

This is a published notice on the Find a Tender service: <https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Notice/036637-2023>

Award

Replacement of Circuit Switch Data (CSD) Modems and related Telemetry Equipment (for use with Technolog Cello-MO Telemetry Systems)

Wales & West Utilities

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-036637

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-04253a

Published 13 December 2023, 12:20pm

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

Wales & West Utilities

Wales & West House, Spooner Close, Coedkernew

NEWPORT

NP108FZ

Contact

Rebecca Crisp

Email

rebecca.crisp@wwutilities.co.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKL21 - Monmouthshire and Newport

Companies House

05046791

Internet address(es)

Main address

www.wwutilities.co.uk

I.6) Main activity

Production, transport and distribution of gas and heat

Section II: Object**II.1) Scope of the procurement****II.1.1) Title**

Replacement of Circuit Switch Data (CSD) Modems and related Telemetry Equipment (for use with Technolog Cello-MO Telemetry Systems)

Reference number

WWU1358

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 32441200 - Telemetry and control equipment
 - KA06 - For the gas industry

II.1.3) Type of contract

Supplies

II.1.4) Short description

Wales and West Utilities Ltd (WWU) operate a UK Gas distribution network, this is a

notice to award a contract for provision CSD hardware within the Technolog Cello-MO Telemetry.

Pressure control is critical to reduce excessive pressure and leakage in the network ensuring safety and environmental risks are limited. Self-learning low pressure management and profiling is a key contributor to lowering gas emissions.

Ofcom have approved BT Openreach to remove wholesale line rental (PSTN Copper lines) in the UK by 2025 upon which the current gas control system relies and as such an alternative solution is required.

We require a self-learning, forecast and profiling solution with control equipment and supporting communications solution capable of varying the outlet pressure of the governor to suit network demand; pressures must follow a self-learned profile to be raised at periods of high demand and decreased at periods of low demand automatically within safe limits

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

Main site or place of performance

Wales & South-West of England

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Telemetry

The currently deployed low pressure gas control platform is unique to a single provider's proprietary solution; The current provider is Technolog Ltd and their forecast and profiling solution is in use by all UK Gas Distribution networks. We believe that there are no alternative telemetry systems in the market with the capability to operate without mains power, without copper phone lines and with the ability to execute automatic control actions of a gas governor autonomously within fail safe limits.

Communications

The Technolog Ltd. telemetry solution relies upon mobile digital communications. The digital communications used must have 4G NB-IOT / CATM - IP or 5G NB-IOT / CATM - IP available in time to meet the commencement of the roll out in Q1 2024, to meet the March 2025 completion deadline of the project.

The solution must be deployed in its entirety across 431 sites to ensure continued operation of the gas network. The target completion date is the end of December 2024

A telemetry solution, if offered, must -

1. Provide a self-learning, forecast and profiling solution with control equipment capable of varying the outlet pressure of the in situ Technolog Ltd. Gas governors to suit network demand; pressures must follow a self-learned profile to be raised at periods of high demand and decreased at periods of low demand automatically within safe limits.
2. Enable data from District Governors to feed into the profiling solution over a reliable communications solution without the use of copper phone lines PSTN or CSD mobile communications.
3. Enable logger data at low point extremities to feed into the profiling solution over a reliable communications solution without the use of copper phone lines or CSD mobile communications.

If a communications solution is offered, it must meet the following requirements -

1. If a solution for both Telemetry and communications is offered -
 - a. The communications must work with the telemetry hardware proposed above
 - b. The communications must work without a PSTN line
 - c. The communication system must work without a mains power supply
 - d. The solution must include provision of a service for managing any failures within an agreed SLA for a Critical Network Infrastructure platform.
2. If a communication solution only is offered -
 - a. The communications must work with Technolog telemetry hardware - Rugged Modem Operations (RMO), Newlog 4DR and Gas Station 4 (GS4).
 - b. The communications must work without a PSTN line
 - c. The communication system must work without a mains power supply

d. If Mobile Digital communications is proposed

i. The solution must include provision of SIM cards

ii. The solution must include provision of Airtime

iii. The solution must include provision of a service for managing communication failures within an agreed SLA for a Critical Network Infrastructure platform.

iv. It must have 2/4G NB-IOT / CATM - IP in time to meet the commencement of the roll out in Q1 / Q2 2024 to meet the March 2025 completion deadline of the project.

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of options

Contractual review and extension mechanisms

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Negotiated without a prior call for competition

- The works, supplies or services can be provided only by a particular economic operator for the following reason:
 - absence of competition for technical reasons

Explanation:

The currently deployed low pressure gas control platform is unique to a single provider's proprietary solution; The current provider is Technolog Ltd and their forecast and profiling solution is in use by all UK Gas Distribution networks. We believe that there are no alternative systems in the market with the capability to operate without mains power, without copper phone lines and with the ability to execute automatic control actions of a gas governor autonomously within fail safe limits.

The solution must be deployed in its entirety by end of March 2025 to ensure continued operation of the gas network.

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: No

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

12 December 2023

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Wales & West Utilities

Newport

Country

United Kingdom