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Tender

CEFAS25-122 ITT to provide RPA flights in Sizewell region for BEEMS project

CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT, FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE SCIENCE

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

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-082874

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05f5a7 ([view related notices](#))

Published 15 December 2025, 12:49pm

Scope

Reference

C32142

Description

The BEEMS (British EDF Estuarine and Marine Studies) programme is funded by NNB Generation Company Sizewell C (NNB GenCo SZC). Through this programme, Cefas provide authoritative scientific information on the marine and transitional waters in the vicinity of potential new build nuclear power stations and require a Supplier to deliver the element described below.

To support the delivery of the BEEMS Programme, Cefas require the Supplier to provide aerial data collection using a Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) in the Sizewell to Thorpeness region on a quarterly basis. It is anticipated that the first flight will be undertaken in March 2026 and the final flight in December 2028 (with extension options as per point 4).

On occasion, additional flights may be required, therefore Cefas requests a day rate cost

in Appendix 6, for flights of a similar nature in the vicinity of Sizewell area.

The purpose of this work is to safely conduct regular RPA flights in accordance with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) guidelines at the above locations for the purpose of acquiring survey data to meet environmental monitoring requirements.

Cefas requires the Supplier's flight team to manage the planning, notifications, and safe execution of each survey.

The Contract implementation is expected to start February 2026, and the initial Contract period will end 31 December 2028, with the option to extend by 2 further periods of 12 months each to maximum end date of 31 December 2030.

See Bidder Pack for full specification.

Prior Market Engagement was not conducted as the market is well known to Cefas with a reasonably small pool of supplier, including many SMEs, who can meet our requirements.

Total value (estimated)

- £165,000 excluding VAT
- £200,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 12 February 2026 to 31 December 2028
- Possible extension to 31 December 2030
- 4 years, 10 months, 17 days

Description of possible extension:

2 x 12 months

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 79311000 - Survey services

Contract locations

- UK - United Kingdom

Participation

Legal and financial capacity conditions of participation

As per Bidder Pack

Technical ability conditions of participation

As per Bidder Pack

Particular suitability

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

Submission

Enquiry deadline

12 January 2026, 5:00pm

Tender submission deadline

19 January 2026, 12:00pm

Submission address and any special instructions

<https://atamis-9529.my.site.com/s/Welcome>

All bids to be submitted via the above eProcurement system.

Tenders may be submitted electronically

Yes

Languages that may be used for submission

English

Award decision date (estimated)

30 January 2026

Award criteria

Name	Type	Weighting
Technical	Quality	65.00%
Cost	Cost	25.00%
Social Value	Quality	10.00%

Other information

Payment terms

As per Bidder Pack

Description of risks to contract performance

Interaction and/or protests from the public

Due to the location of the service performance and public interest in the SZC project, potential for protests and interactions / interference from public.

This could result in the need to stop flights or reschedule, or requirement for more staff to be on site to help manage the situation, potentially increasing costs and changing timeframes for delivery.

Unable to address risk as neither Cefas or Supplier has control over the public.

Risk assigned to both parties.

Prolonged Adverse Weather

Due to tidal limitations on the surveys, prolonged adverse weather could impact the ability to obtain the dataset for a specific month.

This could result in additional costs and/or contract extension in order to meet the requirements.

Unable to address the risk upfront as weather is beyond control of Buyer or Supplier.

Proportionate mitigation for some weather risk is provided for in the Contract.

Risk assigned to both parties.

Change in frequency of flight requirements

Due to changing schedule at SZC, frequency and or timing of flights could change. This may result in the need for additional surveys or a different schedule of surveys than those planned.

This could result in additional costs in order to meet the requirements.

Unable to address the risk upfront as neither Buyer or Supplier has control over the SZC project scheduling.

Proportionate allowance within the estimated total value is provided for in the Contract.

Risk assigned to Buyer.

Applicable trade agreements

- Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Open procedure

Contracting authority

CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT, FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE SCIENCE

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PPGW-5299-JGTN

Pakefield Road

Lowestoft

NR33 0HT

United Kingdom

Contact name: Holly Power

Email: procure@cefas.gov.uk

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

Region: UKH14 - Suffolk

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government