Mining Remediation Authority

Framework for the drilling and testing of boreholes in former mining areas

Market Engagement Information – phase 2

February 2025

Contents

1. Supplier Engagement Phase 2

In September 2024, the first PIN notice – include link, was issued to the market to inform the market of the upcoming requirement and to gather market intelligence to further define our procurement strategy.

Interested parties were invited to participate in a questionnaire to assist us in the development of key components of the procurement strategy. This second phase of engagement is to inform the market of the technical requirements for the services and to explore our procurement strategy and invite feedback on key features of the procurement strategy.

The Mining Remediation Authority reserves the right to invite any interested parties for further discussions should the need arise during this process to further define the procurement strategy.

The event is anticipated to be held virtually via Microsoft Teams on the 12th of March 2025.

Please note the session will be recorded.

Following the event, interested parties will be asked to complete an engagement questionnaire to gather further intelligence relating to the proposed procurement strategy. Your participation in this questionnaire is vital to ensuring the success of the procurement and contract arrangement. Suppliers will be given two weeks to complete the questionnaire.

Any changes to the dates included above will be communicated to all registered suppliers:

Please register your interest by accessing the below link:
http://redirect.transaxions.com/events/08Y0M

2. Executive Summary

The Mining Remediation Authority is a non-departmental public body and partner organisation of the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) with a mission to make a better future for people and the environment in mining areas.

The Mining Remediation Authority manages the effects of past coal mining, including subsidence damage claims which are not the responsibility of licensed coal mine operators. It deals with mine water pollution from both coal and metal mines and other mining legacy issues.

The Mining Remediation Authority use our skills to provide services to other government departments and agencies, local governments and commercial partners. We contribute to the delivery of the UK Government's Industrial Strategy and the environmental, social and economic priorities of the UK, Scottish and Welsh Governments. By sharing our knowledge and expertise we support them, and our partners, to create cleaner, greener nations for us all.

The Mining Remediation Authority currently has the capacity to treat 220 billion litres of mine water every year. Treating mine water has directly protected and improved over 350km of rivers, protects several important regional aquifers, enhances biodiversity and provides local amenity land Our mine water treatment prevents nearly 4000 tonnes of iron solids iron solids and other pollutants entering watercourses or aquifers. Last year 97% of the iron solid waste was recycled or reused. In partnership with the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ), the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), the Environment Agency (EA), Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and Natural Resources Wales (NRW), the Mining Remediation Authority delivers a program of mine water treatment and monitoring across England, Scotland and Wales, ensuring that the mine water is effectively treated before entering natural watercourses.

Boreholes are used to improve our understanding of mine water. Our boreholes provide critical water level and quality monitoring data used to assess potential risks to aquifers and surface water bodies. These assessments form the basis of our mine water management strategies with abstraction from boreholes often being key to mine water level control.

3. Scope of the requirement

The Mining Remediation Authority requires a framework agreement for the provision of services relating to the construction and testing of boreholes in former mining areas to support the objective to understand water levels and chemistry. The services are anticipated to include borehole drilling, construction, testing, maintenance, cleaning, rehabilitation, technical support and associated works/services.

By its very nature, the drilling will be predominately coal measures and overlying strata including regionally important aquifers (may need casing off). The targets will often be specific mining features, both void and collapsed. Drilling may be required in areas where multiple sets of workings are present which may create challenges. Targets and strata above and in the zone of influence of workings may be collapsed and/or fractured due to the effects of mining. Accuracy and verticality of borehole drilling will be o high importance as targets are often small and limited. The survey/sampling/pumping requirements for the boreholes makes their verticality of high import for their operable life span.

4. Framework Requirements

The work packages that will form part of the framework are summarised in Table 1 below. The 'Typical Services' shown are indicative and other related services may be requested/required.

Table 1 Framework Services

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Framework for the drilling and testing of boreholes in former mining areas		
Framework Lot	***Typical Services***	***Value***
1. Drilling and borehole construction	• Drilling of mine water monitoring and/or extraction boreholes to depths ranging from 100-700m and diameters up to and in excess of 300mm • Directional drilling to intercept a mine workings target at an indicative maximum depth of >400m • Development, construction and completion of mine water monitoring and abstraction boreholes. • Design, supply and installation of complete submersible pumping systems for mine water boreholes. • Supply and installation of control systems for submersible pumping operations in mine water boreholes. • Abandonment of mine water boreholes to a specification and in line with best practice/legislation. • Geophysical logging of mine water boreholes • Management of health and safety and compliance with legislation and best practice guidance relating to the above services.	£26million

	• Acting as Principal Contractor under the CDM regulations. • Coordination and management of site works.	
2. Borehole pump testing	• Long and short term test pumping of water boreholes including supply and installation of all plant and equipment. • Provision of suitably qualified staff to manage test pumping operations and record hydrometric measurements. • Hydraulic testing of boreholes e.g. falling head tests, purge pumping, packer testing	£2.7million
3. Borehole cleaning, maintenance & rehabilitation	• Borehole cleaning services such as: brushing, jetting, chemical treatments, clearance pumping. • Borehole condition surveys • Rehabilitation of boreholes • Pump system maintenance • Coordination and management of site works.	Value to be determined based on the results of ongoing surveys
4. Surface Construction Works	• Construction works relating to the installation of boreholes such as: minor groundworks, installation of above and below ground borehole chambers, manholes, drilling cellars and associated features. • Supply, construction and installation of pump houses, cabinets, kiosks. • Supply and installation of water pipework and tanks. • Other minor construction works. • Management of the above works.	Value to be determined based on the results of ongoing surveys

	• Management of health and safety relating to the above services.	
5. Technical - design & management	• Borehole hydraulic design • Drilling specifications • Borehole specifications • Test pumping design and management • Design of casing systems, screens, filter packs. • Design of maintenance regimes and borehole cleaning and rehabilitation. • Monitoring borehole siting and design • Review and audit of drilling specifications and designs. • Borehole abandonment designs • Acting as Designer and/or Principal Designer under the CDM regulations. • Management of the above works. • Management of health and safety relating to the above services.	Ceiling threshold to be set based on forecast of reactive need
6. Pimping and Mine Water Treatment	• Design of temporary treatment systems to allow environmentally compliant discharge of mine waters to watercourses during test pumping. • Supply, installation and operation of temporary mine water treatment systems including Reverse Osmosis plants and High Density Sludge processes.	Ceiling threshold to be set based on forecast of reactive need

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5. Procurement Strategy

The framework will be procured in accordance with the Procurement Act 2023, ensuring transparency, fairness and the equitable treatment of all participating entities.

Further guidance for suppliers on the upcoming changes to public procurement can be accessed using the links and QR code provided below:

SCAN ME

The Procurement Act 2023: A short guide for suppliers (HTML) - GOV.UK

6. Procurement Timeline

The timeline below includes appropriate time devoted to the approval process which includes our internal approval process and external government oversight approval (DESNZ, Commercial Assurance Board, Cabinet Office (CO)). Please note the dates forecast below are estimated only and may be subject to change.

Milestone	Month	Commentary
Market Engagement (phase 2)	March-25	Informing the market of our procurement strategy and inviting feedback
DESNZ / CAB Approval	May-25	Outline Business Case
Launch Tender	July-25	Contract notices published on Find a Tender Service and Contracts Finder
Tender Evaluation	Jan-26	Allowed for 6 months total for Tender and Evaluation *(please note this will be subject to change once our approach to market has been planned)*
CA approval	Feb-26	2 months to draft Final Business Case & Recommendation

DESNZ / CAB Approval	May-26	3 months for Government Assurance and Approval
Issue Award Letters / Award	May-26	Standstill period, and award
Execute Contract(s)	July-26	Allowance to confirm contract data and formal signing
Service Commences	August-26	Full Service Delivery starts

7. Evaluation

We will be using a Price per Quality Point (PPQP) evaluation method for this tender as opposed to the more typical Relative Pricing or Percentage Allocation method.

Both methods aim to balance price and quality in different ways. The percentage allocation method offers more direct control over the balance between price and quality, while PPQP provides a unified measure of value by assessing the price for each quality point.

We have decided to use PPQP as recommended by the Cabinet Office and detailed in the Sourcing Playbook Evaluation Guidance having undertaken a review of this method with modelled examples to ensure the methodology is fully understood and the correct choice for the evaluation of our largest commercial agreement.

Most importantly we have chosen to adopt the PPQP model for this tender as it provides the highest level of transparency for bidders and moves away from the problematic elements of the Relative Pricing Model that are widely recognised within the procurement community namely that a bidders' final total tender score can be dependent upon the pricing submitted by a competitor.

The PPQP is established by dividing each bidder's price by its quality score. This enables true comparison of what the department will pay between per quality point and bidders are not being compared against each other, but only assessed based on their own bid.

$$\frac{\text{Price}}{\text{Quality score}}$$

The number arrived at is the PPQP. The bid with the lowest PPQP is the MAT (most advantageous tender). The chief advantages of PPQP as an approach are that:

- It discourages bidders from simply chasing the lowest price possible, which may not be sustainable and which may distort behaviours during project delivery; and
- It makes it easier to assess value for money, rather than simply cost. The PPQP figures used here are purely illustrative and should not be taken as an indication of actual PPQP expectations for this tender

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Example 1.

Position	Supplier	Quality Performance	Price	Price per Quality Point
1	Supplier A	100	£118/hr	£1.18
2	Supplier B	60	£122/hr	£2.03

Example 2.

Position	Supplier	Quality Performance	Price	Price per Quality Point
1	Supplier A	82	£664,730	£8,106.46
2	Supplier B	66.5	£549,819	£8,267.95
3	Supplier C	58.14	£648,114	£11,147.74

Please note the strategy is still in the development stage, therefore the requirements outlined above may be subject to change at tender launch