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Award

Provision of network investment forecasting and mass low carbon technology connection tools

Northern Powergrid Limited

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-035572

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04b38b

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Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

Northern Powergrid Limited

Riverside House, Colima Avenue

Sunderland

SR5 3XB

Email

james.bell@northernpowergrid.com

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

www.northernpowergrid.com

I.6) Main activity

Electricity

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Provision of network investment forecasting and mass low carbon technology connection tools

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 48100000 - Industry specific software package

II.1.3) Type of contract

Supplies

II.1.4) Short description

Northern Powergrid intends to purchase the provision of network investment forecasting and mass low carbon technology connection tools.

The network investment forecasting tool will model a range of scenarios with different future energy requirements, spread geographically across Northern Powergrid's low voltage distribution network.

The mass low carbon technology connections tool will deliver efficiencies by automating and streamlining the process for optioneering, costing and approval of bulk applications for low carbon technologies.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Northern Powergrid intends to purchase the provision of network investment forecasting and mass low carbon technology connection tools.

The network investment forecasting tool will model a range of scenarios with different future energy requirements, spread geographically across Northern Powergrid's low voltage distribution network. The tool will identify forecast thermal, voltage and earth loop impedance network constraints, identifying the optimal intervention (or set of interventions) from a configurable solution set to resolve these constraints for a customisable forward-looking period (up to and including year 2050). The tool will also provide forecast expenditure on load related network investment and details of forecast future network interventions. The tool will display the outputs in various formats including reports (data tables and PDFs), interactive maps and online dashboards.

The network investment forecasting tool will forecast the impact of increasing load/generation on the network, specifically:

- Addition of domestic low carbon technologies at existing points of connection.
- Addition of low carbon technologies at existing non-domestic points of connection.
- Changes to underlying profile assumptions e.g. changing the annual electricity consumption associated with each profile class to account for improvements in energy efficiency.
- Standalone new connections of low carbon technologies.
- New connections / increases in housing stock. Data received as additional properties (with some property type information) per secondary substation per year.

- All items will be distributed based on total allocations / data provided at a secondary substation level or association with specific existing property Unique Property Reference Numbers.

The mass low carbon technology connections tool will deliver efficiencies by automating and streamlining the process for optioneering, costing and approval of bulk applications for low carbon technologies. The tool will be aimed at external users (e.g. local authorities) who have regional decarbonisation plans which require the deployment of large amounts of low carbon technologies within a defined area.

The tools need to provide data in a consistent manner, in line with other similar tools currently used by Northern Powergrid.

Both tools are required to be delivered no later than September 2025.

EA Technology Limited is the only known supplier that has the experience and tools available to meet this requirement within the required timescale.

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: No

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

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:

The tools are required by September 2025 to ensure they are in place to meet the expected rise in demand and generation requests, driven by decarbonisation, and to provide information for the next regulatory price control period.

Northern Powergrid is operating within strict budget and timescale constraints for the delivery of the requirement. Our market analysis has identified no other suitable tool currently available on the market that can meet the full list of functional requirements listed above, within the timescales and costs identified. Most notably, we have taken into account that we would require suppliers to be able to integrate with our LV spatial database consisting of millions of assets and then undertake statistical calculations using the method outlined in ACE 49.

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

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

4 November 2024

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

EA Technology Limited

Capenhurst Technology Park, Capenhurst

Chester

CH1 6ES

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

Yes

V.2.5) Information about subcontracting

The contract/lot/concession is likely to be subcontracted

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Northern Powergrid

Lloyds Court, 78 Grey Street

Newcastle upon Tyne

NE1 6AF

Country

United Kingdom