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Tender

Food Data Infrastructure and Governance

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

UK4: Tender notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-061730

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-0523ef ([view related notices](#))

Published 2 October 2025, 1:55pm

Scope

Description

This project's aims are three-fold: to design and develop a data sharing infrastructure suitable for the UK agri-food system; advise on an optimal governance model for this infrastructure; and pilot data sharing across a selection of food product supply chains. The project will begin with a discovery phase that will form a picture of the current data sharing ecosystem in the agri-food sector and learn from current practice within and outside of the agri-food sector. Following this, a detailed design of a potential DSI system architecture will be developed alongside an optimal model of system governance. Data sharing pilots in specific agri-food supply chains will consider how data sharing can be operationalised and incentivised to inform this design, identifying and proposing solutions to scale-up participation.

The outputs of this project should provide the evidence base for government and industry to invest in and deliver DSI that delivers public goods and promotes sustainable growth and resilience of the UK agri-food sector. Support the work of UK government to create a smart data ecosystem within the Agri-Food Sector. It should take into account major international data sharing infrastructure in development such as the EU 'digital product passports' and the UN CEFACT 'Transparency Protocol' and align with any UK data sharing policy that emerges between project procurement and inception. This project should use the Digital Twin Hub's Gemini Principles (Figure 2), Smart Data initiatives such as Open Banking, and the FDTP Key Principles as a basis for the aims and outcomes of

the DSI and governance design work.

Total value (estimated)

- £0 excluding VAT
- £0 including VAT

Below the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 12 January 2026 to 12 July 2027
- Possible extension to 11 January 2028
- 2 years

Description of possible extension:

There is an option of a 6-month extension to the project contingent on satisfactory delivery and the needs of the Authority (Defra). Due to unknown situations any extension must be agreed with the Authority (Defra) and will be processed via a Variation/ Contract Change Note (CCN) issued by DGC. (Should an extension request arise at a cost and agreed on, then an additional invoice will need to be sent to cover the period between the interim payment and the original project end date).

Options

The right to additional purchases while the contract is valid.

Break Clause

The contract term is 18 months with a break clause 6 months into the project; upon receipt of the Work Package 2 Technical Report.

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 73100000 - Research and experimental development services

Contract locations

- UK - United Kingdom

Participation

Conditions of participation

Part 1 - confirmation of core supplier information: suppliers participating in procurements will now be expected to register on a central digital platform (CDP). Suppliers can submit their core supplier information and, where a procurement opportunity arises, share this information with the contracting authority via the CDP. It is free to use and will mean suppliers should no longer have to re-enter this information for each public procurement but simply ensure it is up to date and subsequently shared. The CDP is available at <https://www.gov.uk/find-tender>. Part 1 provides confirmation that suppliers have taken these steps.

Part 2 - additional exclusions information: procurement legislation provides for an 'exclusion regime' and a published 'debarment' list to safeguard procurement from suppliers who may pose a risk (for example, due to misconduct or poor performance). Suppliers must submit their own (and their connected persons) exclusions information via the CDP. This includes self-declarations as to whether any exclusion grounds apply to them and, if so, details about the event or conviction and what steps have been taken to prevent such circumstances from occurring again.

Particular suitability

- Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)
- Voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)

Submission

Enquiry deadline

20 October 2025, 12:00pm

Tender submission deadline

3 November 2025, 12:00pm

Submission address and any special instructions

<https://atamis-9529.my.site.com/s/Welcome>

Tenders may be submitted electronically

Yes

Award criteria

Name	Description	Type	Weighting
Technical	E01: Approach and methodology - 30% E02: Project management (including project plan) - 20% E03: Proposed staff and contractor/sub-contractor expertise - 25% E04 Risk - 10% E05 Social Value - 15%	Quality	70.00%
Commercial	Total Cost	Price	30.00%

Procedure

Procedure type

Below threshold - open competition

Contracting authority

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PNBD-3289-CDGX

Seacole Building, 2 Marsham Street

London

SW1P 4DF

United Kingdom

Contact name: Defra

Telephone: 03459 335577

Email: procurement@defra.gov.uk

Website: <https://defra-family.force.com/s/Welcome>

Region: UKI32 - Westminster

Organisation type: Public authority - central government