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Planning

Supply of Replacement Ferry Chains for the Torpoint Ferries

Cornwall Council
Plymouth City

UK2: Preliminary market engagement notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-065933

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05ce01

Published 16 October 2025, 2:20pm

Scope

Description

Cornwall Council, on behalf of the joint authorities (Cornwall Council and Plymouth City Council), is re-procuring the supply of ferry chains for Tamar Crossings Ltd. in anticipation of the expiry of the current contract.

The Torpoint Ferry operates three floating bridges, each requiring two 655m studless open link chains for propulsion and guidance across the Tamar Estuary. Chains are typically replaced every three years to meet operational requirements and Lloyd's Register wear tolerances, though actual replacement timing may vary based on wear.

This procurement covers the supply of four pairs of main chains and an additional 150m of tunnel chain for connection to counterweight gantries. Delivery is required to site under DDP Incoterms, flaked out on flatbed lorries and preserved for tidal storage. Suppliers must also manage the collection and disposal of used chains, returning any scrappage value (less admin fees) to Tamar Crossings.

Total value (estimated)

- £1,900,000 excluding VAT
- £2,300,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2036
- 10 years

Main procurement category

Goods

CPV classifications

- 44540000 - Chain

Contract locations

- UKK - South West (England)

Engagement

Engagement deadline

7 November 2025

Engagement process description

Cornwall Council, on behalf of Tamar Crossings Ltd., is conducting a soft market test to assess supplier interest and capability in delivering marine-grade ferry chains for the Torpoint Ferry service. This pre-procurement engagement aims to inform a future competitive tender for a 10-year contract (5+5 years) covering the supply, delivery, and disposal of ferry chains. Suppliers are invited to respond to technical, logistical, and commercial questions to help shape the procurement strategy. Participation is voluntary, non-binding, and does not affect eligibility for future procurement opportunities.

Participation

Particular suitability

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

Submission

Publication date of tender notice (estimated)

1 February 2026

Contracting authorities

Cornwall Council

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PYRH-9827-DWLP

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Region: UKK30 - Cornwall and Isles of Scilly

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government

Plymouth City

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PBQP-8499-TLMP

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Contact name: Andy Trout

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Region: UKK41 - Plymouth

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government

Contact organisation

Contact Cornwall Council for any enquiries.