



## Quotation Request

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) invites you to submit a quotation for the goods / services as outlined below.

CS21056 Securing the footprint of UK soils for future generations

### **Requirement**

#### **Expertise to inform research priority: Securing the footprint of UK soils for future generations**

UKRI NERC is seeking expert input on environmental science, environmental economics and/or related interdisciplinary research to provide short-term research and innovation focussed external expertise to ensure that robust and compelling science is included where the purpose and aim is known and understood, to inform research priorities.

#### **Catalyst Scope**

##### *Securing the footprint of UK soils for future generations*

The footprint of soil on society is deep and pervasive, providing important roles in sustaining food and fibre production, water regulation, infrastructure support, pollution management, social and cultural roles, and climate mitigation. How we leave our footprint in the soil is determined by the pillars of economic, environmental, and social sustainability. To deliver soils that are managed to provide our needs, and of sufficient resilience to deliver future generational needs, requires the integration of these externalities. This gives soil immense beneficial value in delivering social, cultural and economic functions and services, particularly at the local level, but this localised footprint needs to be understood and managed to prevent the global export of soil damage. Through an interdisciplinary lens, the incorporation of cultural, economic, environmental, technological, biotechnological and engineering biology will provide users the necessary understanding of the functions required from soil and its values, and the tools to evaluate, manage, monitor and generate restored or artificial soil, to give it the capability to deliver these functions.

#### **Provision of service**

##### Requirements

As an expert in environmental science, environmental economics and/or related interdisciplinary research you will critically review and revise the existing case for a potential new research programme *Securing the footprint of UK soils for future generations*, which must identify key research questions where investment could make a step change in this area. Specifically, the catalyst will describe and provide evidence areas against the following Objectives:

1. Ensure the economic and strategic case for a new research programme is robust and captures the current research and innovation landscape:
  - a) Identify the wider economic value of UK soils e.g. bringing soils in line with economic valuations of clean air or water, based on a review of peer-reviewed and grey literature and/or expert assessment;



- b) Strengthen alignment of the case to key strategic goals of the UK and devolved governments including (but not restricted to): Net zero carbon, Net environmental gain, biodiversity, place/levelling up agenda;
  2. Articulate key research and innovation advances which the new programme will be expected to deliver, including those that are emerging from the [Signals in the Soil](https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20200322144724/https://www.ukri.org/news/saving-our-soils-uk-us-collaborate-to-preserve-vital-resource/) (<https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20200322144724/https://www.ukri.org/news/saving-our-soils-uk-us-collaborate-to-preserve-vital-resource/>) and [Soil Security](https://soilsecurity.org/) (<https://soilsecurity.org/>) Programmes that will effect transformative change in this area. These could include:
    - a) Identifying the multidisciplinary opportunity and current capability, which must include disciplines beyond environment science as outlined in the catalyst scope;
    - b) Identifying new technological requirements, such as from the Signals in the Soil programme, that can deliver the programme vision;
  3. Develop a clear programme vision that brings together different programme elements as a cohesive strategic programme of research;
  4. Identify specific programme deliverables and articulates how expected programme outputs and outcomes will help secure footprint of UK soils for future generations.

Revisions should be made with the awareness of, and informed by, the HM Treasury's Five Case Model outlined in [The Green Book](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-green-book-appraisal-and-evaluation-in-central-government/the-green-book-2020), (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-green-book-appraisal-and-evaluation-in-central-government/the-green-book-2020>) which is a framework for developing proposals in a holistic way that optimises the social / public value produced by the use of public resources (summarised in the figure below). Special attention should be paid to the Strategic and Economic case.

### Outputs

- Flash reports via email to NERC of any progress and directions taken;
- Regular (at least fortnightly) verbal update to NERC (email update sufficient if schedules do not allow for verbal update) to identify progress and challenges;
- Interim revised case detailing the objectives above (to be submitted by latest end-April 2021);
- Final revised case detailing the objectives above (to be submitted by latest end-May 2021).

### Key information

- Project start date 01/03/21
- Project end date 28/05/21
- Must have access to Microsoft software and Zoom/MS Teams. Office space and equipment will not be provided.
- Must attend a start-up video conference meeting w/c 01/03/21

### Application information and assessment criteria

Please provide a fixed fee quotation and return your proposal to [professionalservices@uksbs.co.uk](mailto:professionalservices@uksbs.co.uk) by 12:00 noon on 22/02/21. The proposal is to be



limited to 3 sides of A4, any additional content provided beyond this will not be considered.

This is an open competition and the successful candidate will be selected by UKRI based on the strength of your written application. Bids will be reviewed considering the following criteria:

### **Assessment criteria**

#### Proposed approach

- (i) Are suggested approaches clearly defined and appropriate?
- (ii) Does the proposed approach show innovation in thought?
- (iii) Are suggested approaches able to be completed in the timeframe?
- (iv) Is the community engagement plan, if present, realistic?

#### Track record

- (v) Is the level of contribution to knowledge of a high standard?
- (vi) Is contribution to the wider research community sufficiently great?
- (vii) Does the applicant demonstrate a high contribution to broader society?

The winning bidder will be notified of the outcome within one week of the closing date. Interviews will not be conducted. UKRI will monitor application and award data from an EDI (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion) perspective to ensure equity of process. No feedback will be provided.

### **Timeline**

- This agreement shall run from the period March 2021 to May 2021;
- A start-up video conference meeting is scheduled for early March 2021;
- Delivery of an interim revised case will be due by late April 2021;
- Delivery of the revised case is to be provided by the end of May 2021.

### **Price**

<b>Detail of pricing Breakdown</b>	<b>Price (EX VAT)</b>
Maximum funding available is £20k (excluding VAT)  You must provide a breakdown of costs as follows:  Staff cost  Total cost (excl. VAT)  <b>Payment Schedule</b>  80% of the total award will be payable to the supplier within 30 days following completion of Objectives 1. The remaining 20% will be held until	£



the delivery of the final revised case and approval that the outlined specifications have been met.	
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**Validity Period**

This quotation is valid for 60 days.

**Terms and Conditions**

The quotation is subject to UKRI Precedent Supplies Services Terms and Conditions. By submitting a proposal, you are confirming your acceptance of these terms and conditions.

**Clarification Questions and return of quotation**

The latest clarification questions shall be received is 12/02/21 at 14:00h.

Answers to all clarification questions will be published on Contract Finder by 15/02/21

All questions and correspondence regarding this Quotation request should be directed to UK Shared Business Services Ltd (UK SBS) via e-mail to [professionalservices@uksbs.co.uk](mailto:professionalservices@uksbs.co.uk).

Please include CS21056 in the title of all correspondence.

Any quotations returned directly or copied into the buyer and not via [professionalservices@uksbs.co.uk](mailto:professionalservices@uksbs.co.uk) will be counted as non-compliant and will not be counted.

UK Shared Business Services Ltd for and on behalf of:

UK Research and Innovation

**Please return your quotation by 12.00h 22/02/21**