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Planning

Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) Outsourced Product Testing

Department for Business and Trade

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-038553

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04c108

Published 29 November 2024, 10:19am

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Department for Business and Trade

Old Admiralty Building

London

SW1A 2EG

Email

commercialbpo@businessandtrade.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

Justification for not providing organisation identifier

Not on any register

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-business-and-trade>

I.3) Communication

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

I.5) Main activity

General public services

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) Outsourced Product Testing

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 71600000 - Technical testing, analysis and consultancy services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

The Department for Business and Trade (DBT) expects to publish a contract opportunity relating to its requirement for outsourced product testing for the Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS). DBT intends to introduce a multi-year, multi-lot framework for the provision of various types of testing across multiple years.

DBT are requesting Expressions of Interest ("EOI") pertaining to this requirement. Please email: commercialbpo@businessandtrade.gov.uk by 10th January 2025 in order to register your interest.

At this stage, DBT wishes to understand the size and capability of the supply market.

Information that it gathers will be used to refine requirements to ensure they are fit for suppliers to deliver against. Meetings will also be held directly with interested participants at a future date, subject to capacity.

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £35,000,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 71632200 - Non-destructive testing services
- 71900000 - Laboratory services
- 73111000 - Research laboratory services
- 73430000 - Test and evaluation

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The procurement is likely to entail a multi year contract opportunity relating to various categories of testing. At this stage, DBT cannot confirm the lotting structure in detail, but it is anticipated that the procurement will involve lots once defined.

These will contain, but not necessarily be limited to:

- Construction product testing including resistance and reaction to fire
- Product safety testing in general covering testing of products such as electrical equipment, gas appliances, toys, furniture, PPE, batteries etc...
- Energy efficiency testing covering Eco-design and noise.
- Chemical testing including cosmetics and restriction of hazardous substances (RoHS)
- Cyber security testing covering Product Security and Telecommunication Infrastructure (PSTI) and Smart ChargePoint regulations.

DBT is also considering the opportunity to use the new Open Framework permissions permitted by The Procurement Act 2023. At this stage, it is perceived that the framework could be opened at least one in the early years of up to an 8 year framework. If introducing an 8 year open framework, the value of the opportunity is estimated at £35,000,000. The full specification shall be provided with the tender documents, and the intention of this Prior Information Notice is to help engage with suppliers in order to determine an appropriate approach before sharing.

It should be noted that DBT makes no commitment to procure these services and may decide to not progress this any further following this engagement with the market. DBT reserves the right to change any information contained within the Early Engagement documentation at any time, and Potential Suppliers rely upon any information provided

entirely at their own risk.

Background

The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) is part of The Department for Business and Trade (DBT) and was created in January 2018 to deliver consumer protection and to support business confidence, productivity, and growth. OPSS regulate a wide range of products with a focus on their safety and integrity. OPSS works with local, national, and international regulators, with consumer representatives and with businesses to deliver effective protections and to support compliance.

OPSS' mission is to be a trusted product regulator for the UK. This means protecting people and places, enabling business to thrive and empowering consumers to make good choices. OPSS will be a leader of good regulatory practice and a champion of local regulation.

OPSS is:

- the national regulator for all consumer products, except for vehicles, medicines, and food.
- the national regulator for legal metrology, ensuring weighing and measuring instruments are accurate and reliable.
- the National Regulator for Construction Products (NRCP).

Suppliers are strongly encouraged to read the text at the following link to gain a full understanding of the role of the enforcement services within Government:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-regulation-enforcement-services>

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

1 April 2025

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: Yes

