Clarifications to Bidder’s Questions:

**Septic Tank and PTP upgrade: opportunity mapping & modelling**

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| 1 | One of the key outputs is for the opportunity mapping to be built using open-source software.  Our standard software we use for these applications is ESRI.  Would this be acceptable to NE as an output? Or is it not part of NE’s held software licenses? | I have checked this with our technical team, they have said: the model must be developed in open-source software or ArcGIS Pro which NE already holds a license for. |
| 2 | We are interested in submitting a proposal for the opportunity.  However, we would like to request an extension of approximately 1.5 weeks, with a revised submission deadline of 11th June. | We are currently not able to accept any extensions on existing timetable. Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause. |
| 3 | Has funding been allocated to this project? We would like to know the answer to this before proceeding to compile a proposal. | we have received internal approval to begin the procurement process. This is being twin tracked with Natural England awaiting final confirmation of budget through the annual Spending Review. Therefore, we will not be able to finally commit to awarding the contract until funds are released. |
| 4 | Will there be specific Natural England templates and data standards to apply to this project? Will we receive all necessary licensing for all datasets and templates from Natural England upon commencement? | Natural England (NE) will supply a template document for the technical report that will be commissioned as a part of this tender. Specifications for the delivery of the opportunity mapping will also be provided, alongside metadata templates. As outlined within the Request for Quote (RfQ) the opportunity mapping should aim to use datasets NE already have a license for. NE will provide access to datasets that meet this criteria. The list of resources provided in the RfQ is an example of some resources that could be used under this prerequisite, but the list is not exhaustive. |
| 5 | Can a copy of this be provided?:  Document link "• Natural England Programmes - 14.12.2022\_Replacing On-site Wastewater Treatment systems to generate credits for Nutrient Neutrality.pdf - All Documents" is not accessible. | This will be provided on award of contract. |
| 6 | For the cost estimate: List of Certified Small Wastewater Treatment Systems Up to 50PT  This website provides PIA certificates of effluent quality and treatment efficiency, not cost estimates. That information is obtained by liaising with suppliers for quotes. Is there a different database of costs available from Natural England? | NE do not hold a database of costs. |
| 7 | Is there an expectation that the British Water database of SSDs will be number crunched for performance standards of N and P? Or is it based on the Natural England N and P effluent ratings built into the Nutrient Budget Calculator? | The effluent ratings in the Nutrient Budget Calculator and are default. It is expected that through the contract the supplier will work with NE to determine the performance standards. |
| 8 | Can the model and data be developed in commercial software like ESRI - ArcGIS Pro, but presented in a format that is presented in open source software? | The model must be developed in open-source software or ArcGIS Pro which NE already holds a license for. |
| 9 | Can internal working standards where internal version control is documented and followed, be used in place of a dedicated version control software? (we will log metadata and our internal QA procedures for all outputs). | This is acceptable, version control documentation will need to be supplied as an appendix to the final output. |
| 10 | If there is benefit in using licensed datasets, can quotes be obtained for these upon agreement of the methodology with Natural England? (e.g. BGS 50K Geology - Solid and Drift) | There is no further budget to acquire licensed data. |
| 11 | The EA has produced a National level shapefile of SSDs in England already (not published but held by National Science Group).  Has this been considered in terms of its potential to reduce cost for this project and prevent potentially unnecessary work? | We have worked with the EA on developing this specification. They have confirmed it will not be duplication, as the national level shapefile is out-dated. |
| 12 | Please could you confirm that the closing date is 3 June 2025 and not 17 June 2025? | The tender submission deadline is the 3rd of June. |
| 13 | In your scope of works document you require the following;  1. Scale of opportunity: The scale of opportunity (in units) of upgrading inefficient septic tanks and PTPs in each catchment. This will need to be mapped using GI software.  We use G.P.S for mapping , this is put into a Q J.I.S file and presentenced in an O.S tile, our technical team has checked, and this is compatible with GI. Would this be acceptable when submitting methodology our detailed evaluation criteria. | We need to receive the data in either shapefile or geopackage format. |
| 14 | The NE-Request for Quote - Septic Tank and PTP upgrade document states that there are 20 catchments to be modelled and are listed on page 22. However, the Septic Tank Order Form NE Standard Goods Services Terms and Conditions Clean Septic Tanks states that there are 27 catchments. Please can you confirm if it is 20 or 27 catchments. | To confirm, it is the 20 catchments listed on page 22 of the RfQ document. |
| 15 | Would you be able to confirm the location of the stakeholder workshop to sort out the methodology? We think this should be face to face. | We did not specify that the methodology workshop or the final deliverable would need to be conducted face to face. We are of course happy for these to be conducted face to face but this consideration must be taken into account in your budgeting for the tender. |
| 16 | We also think it would be beneficial to have a face to face demonstration of the final deliverables, so could you provide a location for that meeting aswell? | The contract managers for this tender are located in Natural England’s London office. If we were to have face to face meetings during the tender the meetings would be located here with exact dates and addresses provided after the tender had been awarded. |