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Contract

Lower Thames Crossing - Legal Advisers Phase 2

National Highways Limited

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-085093

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05fad1

Published 19 December 2025, 4:24pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

National Highways Limited

Three Snowhill, Snow Hill Queensway

Birmingham

B4 6GA

Email

ancillaryprocurement@lowerthamescrossing.co.uk

Telephone

+44 03001235000

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://nationalhighways.co.uk/>

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

National or federal Agency/Office

I.5) Main activity

General public services

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Lower Thames Crossing - Legal Advisers Phase 2

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 79111000 - Legal advisory services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

Legal advice is required to support National Highways and the Department of Transport in all tasks relating to the delivery of the Lower Thames Crossing Project to the private sector under the Private Regulated Entity Model.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.1.7) Total value of the procurement (excluding VAT)

Value excluding VAT: £1,350,000

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 79100000 - Legal services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Legal advice is required to support National Highways and the Department of Transport in all tasks relating to Phase 2 to transfer the delivery of the Project to the private sector

under the Private Regulated Entity Model.

The main phases are expected to be as follows (model may be subject to alteration as detailed design progresses):

- a) The setting up of a company (LTC Co), into which contracts, people and assets relevant to the construction, operation and maintenance of LTC and the Dartford Crossing will be transferred;
- b) Establishing new legislation to enact the required model, including expanding the functions of an existing regulator or creating an Economic Roads Regulator, setting out its powers and duties and establishing the ability of LTC Co to impose and collect user charges for the use of infrastructure; and
- c) The sale of LTC Co resulting in the creation of a privately owned Regulated Company (Reg Co).

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Quality / Weighting: 80%

Cost criterion - Name: Commercial / Weighting: 20%

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: No

II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Award of a contract without prior publication of a call for competition in the cases listed below

- The procurement falls outside the scope of application of the regulations

Explanation:

This contract has been procured via a mini-competition process via use of the Crown Commercial Services (CCS) Framework - RM6179 Legal Services Panel - Lot 2.

IV.1.8) Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

Section V. Award of contract

Title

Lower Thames Crossing - Legal Advisors Phase 2

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

25 November 2025

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 4

The contract has been awarded to a group of economic operators: No

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

Ashurst LLP

London

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

The contractor is an SME

No

V.2.4) Information on value of contract/lot (excluding VAT)

Total value of the contract/lot: £1,350,000

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

High Court of Justice England

London

Country

United Kingdom