Introduction

Suppliers are requested to read this document and confirm their interest by completing the market engagement questionnaire at https://forms.office.com/e/d03LWd7f6f by no later than 26th July 2023 at 12:00 GMT. The Environment Agency (EA) may then contact suppliers to discuss their responses in further detail.

The current expectation is that a procurement exercise will be undertaken via Crown Commercial Service's Digital Outcomes 6 Framework, however a pre-market engagement exercise is necessary to gain market insight and inform this approach.

Purpose

The purpose of this pre-market consultation exercise is to gain an understanding of the latest developments and innovations in Knowledge Management, its alignments to the programme objectives and the programme's ethos surrounding innovation and future approaches in Flood Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM).

Background

In 2020, the government announced £200 million of funding to drive innovation in flood and coastal resilience and adaptation to a changing climate from 2021 to 2027.

The funding supports 3 programmes:

- The £150 million Flood and coastal resilience innovation programme which will enable local authorities, businesses and communities in 25 places to test and demonstrate innovative practical resilience actions.
- The £8 million Adaptive pathways programme which will develop long term investment plans for managing flooding and coastal change to 2100 and beyond in strategic locations including the Thames Estuary, Humber Estuary, River Severn and Yorkshire.
- The £36 million Coastal transition accelerators programme which will support communities in areas at significant risk of coastal erosion to transition and adapt to a changing climate.

These innovation programmes will:

- Improve our evidence on the costs and benefits of innovative resilience actions as well as helping to inform future policy approaches to, and investments in, FCERM. This includes informing our next long term investment scenarios and Spending Review bids.
- Produce a bank of best practice and digital tools to equip all risk management authorities to embed adaptive approaches to flooding and coastal change into their projects, investments and strategic plans. This will be accessible to Environment Agency operational teams, local authorities, water companies and internal drainage boards.
- Create a network of connected partners from academia, risk management authorities, utilities, business, infrastructure and affected communities, to champion innovation.

The Requirement

The Environment Agency is looking to have a Knowledge Management System (KMS) developed to help demonstrate the evidence, benefits, and learning developed from the Flood and Coastal Innovation Programmes.

The KMS will play a pivotal role in providing not only providing Open Data but also Open Intelligence to inform future approaches and investments in flood and coastal erosion risk management.

Open intelligence builds upon the concept of open data and expands it to share insights and knowledge developed from the data. Open intelligence empowers individuals, practitioners, and communities to build and draw upon current innovations and helps make transparency an agent of change.

Key Objectives

The objectives for this system include, but are not limited to:

1. Ensure ease of data flow and collection from projects and programmes to capture lessons learned, best practices, project-specific knowledge, and other knowledge and data assets.
2. Centralise and organize our knowledge assets, including documents, project data, technical data and other relevant information. This should include consideration of Knowledge Graphs and Linked Data.
3. Implement robust search and retrieval functionalities to enable quick and efficient access to relevant knowledge resources.
4. Incorporate analytics and reporting capabilities to gain insights into knowledge usage and identify areas for improvement.
5. Consider the scalability and adaptability of the system to accommodate future organisational growth and changing needs
6. Ensure data security and compliance with relevant regulations and organisation policies.