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Tender

# **Reducing Noise from Offshore Wind Piling: A Pilot**

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS (Defra Network eTendering Portal)

F02: Contract notice

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-040342

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04c823

Published 13 December 2024, 4:55pm

# **Section I: Contracting authority**

## I.1) Name and addresses

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS (Defra Network eTendering Portal)

Seacole Building, 2 Marsham Street

London

SW1P 4DF

Contact

**DGC** 

**Email** 

dgcenquiries@defra.gov.uk

#### **Telephone**

+034 59335577

## Country

**United Kingdom** 

## Region code

UK - United Kingdom

## Internet address(es)

Main address

https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs

Buyer's address

https://defra-family.force.com/s/Welcome

## I.3) Communication

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

https://defra-family.force.com/s/Welcome

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted electronically via

https://defra-family.force.com/s/Welcome

# I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

## I.5) Main activity

Environment

# **Section II: Object**

## II.1) Scope of the procurement

## II.1.1) Title

Reducing Noise from Offshore Wind Piling: A Pilot

Reference number

C27437

#### II.1.2) Main CPV code

• 73000000 - Research and development services and related consultancy services

#### II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

#### II.1.4) Short description

Underwater noise is increasing in the marine environment. A key area of concern is impulsive noise which can be generated from a range of activities including piling during the installation of offshore wind turbine foundations. Without mitigation, mid-frequency sound, such as from impact piling, has been shown to cause permanent hearing loss, tissue damage and lethal injury to marine mammals. The sound can also result in disturbance effects, such as disruption of foraging and potential impacts to breeding, communication and navigation. This can be potentially more harmful at the population level as it can impact a larger number of marine mammals. Fish have also been shown to have lethal and sub-lethal effects from impulsive sounds. It is thought that piling can also cause physiological impacts to eggs and larvae as these life stages contain air sacs. Other impacts such as poor body condition post hatching could occur, in addition to behavioural impacts that can affect the population level. For example, if piling activity is to take place close to a known spawning bed or ground for herring during the key spawning period, the behaviour of the spawning herring could potentially be disturbed, leading to spawning taking place in less suitable locations, or not at all. Mackerel have demonstrated changes in their shoaling behaviour when exposed to piling noise and Atlantic cod have been shown to have delayed migrations to spawning grounds when exposed to pile driving noise.

#### II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £1

#### II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

## II.2) Description

#### II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

• 73000000 - Research and development services and related consultancy services

#### II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

• UK - United Kingdom

## II.2.4) Description of the procurement

#### Introduction

Underwater noise is increasing in the marine environment. A key area of concern is impulsive noise which can be generated from a range of activities including piling during the installation of offshore wind turbine foundations. Without mitigation, mid-frequency sound, such as from impact piling, has been shown to cause permanent hearing loss, tissue damage and lethal injury to marine mammals. The sound can also result in disturbance effects, such as disruption of foraging and potential impacts to breeding, communication and navigation. This can be potentially more harmful at the population level as it can impact a larger number of marine mammals. Fish have also been shown to have lethal and sub-lethal effects from impulsive sounds. It is thought that piling can also cause physiological impacts to eggs and larvae as these life stages contain air sacs. Other impacts such as poor body condition post hatching could occur, in addition to behavioural impacts that can affect the population level. For example, if piling activity is to take place close to a known spawning bed or ground for herring during the key spawning period, the behaviour of the spawning herring could potentially be disturbed, leading to spawning taking place in less suitable locations, or not at all. Mackerel have demonstrated changes in their shoaling behaviour when exposed to piling noise and Atlantic cod have been shown to have delayed migrations to spawning grounds when exposed to pile driving noise

#### II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Quality / Weighting: 60

Quality criterion - Name: Sustainability and Social Value / Weighting: 10

Price - Weighting: 30

## II.2.6) Estimated value

Value excluding VAT: £1

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

Start date

8 February 2025

End date

31 December 2028

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.2.13) 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

Open procedure

## 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

13 January 2025

Local time

12:00pm

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

English

## IV.2.6) Minimum time frame during which the tenderer must maintain the tender

Tender must be valid until: 13 January 2025

## IV.2.7) Conditions for opening of tenders

Date

13 December 2024

Local time

4:00pm

# Section VI. Complementary information

# VI.1) Information about recurrence

publicprocurementreview@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

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This is a recurrent procurement: No
VI.4) Procedures for review
VI.4.1) Review body
Public Procurement Review Body
N/A
N/A
N/A
Email
publicprocurementreview@cabinetoffice.gov.uk
Country
United Kingdom
Internet address
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-procurement-review-service-scopeand-remit
VI.4.2) Body responsible for mediation procedures
Public Procurement Review Body
N/A
N/A
N/A
Email

Country
United Kingdom
Internet address
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-procurement-review-service-scope-and-remit
VI.4.4) Service from which information about the review procedure may be obtained
Public Procurement Review Body
N/A
N/A
N/A
Email
publicprocurementreview@cabinetoffice.gov.uk
Country
United Kingdom
Internet address
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-procurement-review-service-scope-and-remit