



Homes for Net Zero (prj_1518)

Invitation to Tender - Questions and Answers

	Question	Answer
1	Would it be possible to extend the deadline by two weeks (to 28/07)? We are concerned about the timeframes to bid, particularly given the value of this opportunity. Thank you.	No, the deadline for submissions is set.
2	What accuracy of sensor data would be acceptable for this study?	The accuracy of sensors should be sufficient to answer the research questions outlined in the ITT.
3	Do all subcontractors need to be known at point of tender? Or is it acceptable that it is known that a part of the work will be sub contracted?	All organisations involved with the delivery of the project should be detailed in the bid. If these are not known, please give reasons and outline plans and timelines for confirming the sub-contractors. More robust/concrete plans will be viewed as an indication of greater readiness to proceed with the project.
4	Question: What is the expectation of publication of data following completion of both Phase 1 and Phase 2?	All non-personal data will be published in an anonymised form on the UK Data Archive or other publicly accessible platform unless there are other restrictions in place such as commercially confidential data.
5	Question: (ITT pg 15) The consumer research component is expressed as 'qualitative' in the ITT. Can you confirm if bidders can propose alternative methodologies to assessing consumer preferences and usage?	The ITT outlines that we require both qualitative and quantitative data, this includes aspects of social research. Bidders can propose the methodology they think will best deliver the project outputs as long as it is fully justified and all expected timelines and objectives are met.
6	Question: on pg 19/20 (Work package 2) Can you please advise if bidders are required to match the indicative sample of the building archetype groupings suggested or can the bidders propose a different sampling group?	Bidders should aim to match the sample of those factors stated (House type, Tenure, Wall type, Heating system) within the range provided.
7	Question: on pg 19/20 (Work package 2): Are the building archetype groupings suggested meant to be representative of the UK's housing stock?	No, the sample should meet the requirements of the project which is intended to be skewed to certain factors as outlined in the ITT.
8	Question: on pg 19/20 (Work package 2): Was there a particular reason for underrepresenting certain building types such as detached houses or bungalows?	The sample has been chosen to focus on factors that are recognised to be a particular evidence gap and policy need. Owner-occupier, solid walled homes with gas combi boilers. A sample of flats are also included



		to allow for specific research questions to be answered.
9	Question: on pg 19/20 (Work package 2) Are you expecting that the different sampling groups e.g. related to building archetypes and region be decided at this bidding stage or can they be determined during project delivery?	Bidders should provide an indication of and justification for the sample they will aim to recruit but we recognise that this may vary slightly during the project.
10	Question: Pg 22 – 25 (work package 4): Are alternative methods to device loads other than submetering acceptable for the project?	Bidders should outline and justify the method they think will best answer the research questions and deliver the project outputs.
11	Question: Pg 22 (Work Package 4) SAP is listed as the methodology calculation but for existing buildings rdSAP is the standard used. Is the intention for a full SAP calculation or will an rdSAP calculation suffice?	The intention is to conduct a full SAP assessment with the latest version of the methodology.
12	Question: Pg25 (Work Package 4) For the proposed test groups (related to the interventions and sizes), can you advise if these are set or can they be revised?	The size of the test groups provided are indicative. Bidders should outline and justify what they think the test groups should be to best answer the research questions and deliver the project outputs.
13	Question: Sample sizes – both for the main data gathering exercise and any consumer research, are bidders free to propose different sampling options?	Bidders should outline and justify the method they think will best answer the research questions and deliver the project outputs.
14	Question: Are there specific consumer demographics you are expecting to be included aside from what is already mentioned in the ITT (i.e. awareness to net zero)	No.
15	Question: Could you elaborate more than what is in the ITT on the expectations related to the roadmap and this deliverable?	Details of the roadmapping work package are found on pg 26-27 as well as in the research questions on pg15-16 and the Background and Objectives of the project. The aim of the roadmaps are to provide bespoke, household specific guidance to consumers that enable them to engage with the journey to converting their home to be Net Zero ready. To develop a method that removes some of the known barriers to this journey and assess the effectiveness of this approach.
16	Question: Pg 27 (Work package 6) Regarding the research question about the trial homes in comparison to the wider population of	No, the sample should meet the requirements of the project which is



	England and Wales, is the aim of this research to recruit as representative a sample as possible? or would a less representative sample be acceptable if the trial and counterfactual samples are compared to the wider population during the data analysis stage?	intended to be skewed to certain factors as outlined in the ITT (pg 19-20).
17	Question: (Monitoring and Installation) Can you please confirm that all monitoring equipment and installation costs will be funded by the project?	Yes, though within the proposed measures package called "Consumer Contributions" consumers are able to fund additional measures, specifically double glazing and energy efficient doors.
18	Question: Pg 22 – 25 (work package 4): What large electricity load devices are expected to be sub-metered?	Bidders should propose the level of sub-metering they think will best answer the research questions and deliver the project outputs. Sub-metering could include but not limited to electric ovens, electric showers, electric vehicle charge points, washing machines, tumble driers.
19	Question: Pg 22 – 25 (work package 4): Sub metering – can you clarify if sub metering is for electric meters or gas too?	Bidders should propose the level of sub-metering they think will best answer the research questions and deliver the project outputs. Sub-metering is expected to be limited to electric devices.
20	Question: Have you considered the costs required to deliver the surveys, monitoring and interventions during the proposed timelines in ITT (page 35) and associated payment milestones? The proposed payment milestones may be a challenge here, in terms of covering the costs for the required hardware and supply chain.	Bidders can propose alternative or additional payment milestones, however the total maximum budget cannot be exceeded in the total price offered.
21	Question: The Payment milestones proposed don't reflect the costs outgoing to deliver the proposed project such as the monitoring needs and interventions. Will The Department accept revised milestones to cover the upfront costs of monitoring equipment, data monitoring development and installation of measures?	Bidders can propose alternative or additional payment milestones, however the total maximum budget cannot be exceeded in the total price offered (including during the life of the project).
22	Question: Please can you provide a definition of partners and sub contractors for this contract with any particular differentiation in cost/ price requirements?	The difference is that partners are usually driving towards the same/similar goals within the consortium and have benefits that exceed providing a service for a fee. It is not related to cost/price.



23	Question: Is there a cap on % of budget allocated to sub-contractors?	No, however if more than 25% of the work is subcontracted, you will need to justify why this is the case.
24	Question: is there an expected limitation on how much of budget should be sub-contracted?	No however if more than 25% of the work is subcontracted, you will need to justify why this is the case.
25	Question: In terms of Phase 2 costs, are these estimates at this stage?	Yes, all information in regards to phase 2 are preliminary, subject to change and dependant on future funding being agreed.
26	Question: In terms of Phase 2 costs, can these be amended in future (whilst remaining in budget)?	Yes, we expect that costs for phase 2 will be estimates at this stage and can be revised if and when phase 2 is agreed.
27	Question: Is Phase 2 expected to use the same homes from Phase 1?	Yes.
28	Does the budget cover the cost and installation of the improvement measures needed for the project?	Yes, though within the proposed measures package called "Consumer Contributions" consumers are able to fund additional measures, specifically double glazing and energy efficient doors.
29	We believe the minimum sample size of 1,000 households is not sufficient to effectively answer the range of outcomes and research questions outlined in the ITT. Is there scope to increase the number of households needed for the evaluation? And if so, would you be open to making the following adjustments; A) Given that an increased number of households would have implications on budget, timelines of recruitment and intervention implementation, among other factors, are you flexible around any of these elements? B) Alternatively, would you be open to a bidder focusing on a subset of the outcomes/questions and if so, are there any that are of particular importance/interest?	No, at this stage the budget, timeline and sample size are all set for phase 1.
30	Can you provide more detail on the proposed timeline for deployment of the monitoring devices and interventions, and the proposed data collection period? A preliminary findings report due by 30 June 2024, and detailed monitoring deployment not due to end until May 2024 do not seem to be compatible.	It is estimated that basic monitoring equipment for all 100 homes could be installed and actively monitoring by end of March 2024 and continue to be monitored for the duration of the project subject to whether phase 2 goes ahead. Detailed monitoring and interventions are estimated to be fully installed by end of April 2024. The preliminary findings report will report on the initial set up of the project, i.e. recruitment, initial surveys, monitoring and



		measure installation, road-mapping as well as the baseline energy consumption and any other data not reliant on the ongoing monitoring.
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