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Award

Waterwhelm Novel Desalination Trial

Mining Remediation Authority

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Scope

Reference

CA18/05741

Description

The Mining Remediation (MRA) Salinity Department are developing a Programme of short trials to research novel and emerging technologies which may be of use when seeking solutions to the problems posed by rising saline mine water.

Waterwhelm is an award winning start up company based in the UK. Waterwhelm have designed and developed an efficient "Forward Osmosis" technology which has the potential to deliver large savings when compared against existing "Reverse Osmosis" technology.

The prototype they have developed is highly mobile and can be deployed from shipping containers. Following a site visit in June this year, the Salinity Department believe this technology is worthy of inclusion in the trials programme.

Salinity Department have identified the Lynemouth mine water treatment scheme as the

site most suitable to run a Waterwhelm-operated pilot project. Waterwhelm's pilot plant deployed at Lynemouth will consist of two 20ft stacked shipping containers. These items of plant had previously operated at a capacity of 5m³/day, equivalent to reusing and processing 5,000 litres of wastewater or brackish water per day.

When deployed at Lynemouth, the plant will operate at a capacity of ~2m³/day, powered by an electrical heater. The purpose of the plant will be to process water that has entered the mine and absorbed naturally occurring minerals from the rocks within the mine, such as iron.

The pilot project will consist of five key stages (in order of occurrence): mobilisation; installation; commissioning; operation; and decommissioning/demobilisation. Subsequently, research and analysis of pilot test results will be gathered and evaluated before providing a detailed write-up of findings, along with a feasibility study and development of the business case.

It is expected the project will run from September until December

Contract 1

Supplier

- Waterwhelm

Contract value

- £190,000 excluding VAT
- £228,000 including VAT

Below the relevant threshold

Earliest date the contract will be signed

29 September 2025

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 October 2025 to 31 December 2025
- 3 months

Main procurement category

Works

CPV classifications

- 42912340 - Desalination apparatus
- 45232430 - Water-treatment work
- 65122000 - Water desalination services

Contract locations

- UKC - North East (England)
- UKD - North West (England)
- UKE - Yorkshire and the Humber
- UKF - East Midlands (England)
- UKG - West Midlands (England)
- UKH - East of England
- UKI - London

- UKJ - South East (England)
- UKK - South West (England)

Participation

Particular suitability

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

Procedure

Procedure type

Below threshold - without competition

Supplier

Waterwhelm

Suite 2, Orchard Brae House, 30 Queensferry Road,

Edinburgh

EH4 2HS

United Kingdom

Email: info@waterwhelm.com

Region: UKM75 - Edinburgh, City of

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): Yes

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 1

Contracting authority

Mining Remediation Authority

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PRPD-5825-QDVY

200 Lichfield Lane

Nottinghamshire

NG18 4RG

United Kingdom

Contact name: Roger Martin

Email: procurement@coal.gov.uk

Region: UKF15 - North Nottinghamshire

Organisation type: Public authority - central government