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Tender

Regulatory Assurance

Scottish Water

F05: Contract notice – utilities

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-035670

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04b3c5

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Section I: Contracting entity

I.1) Name and addresses

Scottish Water

6 Buchanan Gate

Glasgow

G33 6FB

Contact

Amy Phillips

Email

amy.phillips@scottishwater.co.uk

Telephone

+44 1414836585

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKM - Scotland

Justification for not providing organisation identifier

Not on any register

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.scottishwater.co.uk/>

I.3) Communication

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

https://atamis-scottishwater.my.salesforce-sites.com/ProSpend__CS_PublicLandingPage?SearchType=Projects

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted electronically via

https://atamis-scottishwater.my.salesforce-sites.com/ProSpend__CS_PublicLandingPage?SearchType=Projects

I.6) Main activity

Water

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Regulatory Assurance

Reference number

SW24/CON/1489

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 79410000 - Business and management consultancy services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

This involves the assurance of Scottish Water's medium-term (SR27) business plan, covering the period from 2027 to 2033. The business plan will set out Scottish Waters investment plans together with the outcomes that we propose to deliver for our customers, communities and the environment, as well as the underlying evidence that we have prepared to support those plans. The information in Scottish Water's business plan submission will be used by the Water Industry Commission Scotland (WICS), Scottish Water's independent economic regulator, in the preparation of its Final Determination. While the business plan is Scottish Water's plan, WICS need to have confidence in the integrity of the data and commentary within it. If WICS have concerns over the impartiality or quality of the assurance report, this would undermine / reduce the value of the assurance to Scottish Water. Therefore, it is essential that the third-party assurance undertaken on the plan is completely impartial.

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £250,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKM - Scotland

Main site or place of performance

Scotlandwide

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Context

This involves the assurance of Scottish Water's medium-term (SR27) business plan, covering the period from 2027 to 2033. The business plan will set out Scottish Water's investment plans together with the outcomes that we propose to deliver for our customers, communities and the environment, as well as the underlying evidence that we have prepared to support those plans. The information in Scottish Water's business plan submission will be used by the Water Industry Commission Scotland (WICS), Scottish Water's independent economic regulator, in the preparation of its Final Determination. While the business plan is Scottish Water's plan, WICS need to have confidence in the integrity of the data and commentary within it. If WICS have concerns over the impartiality or quality of the assurance report, this would undermine / reduce the value of the assurance to Scottish Water. Therefore, it is essential that the third-party assurance undertaken on the plan is completely impartial.

The timelines for when the assurance work is required is between March and May 2025 for the draft business plan and between October and February 2026 for the final business plan. These dates are fixed due to the submission dates set out by WICS for both plans.

Areas which require assurance are:

- Draft and Final Business Plan Data tables, in particular examining whether Scottish Water has prepared these in line both the business plan guidance and definitions set out by WICS and that they are fully consistent with the accompanying commentary prepared by Scottish Water;
- Review of the robustness of the systems and processes used to produce the information;
- Identification of the key assumptions made by Scottish Water in preparing its data tables and review of the reasonableness and materiality of those assumptions; and
- Assurance of the accuracy, completeness and comprehensiveness of the data.

In addition, Scottish Water requires that its independent assurer:

- Is able to demonstrate that it is free from any conflicts of interest and/or that where any actual or perceived conflicts of interest may arise as a result of its appointment, that the assurer can put in place measures/arrangements to manage those conflicts of interest for the duration of the appointment;
- Is able to demonstrate the impartiality of its approach to the assurance of the business plan;
- Provides timely efficient feedback on the Draft Business plan to allow Scottish Water to make improvements in its data, evidence and/or processes ahead of the Final Business plan submission;
- Provide draft and final assurance reports to both Scottish Water and Water Industry Commission Scotland (WICS), setting out both the work that has been undertaken, any factors which prevented and/or impeded the assurer from undertaking its role as it might reasonably have expected, and the assurer's findings.

In addition to the above matters, there will be a requirement to engage directly with external stakeholders, including the WICS, to respond to questions on the draft and final assurance reports, including providing further explanation of the assurer's work, findings and/or other matters arising within the terms of reference of their appointment, as is reasonably required.

In order to facilitate the assurer in its role, Scottish Water shall grant the assurers any necessary and timely access to premises, assets, systems, data, working papers, other records and relevant personnel associated with the carrying out of Scottish Water's regulated activities. Scottish Water shall supply the assurers with any information relevant to the assurance process including all material assumptions underpinning the data submission as well as access between the assurers and the financial auditors.

Scottish Water shall not be required to do anything which is outside their control, or to do, or allow the assurers to do, anything which would materially disrupt Scottish Water's business.

Our requirements

The independent assurers should be able to demonstrate a track record in the following areas:

- Independent Third-Party Assurance provision for regulated businesses;
- Assurance for Business Plan submissions for regulated businesses;

- Experience of working with regulated water companies;
- Relevant knowledge of technical, commercial and regulatory aspects of the water sector.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

II.2.6) Estimated value

Value excluding VAT: £250,000

II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system

Duration in months

18

This contract is subject to renewal

No

II.2.10) Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: No

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: No

II.2.14) Additional information

To access this opportunity, please register using the following link: https://atamis-scottishwater.my.salesforce-sites.com/ProSpend__CS_PublicLandingPage?SearchType=Projects

Section III. Legal, economic, financial and technical information

III.1) Conditions for participation

III.1.2) Economic and financial standing

Selection criteria as stated in the procurement documents

III.1.3) Technical and professional ability

Selection criteria as stated in the procurement documents

III.1.4) Objective rules and criteria for participation

List and brief description of rules and criteria

See procurement documents for further information

III.1.6) Deposits and guarantees required

Scottish Water reserves the right to require deposits, guarantees, deposits, bonds or other forms of appropriate security.

III.1.7) Main financing conditions and payment arrangements and/or reference to the relevant provisions governing them

All prices quoted shall be Sterling (UK) and all payments shall be made in Sterling (UK). Payment shall be made on the basis of completed services in accordance with the agreed contract rates, schedules and conditions of contract.

III.1.8) Legal form to be taken by the group of economic operators to whom the contract is to be awarded

In the event of a group of companies submitting an accepted offer, it will be necessary for each member of the group to sign an undertaking that each group member will be jointly and severally liable for the satisfactory performance of the contract.

III.2) Conditions related to the contract

III.2.2) Contract performance conditions

See Procurement Documents for further information

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Negotiated procedure with prior call for competition

IV.1.3) Information about a framework agreement or a dynamic purchasing system

The procurement involves the establishment of a framework agreement

Framework agreement with a single operator

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.2.2) Time limit for receipt of tenders or requests to participate

Date

5 December 2024

Local time

12:00pm

IV.2.4) Languages in which tenders or requests to participate may be submitted

English

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.1) Information about recurrence

This is a recurrent procurement: No

VI.2) Information about electronic workflows

Electronic ordering will be used

Electronic invoicing will be accepted

Electronic payment will be used

VI.3) Additional information

To view this opportunity, please click this link: https://atamis-scottishwater.my.salesforce-sites.com/ProSpend_CS_PublicLandingPage?SearchType=Projects

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Glasgow Sheriff Court

1 Carlton Place

Glasgow

G5 9DA

Country

United Kingdom

VI.4.2) Body responsible for mediation procedures

Scottish Water

6 Buchanan Gate

Glasgow

G33 6FB

Country

United Kingdom