

Invitation to Quote

Questions



Invitation to Quote (ITQ) on behalf of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) – Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)

Subject: Building An Economic Case For Environmental Science To Support A Prosperous And Environmentally Sustainable Bioeconomy

Sourcing Reference Number: PS23015

Section 6 – Response Evaluation Questionnaire

Bidders should note that the response evaluation questionnaire is located within the eSourcing questionnaire.

Guidance on how to register and use the e-sourcing portal is available at <https://beisgroup.ukp.app.jaggaer.com/>

PLEASE NOTE THE QUESTIONS ARE NOT NUMBERED SEQUENTIALLY

QUALIFICATION QUESTIONNAIRE

SEL1.1	Please state the full legal name and address and contact details of the organisation tendering (or organisation acting as lead contact where a consortium bid is being submitted).																																	
Bidder Guidance	The information should be based on the details of the organisation bidding (or organisation acting as lead contact where a consortium bid is being submitted). This is the legal entity with whom we will Contract if successful.																																	
Scoring Criteria	For information only																																	
Answer Type	Text <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 5%;">(a)</td> <td style="width: 75%;">Bidders full legal name</td> <td style="width: 20%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>(b)</td> <td>Address line 1</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Address line 2</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Address line 3</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Address line 4</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Town / City</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Country</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Post code (or equivalent)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>(c)</td> <td>Bidder contact</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>(d)</td> <td>Telephone No.</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>(e)</td> <td>Email</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	(a)	Bidders full legal name		(b)	Address line 1			Address line 2			Address line 3			Address line 4			Town / City			Country			Post code (or equivalent)		(c)	Bidder contact		(d)	Telephone No.		(e)	Email	
(a)	Bidders full legal name																																	
(b)	Address line 1																																	
	Address line 2																																	
	Address line 3																																	
	Address line 4																																	
	Town / City																																	
	Country																																	
	Post code (or equivalent)																																	
(c)	Bidder contact																																	
(d)	Telephone No.																																	
(e)	Email																																	
SEL1.3	If you are a commercial organisation with a minimum financial turnover of £36M, please confirm that you are compliant with Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.																																	
Bidder Guidance	The Bidder shall choose from the following options; <p style="margin-left: 40px;">A. N/A – our turnover is less than £36M B. Yes – We are compliant and have attached information in SEL1.3.1 C. No (with justification) – we are not compliant but will be prior to commencement of a contract. See information attached in SEL1.3.1 D. No – we are not and will not be compliant at the time of award of the contract</p> <p>Bidders selecting option 'D' will be considered non-compliant for this Procurement.</p>																																	
Scoring Criteria	Mandatory Pass/ Fail																																	
Answer Type	Option List <p style="margin-left: 40px;">A. N/A – our turnover is less than £36M B. Yes – We are compliant and have attached information in SEL1.3.1 C. No (with justification) – we are not compliant but will be prior to commencement of a contract. See information attached in SEL1.3.1 D. No – we are not and will not be compliant at the time of award of the contract</p>																																	

SEL1.3.1	Supporting Documentation for SEL1.3
Bidder guidance	Where a bidder has responded 'Yes' or 'No (with justification)' to SEL1.3, please provide your supporting information as an attachment. Any bidder declaring they are compliant within SEL1.3 but not providing evidence may not be considered.
Scoring Criteria	For information only
Answer Type	Attachment

SEL1.4	Please state the relevant classification of your organisation (state whether you fall within one of these, and if so which one)
Bidder Guidance	The Bidder shall choose from the following options; A. Voluntary Community Social Enterprise (VCSE) B. Sheltered Workshop C. Public Service Mutual D. N/A Where options A, B and C are not applicable to your organisation please respond with option D
Scoring Criteria	For information only
Answer Type	Option List A. Voluntary Community Social Enterprise (VCSE) B. Sheltered Workshop C. Public Service Mutual D. N/A

SEL1.5	Please state the size of your organisation at the time of bid submission
Bidder Guidance	The Bidder shall choose from the following options; A. Micro – fewer than 10 persons employed B. Small – 10-49 persons employed C. Medium – 50-249 persons employed D. Large – 250 or more persons employed
Scoring Criteria	For information only
Answer Type	Option List A. Micro – fewer than 10 persons employed B. Small – 10-49 persons employed C. Medium – 50-249 persons employed D. Large – 250 or more persons employed

<p>FOI1.1</p>	<p>FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 (FOI) AND / OR ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION REGULATIONS 2004 (EIR)</p> <p>Information provided in the course of the procurement process may be disclosed under Freedom of Information Act 2000 or Environmental Information Regulations 2004.</p> <p>Please note that some of the information provided may be protected under the FOIA exemptions and EIR exceptions. More information on applying the exemptions or exceptions can be found under the information Commissioners Office (ICO) website http://ico.org.uk</p> <p>Please confirm you have been informed that information provided under this Bid may be disclosed under the FOI Act 2000 and Environmental Information Regulations 2004 and agree to it being published irrespective of submitting a successful or unsuccessful Bid.</p>
<p>Bidder Guidance</p>	<p>The Bidder shall answer Yes or No</p> <p>Yes – Pass No – Fail</p>
<p>Scoring Criteria</p>	<p>Mandatory Pass / Fail</p>
<p>Answer Type</p>	<p>Option List</p> <p>Yes – Pass No – Fail</p>

<p>FOI1.2</p>	<p>FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 (FOI) AND / OR ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION REGULATIONS 2004 (EIR) EXEMPTIONS</p> <p>Please complete this section <u>only</u> if you have agreed for your information to be disclosed under the FOI Act or EIR in Question FOI1.1. If you have not agreed to your information to be disclosed under the FOI Act or EIR in Question FOI1.1 please complete a field 'N/A' (Not applicable)</p> <p>If you have agreed for your information to be disclosed under the FOI Act or EIR in Question FOI1.1 please tell us what exemptions or exceptions may apply to your information and why?</p>
<p>Bidder Guidance</p>	<p>The Bidder shall provide details of their proposed exemptions/exception in the fields below.</p> <p>The Bidder shall note that if the Contracting Authority believes that the suggested exemptions or exceptions have not been applied properly, the Contracting Authority will disclose the requested information unless another exemption or exception can be applied by the Contracting Authority.</p> <p>Be aware that by completing FOI1.1 and answering 'yes' you have agreed for the Contracting Authority to disclose the provided information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or Environmental Information Regulation 2004; therefore, you will not be approached for consent.</p> <p>Bidders are required to complete the table fields below, highlighting your</p>

	<p>proposed exemptions to this question.</p> <p>If you are not relying on any exemptions or exceptions, please complete each field 'N/A' (not applicable).</p>
Scoring Criteria	For information only
Answer Type	Confidential Information and justification for exemption/exception under FOI Act
	Text
	Commercially sensitive information and justification for exemption/exception under FOI Act
	Text

<p>AW1.1</p>	<p><u>FORM OF BID</u></p> <p>I declare that to the best of my knowledge the answers submitted in this ITQ are correct. I understand that the information will be used in the process to assess my organisation’s suitability to be invited to bid for the Contracting Authority’s requirement and I am signing on behalf of my organisation. I understand that the Contracting Authority may reject this ITQ if there is a failure to answer all relevant questions fully or if I provide false/misleading information.</p> <p>I understand that the Government’s transparency agenda requires that sourcing documents, including ITQ templates such as this, are published on a designated, publicly searchable web site, and, that the same applies to other sourcing documents issued by the Contracting Authority, including the ITQ, and any contract entered into by the Contracting Authority or its customers with its preferred supplier once the procurement is complete.</p> <p>By submitting a response to this ITQ I agree that our participation may be made public.</p> <p>I understand that the answers given in this response will not be published on the web site (but may fall to be disclosed under Freedom of Information Act 2000 or Environmental Information Regulations 2004).</p> <p>By submitting a response to this ITQ I agree and accept the justification for the Contracting Authority’s evaluation criteria.</p> <p>By submitting a response to this ITQ I agreed and accept that the Contracting Authority reserves the right to change without notice the procedure for awarding the Contract, to reject any or all bids for the Contract, to stop the process and not award the Contract (in whole or in part) at any time without any liability on its part.</p> <p>By submitting a response to this ITQ I agree and accept that nothing in this process is intended to form any express or implied contractual relationship between the Parties unless and until a Contract is awarded. The Contracting Authority is not liable for any costs resulting from cancellation of this process nor any costs incurred by Bidders taking part in this procurement process.</p>
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	I understand that where sourcing documents issued by the Contracting Authority or contracts with its suppliers fall to be disclosed the Contracting Authority will redact them as it thinks necessary, having regard (inter alia) to the exemptions/exceptions in the FOIA or EIR.
Bidder Guidance	The Bidder shall answer Yes or No Yes – Pass No – Fail
Scoring Criteria	Mandatory Pass / Fail
Answer Type	Option List Yes – Pass No – Fail

AW1.3	<p>CERTIFICATE OF BONA FIDE BID</p> <p>The essence of procurement is that the customer shall receive bona fide competitive Bids, from all those Bidding. In recognition of this principle, we certify that this is a bona fide Bid, intended to be competitive and that we have not fixed or adjusted the amount of Bid by or under or in accordance with any agreement with any other person.</p> <p>We also certify that we have not done, and we undertake that we will not do at any time before the hour and date specified for the return of this Bid any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Communicate to a person other than the person calling for these Bids the amount or approximate amount of the proposed Bid, except where the disclosure, in confidence, of the approximate amount of the Bid was necessary to obtain insurance premium quotations for the preparation of the Bid; (b) Enter into any agreement or arrangement with any other person that he shall refrain from bidding or as to the amount of any Bid to be submitted; (c) Offer to pay or agree to pay or give any sum of money or valuable consideration directly or indirectly to any person for doing or having done or causing or have caused to be done in relation to any other Bid or proposed Bid for the said supply / service any act or thing of the sort described above. <p>In this certificate, the word "person" includes any persons and anybody or association, corporate or unincorporated, and any "agreement or arrangement" includes any such transaction, formal or informal, and whether legally binding or not.</p> <p>We acknowledge that the Contracting Authority will be entitled to cancel the contract and to recover from us the amount of any loss resulting from such cancellation if we or our representatives (whether with our without our knowledge) shall have practiced collusion in Bidding for this contract or any other contract with the Contracting Authority or shall employ any corrupt or illegal practices either in the obtaining or</p>
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	<p>execution of this contract or any other contract with the Contracting Authority.</p> <p>We agree that the Contracting Authority may disclose the Bidders information / documentation (submitted to the Contracting Authority during this Procurement) more widely within Government for the purpose of ensuring effective cross-Government procurement processes, including value for money and related purposes.</p>
Bidder Guidance	<p>The Bidder shall answer Yes or No</p> <p>Yes – Pass No – Fail</p>
Scoring Criteria	Mandatory Pass / Fail
Answer Type	<p>Option List</p> <p>Yes – Pass No – Fail</p>

AW3.1	<p>In the event of a Bidder successfully providing the most advantageous offer to the Contracting Authority against a procurement requirement, the Bidder is expected to provide an answer to the validation check that can be seen within Attachments section prior to the award of any Contract.</p> <p>If the Bidder fails to meet the Contracting Authority’s expectations, we reserve the right to not award the Contract to the relevant Bidder and either award to the Bidder with the second most advantageous response or run a new procurement.</p>
Bidder Guidance	<p>The Bidder is not required to complete the validation check at this stage but will be required to respond to the questions in the event of providing the most advantageous offer to the Contracting Authority’s against a procurement requirement.</p> <p>Yes – Pass No – Fail</p>
Scoring Criteria	Mandatory Pass / Fail
Answer Type	<p>Option List</p> <p>Yes – Pass No – Fail</p>

AW4.1	<p>Please confirm your acceptance of the Contract Terms that can be found within the Instructional Attachments section within this question.</p>
Bidder Guidance	<p>The Bidder shall answer Yes, No with justification or No</p> <p>Yes, we accept the terms and condition in their entirety – Pass</p> <p>No with justification – Pass. Complete the document upload attached to AW4.2 with details of what amounts to a valid justification.</p> <p>No – Fail</p>

	For absolute clarity should a bidder select ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ you are not required to respond to AW4.2, however if you select ‘No with Justification’ you will be required to complete AW4.2 in order to be considered.
Scoring Criteria	Mandatory Pass / Fail
Answer Type	Option List Yes , we accept the terms and condition in their entirety – Pass No with justification – Pass. Complete the document upload attached to AW4.2 with details of what amounts to a valid justification. No – Fail

AW4.2	Where a Bidder has answered question AW4.1 with ‘No with justification’ they must detail the justification and the proposed change to the clause. Where a bidder has responded ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ to AW4.1 you are not required to respond to this question.
Bidder Guidance	A justification for not accepting a specific clause or series of clauses from the attached Contract Terms is that the Bidder would be in breach of legal requirements or statutory regulations by complying with that clause or series of clauses (i.e. for the avoidance of doubt, being unable to comply with a clause or series of clauses because of an internal policy reason will not be considered to be a justification for a legal requirement or statutory regulation). Where the Bidder has answered question AW4.1 as "no with justification", the Bidder shall provide a Contract mark-up utilising track changes detailing the relevant clause, the proposed changes to the clause and the justification for the changes. In this case, the Bidder shall score a pass if (but only if) the Contracting Authority considers both the following requirements are satisfied: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the reasons stated as justifying the Bidder's statement that it cannot accept the Contract Terms due to legal requirements or statutory regulations are valid; and • the changes submitted do not create significant risk for the Contracting Authority and are reasonably necessary and proportionate to ensure the Bidder complies with the legal requirements and statutory regulations. <p>In the event of a Bidder answering Yes or No to Question AW4.1 and then providing a proposed mark-up, rejection of a clause or a justification for a change then the response will be a Fail. Any bidder selecting ‘No with Justification’ to AW4.1 and failing to upload an attachment to this question detailing the information above may not be considered further.</p> <p>Bidders are to note that any requested modifications to the Contracting Authority Terms and Conditions on the grounds of statutory and legal matters only, should be raised as a formal clarification during the permitted clarification period.</p>
Scoring Criteria	Mandatory Pass / Fail
Answer Type	Attachment

TECHNICAL QUESTIONNAIRE

AW6.1	Please confirm your compliance to the requirements of Section 4 Specification
Bidder Guidance	The Bidder shall answer Yes or No Yes – Pass No – Fail
Scoring Criteria	Mandatory Pass / Fail
Answer Type	Option List Yes – Pass No – Fail

AW6.2	Variable Bids The Contracting Authority shall not accept variable bids as part of this Procurement. The criteria in regard to variable bids for this Procurement is outlined below.
Bidder Guidance	The Bidder shall answer Yes or No Yes - We have provided a variable bid only – Fail No - We have chosen to only offer a main bid and have not chosen to provide an alternative bid submission – Pass
Scoring Criteria	Mandatory Pass / Fail
Answer Type	Option List Yes - We have provided a variable bid only – Fail No - We have chosen to only offer a main bid and have not chosen to provide an alternative bid submission – Pass

PROJ1.1	<u>Understanding the Project Environment</u> Demonstrate your understanding of the project environment, detailing any knowledge relevant to the project and policy/programme area, including any data sources or research relevant to the project.
Bidder guidance	As a minimum your response should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpretation of the project and what is required • How the bidder will ensure the successful delivery of this project within the working environment • Demonstration of strong understanding of the policy context and how this might influence, and be influenced by, this research project. <p>This question is limited to 4 sides of A4. Any additional content provided beyond this will not be considered or scored during the evaluation process. Responses should be submitted in Font Arial 11pt using single line spacing. Please use the Normal margin setting 2.54cm.</p>
Scoring criteria	Scoring shall be based on 0-100 scoring methodology. Maximum Mark: 25%
Answer Type	Attachment

PROJ1.2	<u>Approach / Methodology</u> Please clearly explain and give reasoning for your proposed methodology and approach to achieving the objectives and delivering the outputs highlighted in the specification.
Bidder guidance	As a minimum we require your response to contain the following information: For each method, please indicate the resources that will be utilised, outlining a clear justification as to why your chosen approach will provide the best outcome; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For methods requiring participant recruitment, please detail you approach(es) for sampling and recruitment, along with any risks; • For the secondary data analysis, please outline the data sets you plan to use, and your proposed approach for data matching and analysis. • Detail any methodological challenges envisaged and how these will be overcome. Challenges might cover issues with participant recruitment or data availability, for example. • Set out how your approach and methods meet the project objectives. • If you are suggesting a different methodology to that suggested, please make this clear and include a description of how this method will meet the aims and research questions of the project, and why this method is preferable to the method suggested in the specification. <p>Dissemination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide details of how you would propose to work with the

	<p>Contracting Authority to disseminate emerging and final findings to stimulate policy debate.</p> <p>This question is limited to 6 sides of A4. Any additional content provided beyond this will not be considered or scored during the evaluation process. Responses should be submitted in Font Arial 11pt using single line spacing. Please use the Normal margin setting 2.54cm.</p>
Scoring criteria	<p>Scoring shall be based on 0-100 scoring methodology.</p> <p>Maximum Mark: 30%</p>
Bidder response	Attachment

PROJ1.3	<p><u>Ability to deliver (resource, risk management and expertise)</u></p> <p>Please demonstrate how your skills and knowledge will ensure that you deliver the requirements necessary for a successful delivery of this project.</p> <p>This section should cover your project team expertise and project management skills.</p> <p>Please explain how you will maintain your ability to deliver these through the lifetime of the project and outline how you will mitigate any risks.</p>
Bidder guidance	<p>Bidders are asked to demonstrate their knowledge of the skills and expertise that are essential to the successful delivery of this project. Within your response, please explain how you will maintain your ability to deliver these through the lifetime of the project.</p> <p>This section should cover your project team expertise and project management skills. Please outline the job titles of the key members of your project team and demonstrate their skills and expertise essential to the delivery of this project.</p> <p>As a minimum we require your response to contain the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying the appropriate expertise that your key members would bring to this project • An indication of how each individual will contribute to the project in terms of days and responsibilities • Indicate how the project will be monitored to ensure it is delivered in terms of quality, timeliness, and cost. Detailing milestones, deliverables, and timescales, bidders are asked to identify the key risks to this project and how you would plan to mitigate against these. <p>Please attach your answer as a pdf document limited to 4 sides of A4 plus a Gantt Chart and risk register in a Word table or Excel sheet – Any additional content provided beyond this will not be considered or scored during the evaluation process. Responses should be submitted in Font Arial 11pt using single line spacing. Please use the Normal margin setting 2.54cm.</p>
Scoring criteria	<p>Scoring shall be based on 0-100 scoring methodology.</p>

	Maximum Mark: 25%
Bidder response	Attachment
PROJ1.4	Project Plan and Timescales
	Please outline your proposed project plan and timescales, ensuring the key deadlines outlined in the specification are met.
Bidder Guidance	<p>As a minimum your response should cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A detailed timetable for carrying out the work based on your proposed approach and method. This should include a breakdown of tasks and the associated time allocated to each individual for these. • Highlight key milestones and deadlines, including suggested meetings and progress reports. It is important that the NERC are kept informed of emerging findings and project progress. • A detailed delivery plan including: tasks, milestones, roles allocated to tasks and their seniority, and allocated number of days of each member of staff. This must include a plan to demonstrate that the bidder is able to the deliver the deliverables stated. • Sufficient time allocated to proof reading, quality assurance and peer review.
Scoring Criteria	Information Only
Answer Type	Attachment

COMMERCIAL QUESTIONNAIRE

AW5.1	<p>Please confirm your bid submission price for completion of all the Services as detailed in the Section 4 Specification.</p> <p>All prices shall be in £ GBP and exclusive of VAT.</p>
Bidder Guidance	<p>Bidders shall provide their bid submission price for completion of all Services as detailed in the Section 4 Specification.</p> <p>The scoring methodology for this question shall be:</p> <p>The lowest price for a response which meets the pass criteria shall score 100.</p> <p>All other bids shall be scored on a pro rata basis in relation to the lowest price. The score is then subject to a multiplier to reflect the percentage value of the price criterion.</p> <p>Where the scoring criterion is worth 50% then the 0-100 score achieved will be multiplied by 50</p> <p>In the example if a supplier scores 80 from the available 100 points this will equate to 40% by using the following calculation: Score/Total Points multiplied by 50 ($80/100 \times 50 = 40$)</p> <p>The lowest score possible is 0 even if the price submitted is more than 100% greater than the lowest price.</p> <p>The lowest price for a response which meets the pass criteria shall score 100. All other bids shall be scored on a pro rata basis in relation to the lowest price. The lowest score possible is 0.</p> <p>For example, assuming the lowest bid is £100,000.</p> <p>Bid Price £100,000 Differential to the lowest price which meets mandatory pass criteria ('Differential') 0 Score 100</p> <p>Bid price - £120,000 Differential - 20% Score - 80 Bid price - £140,000 Differential - 40% Score - 60 Bid Price - £150,000 Differential - 50% Score - 50 Bid Price - £175,000 Differential - 75% Score - 25 Bid Price - £200,000 Differential - 100% Score - 0 Bid Price - £300,000 Differential - 200% Score - 0</p>
Scoring Criteria	Maximum Marks 20%
Answer Type	Numeric

<p>AW5.2</p>	<p>Based on the Bidders AW5.1 bid submission price for completion of all the Services as detailed in the Section 4 Specification, Bidders are now required to complete the attached Excel AW5.2 Pricing Schedule document with a breakdown of all the costs that make up their final bid price.</p> <p>All prices shall be in £ GBP and exclusive of VAT.</p> <p>All costs appearing elsewhere in the Bid but not mentioned in this Pricing Schedule shall be presumed waived.</p>
<p>Bidder Guidance</p>	<p>Based on the Bidders AW5.1 bid submission price for completion of all the Services as detailed in the Section 4 Specification, Bidders are now required to complete the attached Excel AW5.2 Pricing Schedule document with a breakdown of all the costs that make up their final bid price.</p> <p>All prices shall be in £ GBP and exclusive of VAT.</p> <p>All costs appearing elsewhere in the Bid but not mentioned in this Pricing Schedule shall be presumed waived.</p> <p>The total submitted within your excel pricing schedule must equal the total price submitted in AW5.1</p>
<p>Scoring Criteria</p>	<p>For Information Only</p>
<p>Answer Type</p>	<p>Attachment</p>

<p>AW5.3</p>	<p>Please confirm your price shall remain firm and fixed for full term of the Contract. Thereafter they shall be subject to change in accordance with the terms of the contract.</p>
<p>Bidder Guidance</p>	<p>The Bidder shall answer Yes or No</p> <p>Yes – Pass No – Fail</p>
<p>Scoring Criteria</p>	<p>Mandatory Pass / Fail</p>
<p>Answer Type</p>	<p>Option List</p> <p>Yes – Pass No - Fail</p>

AW5.4	<p><u>Maximum Budget</u></p> <p>As stated within the tender documents, the maximum budget for this requirement will be £85,000.00 ex VAT.</p> <p>Please confirm that your final price submitted within AW5.2 will fall within this budget.</p>
Bidder Guidance	<p>The Bidder shall answer Yes or No</p> <p>Yes – Pass No – Fail</p>
Scoring Criteria	Mandatory Pass / Fail
Answer Type	<p>Option List</p> <p>Yes – Pass No – Fail</p>