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Tender

Strategy Framework

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

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

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Scope

Description

The NDA's Draft Strategy (2025), which underwent public consultation in 2025, identifies five strategic themes:

- Site Decommissioning and Remediation
- Spent Fuel Management
- Nuclear Materials
- Integrated Waste Management
- Critical Enablers.

Site Decommissioning and Remediation defines our approach to decommissioning redundant nuclear facilities, managing land quality and preparing our sites for their long-term end states. This work involves reducing environmental risks, clearing hazardous materials and restoring land for potential reuse that benefits local communities.

Spent Fuel Management defines our approach to managing the diverse range of spent nuclear fuels for which we are responsible.

Nuclear Materials defines our approach to managing the safe storage and disposition on our sites of the UK's stocks of nuclear materials, including plutonium and uranium.

Integrated Waste Management considers how we manage all forms of waste arising from operating and decommissioning our sites, including waste retrieved from legacy facilities. Our approach ensures proper consideration of the Waste Hierarchy and the system as a whole including preparations for final disposal.

Critical Enablers support the overall delivery of our mission and any additional liabilities we receive from the wider UK nuclear enterprise. Some of these Critical Enablers, reflect the supplementary duties assigned to the NDA by the Energy Act (2004).

Our role in the UK nuclear enterprise has also expanded since our previous Strategy was published in 2021. We aim to leverage the unique capabilities and infrastructure of the NDA group to support the UK nuclear enterprise while ensuring the successful delivery of our mission remains our priority.

In our Draft Strategy (2025), we make commitments to continue strategy development across all themes. This covers a range of work packages and/or programmes that investigate both near and long-term challenges related to NDA's mission. Some of this work may be funded by NDA operating companies and some by the NDA. The nature of these packages/programmes is mainly technical but non-technical areas may be included as well.

In order to ensure that there is a sufficient diversity of views and specialised expertise available for directing and reviewing the strategy development work, the NDA group wishes to use independent external subject matter expert support.

Further detail about NDA strategy can be found in:

The NDA group Draft Strategy 2025 for public consultation

The fifth iteration of the NDA's Strategy will be published in early 2026.

Scope of Work

Under this framework, the NDA and its operating companies are seeking independent subject matter expert support and review to its strategy development work packages and/or programmes

The scope of this framework will cover all the NDA group's strategic driving themes (Site Decommissioning and Remediation, Integrated Waste Management, Spent Fuels and Nuclear Materials) as discussed in the NDA's Draft Strategy (2025). Support to Non-NDA Liabilities strategy development and group strategic planning will also be required.

A depth and breadth of technical knowledge and expertise in all the areas identified is a pivotal requirement, as well as an understanding of the main technical challenges and relevant interfaces and integration with NDA Critical Enablers. The nature of work to be delivered will include technical review of NDA's strategy development work and support to planning and management of technical work programmes.

The NDA group expects that Tenderers can demonstrate:

- experience and expertise in delivering complex technical work programmes covering all driving strategic themes of the NDA group's strategy as well as Non-NDA Liabilities and support to group strategic planning
- an understanding of the NDA group's strategy and strategy development needs and main challenges the group may face across all aforementioned areas
- specialised technical expertise across all aforementioned areas including an understanding of relevant UK and international good practice, and access to both operational and UK nuclear regulatory knowledge and experience
- depth and breadth of knowledge of the group mission and NDA's sites as well as the wider UK nuclear enterprise and other UK nuclear sites, e.g. MOD owned sites or AGR sites
- availability of a diverse team or consortium.

The scopes of work that the NDA group is expecting to deliver under this framework can be divided into the following areas:

- support to policy, legal and regulatory matters which directly relate to NDA group strategy development
- support to strategy development undertaken by the NDA group (NDA and/or operating companies)
- support in designing, facilitating and managing NDA group strategy development tasks, work packages, projects or programmes
- support to NDA group review of strategic work programmes delivered under other NDA group frameworks (such as the NDA Research Portfolio)
- support to the development of business/organisational strategy, and
- support the assessment of impacts of strategic intervention(s) on the group mission and/or operating company delivery plans (to inform decision-making).

Typical tasks required to deliver these scopes may involve, but not limited to:

- the development of roadmaps to underpin strategy or support future decisions
- the use of assessment tools like the NDA Value Framework, and tools to transit from strategy to implementation
- engaging with various NDA group and external stakeholders and to bring in expertise that covers one or several strategic themes in both breadth and depth
- reviewing technical and strategic documents across all the NDA's strategic themes and provide the NDA with a breadth and depth of relevant views
- subject matter expert support in reviewing deliverables produced under other frameworks such as the NDA Research Portfolio
- the design and review of experimental work, scientific research and R&D projects
- the development of technical task specifications or Invitations to Tender (ITTs), as well as the review of tender returns
- arranging technical meetings, workshops or for a to support the review and development of programmes that underpin strategy or future decisions. Participants to these meetings may include the NDA group, regulators, subcontracting chain or independent experts. As well as providing subject matter expert support, this will involve coordinating and arranging meetings, agenda preparation and taking minutes, meeting facilitation
- facilitating workshops that cover complex technical topics using various meeting facilitation techniques.

This procurement is looking to establish this framework for a maximum length of 4 years.

Commercial tool

Establishes an open framework

A series of frameworks with substantially the same terms. Awarded suppliers are carried over and new suppliers can bid.

Total value (estimated)

- £10,000,000 excluding VAT
- £12,000,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2028
- Possible extension to 31 March 2030
- 4 years

Description of possible extension:

The Framework duration is 2 years +12 +12 months (Total 4 years)

Options

The right to additional purchases while the contract is valid.

None

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 73000000 - Research and development services and related consultancy services

- 73210000 - Research consultancy services
- 73200000 - Research and development consultancy services
- 73110000 - Research services

Contract locations

- UK - United Kingdom

Framework

Open framework scheme end date (estimated)

31 March 2030

Maximum number of suppliers

1

Maximum percentage fee charged to suppliers

0%

Framework operation description

New 4-year framework

Award method when using the framework

With competition

Contracting authorities that may use the framework

Establishing party only

Participation

Particular suitability

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

Submission

Tender submission deadline

6 November 2025, 11:00am

Submission address and any special instructions

All communication and tender submissions should be submitted via the Atamis Supplier Portal https://atamis-2464.my.site.com/ProSpend__CustomCommunitiesLogin

Tenders may be submitted electronically

Yes

Languages that may be used for submission

English

Award decision date (estimated)

31 January 2026

Recurring procurement

Publication date of next tender notice (estimated): 11 February 2026

Award criteria

Name	Description	Type	Weighting
Question C1 - Commercial	Schedule of rates	Price	30.00%
Question T1 - Capabilities	Please outline your organisation's capabilities in relation to the scope of the NDA Strategy Framework. Your response should demonstrate: • Proven capability in managing and delivering complex technical packages of work aligned with all NDA strategic themes (Site Decommissioning & Remediation, Integrated Waste Management, Spent Fuels, Nuclear	Quality	19.00%

Name	Description	Type	Weighting
	<p>Materials), Non-NDA Liabilities, and group strategic planning support and the relevant interfaces and integration with NDA Critical Enablers. Scope could involve managing delivery of a task or work package, project or programme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clear understanding of the NDA's context for strategy development, including key challenges and priorities as set out in Strategy (2021) and Strategy (2026). • Depth of technical expertise and experience in applying UK and international good practice across relevant domains, and the UK nuclear regulatory system. • Comprehensive knowledge of NDA sites and other UK nuclear facilities (e.g. MOD-owned sites, AGR sites). 		

Name	Description	Type	Weighting
Question T2 - Service Delivery	<p>Please describe your organisation's structure and approach to delivering the services under this framework. Your response should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your proposed service management approach, including scope delivery management, progress reporting, financial control at task and contract level, governance, quality assurance, stakeholder engagement, and coordination mechanisms. • How you see the day-to-day relationship between NDA and yourselves working. • If you are proposing a consortium or subcontracting arrangement, please explain: • The structure and roles of each party involved. • How the consortium or subcontractors/associates will be managed and integrated to deliver the client services. • How you will ensure consistency, quality, and accountability across all parties. 	Quality	14.00%

Name	Description	Type	Weighting
Question T3 - Approach and Benefits	<p>Please demonstrate the benefits of your proposed approach to delivering the services under this framework. Your response should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clear explanation of how your approach will deliver the required outcomes and support the NDA group's strategic objectives as described in the scope. • Justification of how your approach is forward-thinking and offers added value, including wider non-nuclear sector LFE, innovative methods, alternative options, or enhancements to delivery. • Evidence of how your technical expertise will contribute to informing strategic decisions, ensuring robust technical governance. • An assessment of how your approach reflects an understanding of the NDA's and its forthcoming challenges across its strategic themes, including those anticipated in the NDA Strategy (2026). 	Quality	14.00%

Name	Description	Type	Weighting
Question T4 - Capacity	<p>Please provide details of your organisation's resource capacity to deliver the services under this framework. Your response should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The availability and allocation of subject matter experts across all relevant strategic themes. • Your ability to be agile and scale resources in response to fluctuating demand or evolving priorities, and how. • Contingency arrangements in place to ensure continuity of service, including how you would manage unexpected changes in both resource demand and availability or delivery timelines. • A capability matrix of the individuals proposed to be available for the contract, outlining their roles, areas of expertise, relevant experience, and security clearances. If applicable, please also describe how these capabilities will be supported or enhanced through consortium or subcontracting or associate arrangements. 	Quality	13.00%

Name	Description	Type	Weighting
Question T5 - Social Value	Please describe the commitment your organisation will make to ensure that opportunities under this contract contribute to tackling economic inequality and promoting equal opportunity, in line with the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012. Your response should include: 1. Specific actions your organisation will take to identify and address inequality in employment, skills, and pay within the contract workforce. 2. How these actions will be implemented and embedded into contract delivery. 3. How progress will be monitored and measured on a quarterly basis, including any metrics, reporting mechanisms, or governance processes. 4. If applicable, how these commitments will be extended to or managed across consortium members or subcontractors.	Quality	10.00%

Other information

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Open procedure

Contracting authority

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PVDH-2346-PXDL

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<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/nuclear-decommissioning-authority>

Region: UKD11 - West Cumbria

Organisation type: Public authority - central government