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Planning

250287 Contract for the Supply, Fabrication, Delivery (unloaded and positioned at the point of use), Installation and Commissioning, Warranty of an Electrically Insulated Raceway Tank and a Three-Holding Tank System

Queen's University Belfast

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

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-071385

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05db49 ([view related notices](#))

Published 5 November 2025, 4:18pm

Scope

Reference

250287

Description

Queen's University of Belfast wishes to procure an Electrically Insulated Raceway Tank and Holding Tank System to be situated outside at the Queen's Marine Laboratory in Portaferry, and must fit on a concrete platform. The raceway tank must not be much larger than 9 x 2.5m, and holding tanks must be circular with 2m diameter. This system is to support experimental work on measuring the effects of electrical fields on elasmobranchs (e.g. sharks, skates, rays).

The overarching goal of this procurement is the successful design, construction, and operational commissioning of a bespoke, electrically insulated marine animal housing

system at the Queen's University Marine Laboratory (QML). This system must meet stringent biological and electromagnetic shielding specifications to enable the core ELASMO project experimental protocols.

The successful delivery of this requirement will result in four key outcomes:

- **Secure Housing:** The provision of a stable, high-welfare environment for the long-term maintenance of OSPAR-listed elasmobranch species.
- **Research Readiness:** A fully operational raceway and holding tank system compliant with the requisite electrical insulation standards for sensitive electrophysiology experiments.
- **Project Compliance:** Fulfilment of a critical infrastructure deliverable required to unlock and progress the objectives of the DAERA-funded ELASMO project.
- **System to be delivered and Commissioned Before 01 April 2026**

Total value (estimated)

- £260,416 excluding VAT
- £312,500 including VAT

Contract dates (estimated)

- 22 December 2025 to 22 December 2027
- Possible extension to 22 December 2035
- 10 years, 1 day

Main procurement category

Goods

CPV classifications

- 39298800 - Aquariums

Contract locations

- UKN06 - Belfast

Engagement

Engagement deadline

21 October 2025

The engagement was carried out before this notice was published.

Engagement process description

Queen's staff have undertaken pre-market engagement activity with a number of suppliers.

The activity was undertaken in order to:

- 1- gain a better understanding of what the market can offer and if the market is capable of responding to a tender in relation to this requirement;
 - 2- identify potential suppliers for the requirement;
 - 3- understand potential lead times, and
 - 4- gain an understanding of the commercial profile for the requirement
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Participation

Particular suitability

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

Submission

Publication date of tender notice (estimated)

6 November 2025

Contracting authority

Queen's University Belfast

- Charity Commission for Northern Ireland: 101788

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Belfast

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United Kingdom

Contact name: Gerard Fegan

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Website: <http://www.qub.ac.uk>

Region: UKN06 - Belfast

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government

Devolved regulations that apply: Northern Ireland