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Planning

Contract for the acoustic supply of hydrometric river flow instrumentation

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

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

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-084584

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05f99c

Published 18 December 2025, 4:11pm

Scope

Description

The Environment Agency's Hydrometry teams monitor water quantity across rivers, streams, lakes, and groundwater aquifers. Hydroacoustic instruments are used to measure water discharge in these environments.

A hydroacoustic contract is required to secure specialist services and equipment that utilise sound in water to achieve objectives not feasible with other technologies.

Area Hydrometry and Telemetry teams purchase and operate these instruments, with technical support and procurement guidance provided by the National Hydrometry team.

The Environment Agency has selected hydroacoustic instruments as a highly accurate, long-term, and cost-effective solution for measuring water. These instruments support both routine measurements and long-term monitoring programmes, which are critical for:

Trend Analysis – Tracking changes in river flows, lake levels, and groundwater over time to understand hydrological patterns.

Flood Risk Management – Providing accurate discharge data to improve flood forecasting and early warning systems.

Climate Resilience – Assessing the impact of climate change on water resources and informing adaptation strategies.

Regulatory Compliance – Meeting statutory obligations for water quantity reporting and supporting environmental legislation.

Infrastructure Planning – Supplying data for water resource management, reservoir operations, and sustainable development.

The instruments fall into three main categories:

Mobile profiling instruments

Waded point-velocity instruments

Fixed-deployment profiling instruments

To facilitate procurement and ensure continuity of long-term monitoring, the Environment Agency intends to establish commercial agreements for a fixed three-year period covering the following lots:

1. Mobile acoustic profiling instrument 0-20m depth
2. Mobile acoustic multipoint velocity waded instrument 0-1m depth
3. Short range fixed velocity profiling instrument 0-5m
4. Long range fixed velocity profiling instrument 0-100m

Contract dates (estimated)

- 4 May 2026 to 3 May 2029
- 3 years

Main procurement category

Goods

CPV classifications

- 31682210 - Instrumentation and control equipment

Contract locations

- UK - United Kingdom

Engagement

Engagement deadline

23 January 2026

Engagement process description

We encourage interested suppliers to register their interest in this project and submit any questions via the sourcing portal or by email. Suppliers wishing to request a meeting should provide evidence of their capability to deliver this project in no more than 500 words and send it to the email address provided in this notice.

Suppliers may request a meeting by 16/01/26. Meetings will be scheduled within the period from 26/01/26 to 06/02/26. Meeting slots are limited and will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

Requests received after the deadline or when all slots have been filled may not be accommodated. To ensure productive discussions, we kindly ask suppliers to submit relevant questions in advance.

All questions and answers raised during the process will be shared in the tender package. The Authority reserves the right to amend or withdraw this opportunity.

Participation

Particular suitability

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

Contracting authority

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PNWW-1475-NYLN

Seacole Building, 2 Marsham Street

London

SW1P 4DF

United Kingdom

Email: ella.liu@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: procurement facilitated via DEFRA Group Commercial

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PNBD-3289-CDGX

Seacole Building, 2 Marsham Street

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Email: ella.liu@defra.gov.uk

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

Region: UKI32 - Westminster

Contact organisation

Contact ENVIRONMENT AGENCY for any enquiries.