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Award

## **Marine Macrobenthic Invertebrate Sample Analysis (2025-2033)**

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

UK6: Contract award notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-079844

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-058c49

Published 4 December 2025, 3:36pm

### **Changes to notice**

This notice has been edited. The [previous version](#) is still available.

The Framework will now commence on the 12 December 2025 to allow for Framework signatures.

### **Scope**

### **Reference**

C29870

## Description

The Marine Macrobenthic Invertebrate Sample Analysis Framework (2025-2033) is an open framework agreement led by the Environment Agency on behalf of the Defra Group, with an estimated value of £4.9 million over eight years (excluding VAT).

It aims to procure laboratory services for the analysis of approximately 500 marine Macrobenthic invertebrate samples annually from UK estuarine, coastal, and offshore waters.

These analyses support statutory monitoring under directives such as the Water Framework Directive and the Habitats Directive.

The framework will operate through multiple geographic or sample-type lots and individual projects awarded via mini-competitions.

The framework starts on 12 December 2025 and may run until 11 December 2033, subject to extensions. The initial contract period will expire on 11 December 2028.

The Framework will comprise of 5 Suppliers at the start of the Agreement.

## 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.

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## Contract 1. Open Framework Contract for the supply of Services

## **for Marine Macrobenthic Invertebrate Sample Analysis on behalf of the Environment Agency**

### **Suppliers (5)**

- APEM Limited
- Hebog Environmental Limited
- Ocean Ecology Limited
- Thomson Environmental Consultants Limited
- University of Hull

### **Contract value**

- £4,900,000 excluding VAT
- £5,880,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

### **Award decision date**

4 November 2025

### **Date assessment summaries were sent to tenderers**

7 November 2025

### **Standstill period**

- End: 25 November 2025

- 0 working days

### **Earliest date the contract will be signed**

28 November 2025

### **Contract dates (estimated)**

- 28 November 2025 to 25 November 2028
- Possible extension to 25 November 2033
- 7 years, 11 months, 28 days

Description of possible extension:

Up to 8 years (3+1+2+2), ending no later than 25 November 2033.

### **Main procurement category**

Services

### **Options**

The right to additional purchases while the contract is valid.

Each Contract will be awarded for 3 years with the option to extend.

### **CPV classifications**

- 73110000 - Research services

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## Information about tenders

- 5 tenders received
- 5 tenders assessed in the final stage:
  - 3 submitted by small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)
  - 0 submitted by voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)
- 5 suppliers awarded contracts
- 0 suppliers unsuccessful (details included for contracts over £5 million)

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## Procedure

### Procedure type

Open procedure

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## Suppliers

### APEM Limited

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PHWL-6298-CTCP

APEM Limited Riverview A17 Embankment Business Park Heaton Mersey Stockport SK4  
3GN United Kingdom

Stockport

SK4 3GN

United Kingdom

Email: [tenders@apemltd.co.uk](mailto:tenders@apemltd.co.uk)

Region: UKD35 - Greater Manchester South East

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): No

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Supported employment provider: No

Public service mutual: No

Contract 1. Open Framework Contract for the supply of Services for Marine Macrobenthic Invertebrate Sample Analysis on behalf of the Environment Agency

## **Hebog Environmental Limited**

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PXPV-6275-NRDW

Mentec Deiniol Road Bangor Gwynedd LL57 2UP United Kingdom

Gwynedd

LL57 2UP

United Kingdom

Email: [info@hebog-environmental.co.uk](mailto:info@hebog-environmental.co.uk)

Region: UKL12 - Gwynedd

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): Yes

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Supported employment provider: No

Public service mutual: No

Contract 1. Open Framework Contract for the supply of Services for Marine Macrobenthic Invertebrate Sample Analysis on behalf of the Environment Agency

## **Ocean Ecology Limited**

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PGWV-4561-PXYN

River Office Severnside Park Epney GL2 7LN United Kingdom

Epney

GL2 7LN

United Kingdom

Email: [at@osc.co.uk](mailto:at@osc.co.uk)

Region: UKK13 - Gloucestershire

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): Yes

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Supported employment provider: No

Public service mutual: No

Contract 1. Open Framework Contract for the supply of Services for Marine Macrobenthic Invertebrate Sample Analysis on behalf of the Environment Agency

## **Thomson Environmental Consultants Limited**

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PNTZ-6879-JRHW

Compass House 60 Priestley Road Surrey Research Park Guildford GU2 7AG United Kingdom

Guildford

GU2 7AG

United Kingdom

Email: [tenders@thomsonec.com](mailto:tenders@thomsonec.com)

Region: UKJ25 - West Surrey

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): Yes

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Supported employment provider: No

Public service mutual: No

Contract 1. Open Framework Contract for the supply of Services for Marine Macrobenthic Invertebrate Sample Analysis on behalf of the Environment Agency

## **University of Hull**

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PGQV-8647-LZDM

University of Hull Cottingham Road Kingston Upon Hull Hull HU6 7RX United Kingdom

Hull

HU6 7RX



United Kingdom

Email: [w.a.musk@hull.ac.uk](mailto:w.a.musk@hull.ac.uk)

Region: UKE11 - Kingston upon Hull, City of

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): No

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Supported employment provider: No

Public service mutual: No

Contract 1. Open Framework Contract for the supply of Services for Marine Macrobenthic Invertebrate Sample Analysis on behalf of the Environment Agency

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## Contracting authority

### ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PNWW-1475-NYLN

Seacole Building, 2 Marsham Street

London

SW1P 4DF

United Kingdom

Contact name: Harry Dundas

Email: [harry.dundas@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:harry.dundas@environment-agency.gov.uk)

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

Region: UKI32 - Westminster

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government

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## Other organisation

These organisations are carrying out the procurement, or part of it, on behalf of the contracting authorities.

### DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Summary of their role in this procurement: Commercial Procurement Function - Facilitator

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PNBD-3289-CDGX

Seacole Building, 2 Marsham Street

London

SW1P 4DF

United Kingdom

Contact name: Defra Group Commercial

Email: [dgcenquiries@defra.gov.uk](mailto:dgcenquiries@defra.gov.uk)

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

Region: UKI32 - Westminster

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## **Contact organisation**

Contact ENVIRONMENT AGENCY for any enquiries.