitted via ProContract.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 09331200 - Solar photovoltaic modules
- 09332000 - Solar installation

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKH3 - Essex

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Respondents are advised that the purpose of this PIN is to engage in dialogue with the market and ascertain interest / feasibility of the potential opportunity. The scope of service, date of publication or potential contract value may be amended following the conclusion of soft market testing and should not be taken as a final "version" of requirement.

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

1 January 2024

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