**Annex 3**

**Clarification Questions Received and Answers**

1. *What is the proposed end-point modelling for the groundwater DQRA – ecological or human health (or both)?*
   1. **Answer**: The endpoint of a groundwater DQRA is protection of receptors that have been identified via a site-specific conceptual site model that are at risk from the migration of pollutants, via groundwater, from the site in question. This could include (but is not limited to) a watercourse that is abstracted from for human consumption, a groundwater fed lake where fish may be the receptor, a Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystem (GWDTE) or a private or public water supply borehole.
2. *The liability cap is set at £5m – is this a set requirement and can it set at a lower limit?*
   1. **Answer:** The RfQ states that no changes to the contract can be made; however, should an applicant be successful, our team is currently speaking with our internal legal team to understand if there is any flexibility on specific contract requirements that could be made if necessary. It is unlikely this decision will be made until after the tender closing date, so please include any clauses that may require negotiation for you to be able to proceed. Please note, if negotiations proceed, these will be on onerous terms only and is it not expected that a significant number of clauses will be discussed.
3. *Regarding the evaluation criteria for Q1.3, would it be possible to confirm if this means the response to 1) and 2) should not exceed 350 words per individual question, or should not exceed 350 words combined? There is also a third part to Q1.3 in relation to identifying and managing business risks. Is there a word limit to this question?*
   1. **Answer:** The answers to Q1.3 1), 2), and 3) should not exceed more than 350 words combined. Q1.3 4) should be no greater than 1 page (A4 or A3).
4. *Is a Microsoft Word version of the contract T&Cs available?*
   1. **Answer:** Unfortunately, no, not on this occasion.
5. *Can we return the signed terms and conditions (as requested) with some specific clauses to be negotiated at a later date should we be successful in winning the bid?* 
   1. **Answer:** Please see the answer to Clarification Question 2.
6. *The RfQ listed in the Atamis portal and the instructions state that contact is via email. Please can you therefore kindly send us a copy of the clarifications and any other updates to the RFQ.*
   1. **Answer:** Any updates to the RfQ, including answers to clarification questions, will be provided on the current RfQ page on ‘find a tender’ with a clear notification at the top to say changes have been made. Answers to clarification questions will be published by the end of Friday 26 September. Please note, there is a ‘watch this notice’ button at the top of this page which should alert you to notice changes/updates.
7. *Could you please extend the time period for questions to a date closer to the deadline for quotation receipt?*
   1. **Answer:** We understand the turnaround time for clarification questions is fairly short; however, it is to allow us enough time to respond and for people to be able to have time to incorporate those changes into their own tender response prior to the closing date. Generally, the project requirement has been written to align with the many of the helpful replies we received during the preliminary market engagement.
8. *Can you confirm whether you are open to contract negotiations and if effectively the contract negotiations need to be completed by 19 September 2025 (tender clarification deadline)?*
   1. **Answer:** Please see the answer to Clarification Question 2.