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Tender

Marine In-Service Support

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

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

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-080417

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04f934 ([view related notices](#))

Published 8 December 2025, 9:05am

Scope

Reference

C32143

Description

Defra Group Fleet Services (DGFS) are responsible for operating the safest, greenest, most cost-effective fleet assets across the Defra Group. DGFS manage both commercial and plant fleet assets, including the procurement and disposal of vehicles, plant, boats, agricultural and construction equipment, and the Servicing, Inspection, Maintenance and Repair (SIMAR) of commercial and plant assets. DGFS' aim is to become pioneers of innovative and inventive solutions that improve the fleet's performance and sustainability. DGFS want a class leading sustainable fleet that minimises its impact on the environment and people by reducing its emissions, leading by example and inspiring others.

This Specification is for the Service, Inspection, Maintenance and Repair (SIMAR) of DGFS' marine vessels and amphibious plant, together with any attached ancillary equipment including but not limited to trailers, engines and safety equipment, to remain seaworthy for operational use. At tender phase the terminology In Service Support has been used to align with marine industry standards, for the purposes of this Contract In

Service Support means SIMAR. Some assets are coded under Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) Codes of Practice. DGFS require a supplier capable of delivering a national service. DGFS are happy for suppliers to use subcontractors to meet its requirement of a nationally available service.

This specification also includes the hire and purchase of marine craft, vessels, plant, trailers, marine outboards and safety equipment. DGFS require a single supplier, with the use of subcontractors where required, capable of delivering a national SIMAR, hire and purchase service.

The contract supports DGFS' ongoing marine and environmental responsibilities and requires a provider with specialist experience in marine vessel maintenance, regulatory compliance and operational readiness.

Total value (estimated)

- £12,500,000 excluding VAT
- £15,000,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 7 April 2026 to 6 April 2030
- Possible extension to 6 April 2032
- 6 years

Description of possible extension:

A 2-year extension will be used where the contract continues to meet DGFS' requirements and represents value for money.

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 50241100 - Vessel repair services
- 50000000 - Repair and maintenance services
- 50240000 - Repair, maintenance and associated services related to marine and other equipment
- 50241200 - Ferry repair services
- 50241000 - Repair and maintenance services of ships
- 50244000 - Reconditioning services of ships or boats
- 60653000 - Hire of boats with crew

Contract locations

- UK - United Kingdom

Justification for not using lots

Dividing the procurement into lots by geographical regions was not possible due to the level of contract management that would have been required.

Participation

Technical ability conditions of participation

Tenderers are to note that a condition of participation will be that tenderers commit to

completing the Modern Slavery Assessment Tool prior to contract award. The Authority will need to see a copy of the tenderer's report of recommendations before awarding the contract.

Particular suitability

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

Submission

Enquiry deadline

17 December 2025, 12:00pm

Submission type

Tenders

Tender submission deadline

28 January 2026, 12:00pm

Submission address and any special instructions

The procurement documents are available for unrestricted and full direct access, free of charge, at <https://defra-family.force.com/s/Welcome>

Any questions, requests to participate or tender submissions must be submitted electronically via this portal.

Tenders may be submitted electronically

Yes

Languages that may be used for submission

English

Award decision date (estimated)

23 March 2026

Recurring procurement

Publication date of next tender notice (estimated): 3 December 2031

Award criteria

Name	Type	Weighting
Commercial Evaluation	Cost	50.00%
Technical Evaluation	Quality	40.00%
Social Value Evaluation	Quality	10.00%

Other information

Description of risks to contract performance

Known Unknown Risks of the Contract:

1. Risk Category: Regulatory Changes

Description:

There is a reasonable likelihood of changes to regulations during the contract term. As the Authority does not know what these changes could be, it is unable to address their potential impact at this stage.

Impact on the contract:

Such changes may require adjustments to:

- Technical specifications of goods or services.
- Compliance documentation and reporting processes.
- Delivery timelines and associated costs.

Modification Mechanism:

In accordance with Schedule 8, paragraph 5 of the Procurement Act 2023:

- If these regulatory changes materialise and are not caused by either party, the Authority may vary the contract to ensure compliance.
- Any variation will be limited to what is strictly necessary to meet the new legal requirements and will not increase the estimated contract value by more than 50%.
- A UK10 Contract Change Notice will be published to maintain transparency.

2. Risk Category: A major accident

Description:

There is a chance that there may be a major accident involving one of the Environment Agency's fleet. As this is unpredictable, the Environment Agency is unable to address its potential impact at this stage.

Impact on the contract:

Such accidents may require adjustments to:

- Contract value to replace affected fleet and to make any necessary changes to other assets in the fleet
- Technical specifications of goods or services.
- Compliance documentation and reporting processes.
- Delivery timelines.

Modification Mechanism:

In accordance with Schedule 8, paragraph 5 of the Procurement Act 2023:

- If these accidents materialise, the Authority may vary the contract to replace the fleet asset.
- Any variation will be limited to what is strictly necessary to replace or repair the asset and will not increase the estimated contract value by more than 50%.
- A UK10 Contract Change Notice will be published to maintain transparency.

3. Risk Category: Ageing Fleet

Description:

As the Environment Agency's fleet ages, it becomes more difficult to plan the maintenance and repair that the fleet will require.

Impact on Contract:

Unplanned maintenance and repairs may require adjustments to:

- Technical specifications of goods or services.
- Delivery timelines and associated costs.

Modification Mechanism:

In accordance with Schedule 8, paragraph 5 of the Procurement Act 2023:

- If unplanned repairs are needed, the Authority may vary the Contract to ensure the fleet is safe to operate.
- Any variation will be limited to what is strictly necessary to meet the new legal

requirements and will not increase the estimated Contract value by more than 50%.

- A UK10 Contract Change Notice will be published to maintain transparency

Applicable trade agreements

- Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Competitive flexible procedure

Competitive flexible procedure description

This Competitive Flexible Procedure will not use a down-select stage but will use a supplementary process of Best and Final Offer (BAFO). Following the evaluation stage, the Authority reserves the right to reissue the technical evaluation questions, pricing schedule, or any part thereof to the two highest scoring tenderers, or any other tenderer that has scored within 3% (total score) of the highest scoring tenderer, for a BAFO. This will allow tenderers to incorporate any feedback from the evaluation stage.

If the Authority deems any amendment to the evaluation methodology to be significant, additional time may be allowed for responses – this will be at the Authority's sole discretion.

Please note that all tenderers will be invited to submit improved responses on the same

items. Tenderers will have 10 calendar days to review, revise and resubmit their bid via Atamis. There will be a period of 5 calendar days for clarification questions. The exact dates of these periods and deadlines for submission will be shared with the relevant tenderers.

! IMPORTANT – This is an optional stage for the Authority to ensure that the Most Advantageous Tender is selected, that the requirement has been fully understood, and that tenderers are provided a fair chance to compete where the Authority does not feel ready to award after the evaluation stage. Tenderers are to submit their best possible tender and price in the first instance, as it is not guaranteed that this stage will be used.

Following the overall evaluation, if there is more than one tenderer with the same highest overall score, the Authority reserves the right to award to a tenderer following the below Tie-break process. Where a tenderer gained a higher Commercial Score than the other tenderers, that tenderer will be awarded the contract.

Tenderers are to note that a condition of participation will be that tenderers commit to completing the Modern Slavery Assessment Tool prior to contract award. The Authority will need to see a copy of the tenderer's report of recommendations before awarding the contract.

Contracting authority

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PNWW-1475-NYLN

Seacole Building, 2 Marsham Street

London

SW1P 4DF

United Kingdom

Email: network.procurement@defra.gov.uk

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

Region: UKI32 - Westminster

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government

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: Conducting the procurement process.

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PNBD-3289-CDGX

Seacole Building, 2 Marsham Street

London

SW1P 4DF

United Kingdom

Email: network.procurement@defra.gov.uk

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

Region: UKI32 - Westminster

Contact organisation

Contact ENVIRONMENT AGENCY for any enquiries.