PF9

**INVITATION TO TENDER FOR: Modelling the impact of geological heterogeneity on pressure connectivity in the Bunter Sandstone Fm in response to sustained CO2 injection**

Tender Reference Number: TRN493-11-2023

Deadline for Tender Responses: **13:00 GMT Friday 24 November 2023**

North Sea Transition Authority is a business name of the Oil and Gas Authority.  Oil and Gas Authority is a limited company registered in England and Wales with registered number 09666504 and VAT registered number 249433979. Our registered office is Sanctuary Buildings, Lower Ground Floor, 20 Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT.

**North Sea Transition Authority**

Date: 08 November 2023

The North Sea Transition Authority (“NSTA”) wishes to commission a project: **“Modelling the impact of geological heterogeneity on pressure connectivity in the Bunter Sandstone Fm in response to sustained CO2 injection”**

Enclosed are the following sections:

* Section 1 (page 3) Instructions on tendering procedures
* Section 2 (page 7) Specification of requirements
* Section 3 (page 14) Further information on tendering procedure
* Section 4 (page 17) Declarations and information to be provided;

Statement of Non-Collusion

Form of Tender

Conflict of Interest

Questions for tenderers

* Annex A: Pricing schedule

Please register your interest in submitting a tender for this project by emailing hazel.macleod@nstauthority.co.uk . This will ensure you receive immediate notification of updates to the ITT process or answers to questions raised by potential bidders.

Please read the instructions on the tendering procedures carefully since failure to comply with them may invalidate your tender. Your tender must be returned before the deadline time and date (**Friday 24 November 2023)** clearly marked as “TENDER” including the tender reference Number e.g. TRN 493-11-2023.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely,

David Wilson

Head of Procurement

Email: david.wilson@nstauthority.co.uk

**Section 1**

**Instructions and Information on Tendering Procedures**

**Invitation to Tender for:** Modelling the impact of geological heterogeneity on pressure connectivity in the Bunter Sandstone Fm in response to sustained CO2 injection

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# Indicative Timetable

The anticipated timetable for this tender exercise is as follows. The NSTA reserves the right to vary this timetable. Any variations will be published on contracts finder or circulated to all organisations who have registered an interest in notifications.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Tender Timeline** | **Date – INDICATIVE ONLY** |
| Advert and full invitation to tender issued | Wednesday 8 November 2023 |
| Deadline for questions relating to the tender | 12 noon, Friday 17 November 2023 |
| Responses to questions published  | Monday 20 November 2023 |
| Deadline for receipt of tender | Friday 24 November 2023, 13:00 GMT |
| Invite suppliers for bid clarification (if needed) | Week Commencing 4 December 2023 |
| All suppliers alerted of outcome | Week Commencing 11 December 2023 |
| Contract start date | Week Commencing 18 December 2023 |

The contract is to be for the period from date of contract award until 31 March 2024 unless terminated or extended by the Authority in accordance with the terms of the contract.

# Procedure for Submitting Tenders

The maximum page limit for tenders is **10** pages (excluding declarations and CVs).

Please email your proposal clearly marked as “TENDER” and include the TRN reference number e.g. TRN493-11-2023 in the subject header **before** the deadline of **(13:00 GMT Friday 24 November)** to Hazel MacLeod at the following address:

Hazel.Macleod@nstauthority.co.uk

For questions regarding the procurement process please contact Hazel.Macleod@nstauthority.co.uk

Tenders will be received up to the time and date stated. Please ensure that your tender is delivered not later than the appointed time on the appointed date. The Authority does not undertake to consider tenders received after that time. The Authority requires tenders to remain valid for a period indicated in the specification of requirements.

The NSTA shall have the right to disqualify you from the procurement if you fail to fully complete your response, or do not return all of the fully completed documentation and declarations requested in this ITT. The NSTA shall also have the right to disqualify you if it later becomes aware of any omission or misrepresentation in your response to any question within this invitation to tender. If you require further information concerning the tender process, or the nature of the proposed email Hazel.Macleod@nstauthority.co.uk All questions should be submitted by **12noon Friday 17 November 2023**; questions submitted after this date may not be answered. Should questions arise during the tendering period, which in our judgement are of material significance, we will publish these questions with our formal reply by the end of **Monday 20 November 2023** on Contracts Finder. All contractors should then take that reply into consideration when preparing their own bids, and we will evaluate bids on the assumption that they have done so.

You will not be entitled to claim from the Authority any costs or expenses that you may incur in preparing your tender whether or not your tender is successful.

# Conflict of Interest

The NSTA standard terms and conditions of contract include reference to conflict of interest and require contractors to declare any potential conflict of interest to the Head of Procurement.

For research and analysis, conflict of interest is defined the presence of an interest or involvement of the contractor, subcontractor (or consortium member) which could affect the actual or perceived impartiality of the research or analysis.

Where there may be a potential conflict of interest, it is suggested that the consortia or organisation designs a working arrangements such that the findings cannot be influenced (or perceived to be influenced) by the organisation which is the owner of a potential conflict of interest. For example, consideration should be given to the different roles which organisations play in the research or analysis, and how these can be structured to ensue maintain an impartial approach to the project is maintained.

The process by which this is managed in the procurement process is as follows:

1. **During the bidding process, organisations may contact the NSTA to discuss whether or not their proposed arrangement is likely to yield a conflict of interest.** Any organisation thinking of submitting a bid, should share their contact details with the staff member responsible for this procurement, to ensure they receive an update when any responses to questions are published.
2. **Contractors are asked to sign and return Declaration 3 to indicate whether or not any conflict of interest may be, or be perceived to be, an issue.** If this is the case, the contractor or consortium should give a full account of the actions or processes that it will use to ensure that conflict of interest is avoided. In any statement of mitigating actions, contractors are expected to outline how they propose to achieve a robust, impartial and credible approach to the research.
3. **When tenders are scored, this declaration will be subject to a pass/fail score**, according to whether, on the basis of the information in the proposal and declaration, there remains a conflict of interest which may affect the impartiality of the research.

Failure to declare or avoid conflict of interest at this or a later stage may result in exclusion from the procurement competition, or in the NSTA exercising its right to terminate any contract awarded.

# Evaluation of Responses

The tender process will be conducted to ensure that bids are evaluated fairly and transparently, in accordance with agreed assessment criteria. Further details are provided in the specification.

# Terms and Conditions applying to this Invitation to Tender

The Terms and Conditions published with this invitation to tender on Contracts Finder will apply to this contract.

These can be downloaded from Contracts Finder.

# Further Instructions to Contractors

The Authority reserves the right to amend the enclosed tender documents at any time prior to the deadline for receipt of tenders. Any such amendment will be numbered, dated and issued by **Monday 20 November 2023.** Where amendments are significant, the Authority may at its discretion extend the deadline for receipt of tenders.

The NSTA reserves the right to withdraw this contract opportunity without notice and will not be liable for any costs incurred by contractors during any stage of the process. Contractors should also note that, in the event a tender is considered to be fundamentally unacceptable on a key issue, regardless of its other merits, that tender may be rejected. By issuing this invitation the Authority is not bound in any way and does not have to accept the lowest or any tender and reserves the right to accept a portion of any tender unless the tenderer expressly stipulates otherwise in their tender.

# Checklist of Documents to be Returned

* Proposal (maximum **10** pages)
* Annex A – pricing schedule
* Declaration 1: Statement of non-collusion
* Declaration 2: Form of Tender
* Declaration 3: Conflict of Interest

**Section 2**

**Specification of Requirements**

**Invitation to Tender for:** Modelling the impact of geological heterogeneity on pressure connectivity in the Bunter Sandstone Fm in response to sustained CO2 injection

**Tender Reference Number:** TRN493-11-2023

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# Introduction and summary of requirements

To help meet the UKs 2050 net zero target, the Government has committed to subsurface storage of up to 30 million tonnes of CO2 per year by 2030.  In May 2023, the NSTA concluded the first offshore CO2 storage round which resulted in 21 licences being awarded across the UKCS. Of these, 14 licences were awarded in the Southern North Sea basin with proposed injection into both depleted gas fields and the Bunter Sandstone Formation (BSF) saline aquifer.

Reservoir pressure is a key input in the calculation of CO2 storage volumes and injection rates into a saline aquifer. Pressure will increase in response to sustained injection but the way this pressure moves and distributes in the subsurface is a function of geological heterogeneity and hydraulic connectivity of the aquifer.

The BSF has been penetrated by hundreds of wells drilling to the deeper, hydrocarbon bearing Rotliegendes interval. However, there has been relatively little commercial need to map the geological detail required to understand how the aquifer will respond to CO2 injection. From core and seismic based studies, there is identified heterogeneity in the Bunter (e.g. facies and cementation) which could impact whether or not (and over what timescale) the pressure increase from CO2 injection might be observed across the aquifer and by extension, impact other injection projects.

The NSTA has identified a need to better understand the geological interdependencies that could impact storage in large saline aquifers in terms of injectivity and overall capacity. As such, we are seeking to engage an appropriately skilled and experienced third party to undertake geological modelling that will help to identify and test the sensitivity of the Bunter Sandstone Formation pressure state to key geological variables.

# Background

The NSTA launched the UK’s first CO2 storage licensing round in June 2022 and successfully awarded 21 licences around the UKCS in May 2023.  There is significant activity planned as part of the appraisal and execution of these licences with the goal of achieving CO2 injection and supporting Net Zero by 2050. In support of this activity, the NSTA has an obligation to ensure that there is no significant risk of leakage from a CO2 store prior to permitting. To this end, modelling and testing the behaviours, physical constraints and dependencies of these stores is important.

Sustained injection of CO2 into the subsurface will result in a formation pressure increase with the potential to impact injection rates, storage volumes and containment risk. The spatial and temporal scale of this impact is dependent on hydraulic connectivity within the aquifer as a function of physical structure, depositional facies (i.e. net to gross) and formation quality (i.e. porosity/permeability; diagenesis).

# Aims and Objectives

The project aims to understand subsurface inter-dependencies of proposed CO2 storage sites in the Southern North Sea Bunter Sandstone Formation (BSF).

Key questions that this work should seek to answer include (but are not limited to):

* What are the most (and least) important geological variables controlling pressure communication within the BSF?
* Will injection of CO2 at one storage site, limit the potential injection or storage capacity of CO2 at another storage site? How does the rate of injection affect this and over what timescale are changes seen?
* What is the influence of seabed and onshore exposure of the BSF on pressure connectivity within the aquifer?

# Methodology

Applicants are invited to recommend their preferred/recommended approach to answering the outlined objectives. Applicants are also encouraged to supplement the aims and objectives outlined above with additional work they deem pertinent to achieving the overall objective.

The NSTA encourages applicants to consider a combined 1D/3D modelling approach with outputs being universally accessible (e.g. ASCII file format) with the possibility to undertake future phases of further work.

The project requires specialist input with demonstrated experience in regional pressure modelling. The project does not require specific experience of CO2 storage (or work involving existing CO2 storage licences) but would benefit from an in-depth understanding of the storage objectives of the UK Government (i.e. timing, volumes, targets).

Key variables should include but not be limited to:

* Facies e.g. testing the impact of Bunter facies heterogeneity
* Formation quality e.g. varying the porosity and permeability of sands
* Structural connectivity based on transmissibility of first and second order faults and seabed/onshore exposure

# Outputs Required

* As a minimum, output from a model should be delivered as ASCII (or similarly software independent file format) grids containing the spatial and temporal results in depth/time increments to be agreed as appropriate.
* A written report (with accompanying summary slides and/or appendix) which details the objectives, methodology and assumptions/scenarios as well as detailed results and conclusions including explanation of main dependencies.

# Ownership and Publication

It is expected that the deliverable will consist of original work generated by the contractor. Ownership of all original information, reports, data, etc generated through work carried out on the project will reside with the NSTA. The NSTA intends to publish the results of the project and therefore requires evidence that permission for publication by the NSTA is secured by the contractor for any and all third-party materials that may be included in the deliverable. For third-party materials used where permission to publish is not required, evidence of this status must be provided.

# Quality Assurance

Tender submissions should include evidence of how the contractor intends to answer the questions posed and include specific reference to their experience and knowledge which will help to optimise the approach to identifying key geological interdependencies

# Timetable

The project must be completed, delivered and invoiced on or before the **31 March 2024**.  This date is fixed.  Tender submissions should ensure they provide evidence for how the proposed scope will be resourced and fulfilled in the available time and budget.  The NSTA’s preference is that an Agile project management approach is taken and would therefore expect to see a project timeline that includes biweekly updates and deliveries (where appropriate) to the NSTA.

# Challenges

* The project has a relatively short timeframe; a fixed budget and delivery date; and specific, critical deliverables. A successful tender is likely to be able to demonstrate a track record of delivery of projects under similar conditions. Additionally, a successful tender will clearly demonstrate how the project will be conducted and managed to ensure that the offered scope will be achieved. An Agile approach is preferred by the OGA.
* It is likely that engagement with experienced third parties (regulators, academia and industry) will be required to fulfil the project scope. A successful tender is likely to be able to demonstrate that they can achieve this through, for example, accessing an existing network of relevant contacts.
* There is likely more accessible information than can be accommodated by the project timeline and budget. A successful tender is likely to be able to demonstrate how the critical information and resources will be identified to ensure the breadth of the scope is achieved.

#  Working Arrangements

The successful contractor will be expected to identify one named point of contract through whom all enquiries can be filtered. An NSTA project manager will be assigned to the project and will be the central point of contact.

#  Skills and experience

The NSTA would like you to demonstrate that you have the experience and capabilities to undertake the project. Your tender response should include a summary of each proposed team members experience and capabilities.

 Contractors should propose named members of the project team and include the tasks and responsibilities of each team member. This should be clearly linked to the work programme, indicating the grade/ seniority of staff and number of days allocated to specific tasks.

Contractors should identify the individual(s) who will be responsible for managing the project.

#  Consortium Bids

In the case of a consortium tender, only one submission covering all of the partners is required but consortia are advised to make clear the proposed role that each partner will play in performing the contract as per the requirements of the technical specification. We expect the bidder to indicate who in the consortium will be the lead contact for this project, and the organisation and governance associated with the consortia.

Contractors must provide details as to how they will manage any sub-contractors and what percentage of the tendered activity (in terms of monetary value) will be sub-contracted.

If a consortium is not proposing to form a corporate entity, full details of alternative proposed arrangements should be provided in the Annex. However, please note the NSTA reserves the right to require a successful consortium to form a single legal entity in accordance with Regulation 28 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2006.

The NSTA recognises that arrangements in relation to consortia may (within limits) be subject to future change. Potential Providers should therefore respond in the light of the arrangements as currently envisaged. Potential Providers are reminded that any future proposed change in relation to consortia must be notified to the NSTA so that it can make a further assessment by applying the selection criteria to the new information provided.

#  Budget

The anticipated budget for this project is £75,000 - £130,000 including VAT.

Contractors should provide a full and detailed breakdown of costs (including options where appropriate). This should include staff (and day rate) allocated to specific tasks.

Cost will be a criterion against which bids which will be assessed.

Payments will be linked to delivery of key milestones. The indicative milestones and phasing of payments is as follows: delivery of interim results (via pdf and grids) and delivery of final pdf report with integrated feedback. Please advise in your tender response if this affects your usual payment processes.

In submitting full tenders, contractors confirm in writing that the price offered will be held for a minimum of 60 calendar days from the date of submission. Any payment conditions applicable to the prime contractor must also be replicated with sub-contractors.

The Authority aims to pay all correctly submitted invoices as soon as possible with a target of 10 days from the date of receipt and within 30 days at the latest in line with standard terms and conditions of contract.

#  Evaluation of Tenders

Contractors are invited to submit full tenders of no more than **10** pages, excluding declarations and CVs. Tenders will be evaluated by at least two NSTA staff and approved by the Head of Procurement and a Director.

The NSTA will select the bidder that scores highest against the criteria and weighting listed below:

* **Conflict of interest:** pass/fail. See page 5 of the ITT for further information

**EVALUATION CRITERIA AND SCORING METHODOLOGY**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Criterion | Description | Weighting |
| 01 | Relevance of proposed scope and methodology to the project aims and deliverables.  Evidence of understanding will be treated favourably e.g. an example of previous work pertinent to the delivery of this project is valuable.  | 40% |
| 02 | Demonstration of experience and ability to deliver proposed scope and methodology.  For example, evidence of a relevant track record or appropriate reputation.  | 25% |
| 03 | Robust project management and delivery including NSTA communication plan.  It is expected that provision will be made to iterate over the deliverables with the NSTA at appropriate intervals.  It is suggested that these should be no less than every two weeks but may be more frequent.  | 25%  |
| 04 | Cost  | 10%  |
|  | 100% |

**Scoring Method**

Tenders will be scored against each of the criteria above, according to the extent to which they meet the requirements of the tender. The meaning of each score is outlined in the table below.

The total score will be calculated by applying the weighting set against each criterion, outlined above; the maximum number of marks possible will be 100. Should any contractor score 1 in any of the criteria, they will be excluded from the tender competition.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Score** | **Description** |
| 1 | Not Satisfactory: Proposal contains significant shortcomings and does not meet the required standard |
| 2 | Partially Satisfactory: Proposal partially meets the required standard, with one or more moderate weaknesses or gaps  |
| 3 | Satisfactory: Proposal mostly meets the required standard, with one or more minor weaknesses or gaps. |
| 4 | Good: Proposal meets the required standard, with moderate levels of assurance |
| 5 | Excellent: Proposal fully meets the required standard with high levels of assurance |

**Scoring for Pricing Evaluation**

The scoring for the Cost criteria in the evaluation table above will be based on a ranking system within which a maximum of 5 marks is possible:

Lowest priced bid receives **5** marks

2nd lowest priced bid receives **4** marks

3rd lowest priced bid receives **3** marks

4th lowest priced bid receives **2** marks

5th lowest priced bid receives **1** mark

All other bids receive **0** marks

**Structure of Tenders**

Contractors are strongly advised to structure their tender submissions to cover each of the criteria above. Complete the price schedule attached at Annex A, specifying the daily rates (ex-VAT) you will charge for each level of your staff.

**Bid Clarification**

The NSTA reserves the right to award the contract based on applicants’ written evaluation only if one candidate emerges from the evaluation stage as significantly stronger than the others.

The NSTA may invite all suppliers for bid clarification if they feel there is a requirement.

**Feedback**

Feedback will be given in the unsuccessful letters or emails if requested.

**Section 3**

**Further Information on Tender Procedure**

**Invitation to Tender for:** Modelling the impact of geological heterogeneity on pressure connectivity in the Bunter Sandstone Fm in response to sustained CO2 injection

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# Definitions

Please note that references to the "Authority" throughout these documents mean The Chief Executive of the North Sea Transition Authority acting through his/her representatives in the NSTA.

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“FOIA”) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (“EIR”) apply to the Authority. You should be aware of the Authority’s obligations and responsibilities under FOIA or EIR to disclose, on written request, recorded information held by the Authority. Information provided in connection with this procurement exercise, or with any contract that may be awarded as a result of this exercise, may therefore have to be disclosed by the Authority in response to such a request, unless the Authority decides that one of the statutory exemptions under the FOIA or the exceptions in the EIR applies. If you wish to designate information supplied as part of this response as confidential, of if you believe that its disclosure would be prejudicial to any person’s commercial interests, you must provide clear and specific detail as to the precise information involved and explain (in broad terms) what harm may result from disclosure if a request is received, and the time period applicable to that sensitivity. Such designation alone may not prevent disclosure if in the Authority’s reasonable opinion publication is required by applicable legislation or Government policy or where disclosure is required by the Information Commissioner or the First-tier Tribunal (Information Rights).

Additionally, the Government’s transparency agenda requires that tender documents (including ITTs such as this) are published on a designated, publicly searchable web site. The same applies to other tender documents issued by the Authority (including the original advertisement and the pre-qualification questionnaire (if used)), and any contract entered into by the Authority with its preferred supplier once the procurement is complete. By submitting a tender you agree that your participation in this procurement may be made public. The answers you give in this response will not be published on the transparency web site (but may fall to be disclosed under FOIA or EIR (see above)). Where tender documents issued by the Authority or contracts with its suppliers fall to be disclosed the Authority will redact them as it thinks necessary, having regard (inter alia) to the exemptions/exceptions in the FOIA or EIR.

# Data security

The successful tenderer must comply with the Data Protection Act (DPA) 1998 and any information collected, processed and transferred on behalf of the NSTA, and in particular personal information, must be held and transferred securely**. Contractors must provide assurances of compliance with the DPA and set out in their proposals details of the practices and systems they have in place for handling data securely including transmission between the field and head office and then to the NSTA**. Contractors will have responsibility for ensuring that they and any subcontractor who processes or handles information on behalf of the NSTA is conducted securely. The sorts of issues which must be addressed satisfactorily and described in contractors’ submissions include:

* procedures for storing both physical and system data;
* data back-up procedures;
* procedures for the destruction of physical and system data;
* how data is protected;
* data encryption software used;
* use of laptops and electronic removable media;
* details of person/s responsible for data security;
* policies for unauthorised staff access or misuse of confidential/personal data;
* policies for staff awareness and training of DPA;
* physical security of premises.
* How research respondents will be made aware of all potential uses of their data.

# Non-Collusion

No tender will be considered for acceptance if the contractor has indulged or attempted to indulge in any corrupt practice or canvassed the tender with an officer of the NSTA. Section 4 contains a "Statement of non-collusion" (declaration 1); any breach of the undertakings covered under items 1 - 3 inclusive will invalidate your tender. If a contractor has indulged or attempted to indulge in such practices and the tender is accepted, then grounds shall exist for the termination of the contract and the claiming damages from the successful contractors. You must not:

* Tell anyone else what your tender price is or will be, before the time limit for delivery of tenders.
* Try to obtain any information about anyone else's tender or proposed tender before the time limit for delivery of tenders.
* Make any arrangements with another organisation about whether or not they should tender, or about their or your tender price.

Offering an inducement of any kind in relation to obtaining this or any other contract with the Authority will disqualify your tender from being considered and may constitute a criminal offence.

**Section 4**

**Declarations to be submitted by the Tenderer**

**Invitation to Tender for:** Modelling the impact of geological heterogeneity on pressure connectivity in the Bunter Sandstone Fm in response to sustained CO2 injection

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# Declaration 1: Statement of non-collusion

To: The North Sea Transition Authority

1. We recognise that the essence of competitive tendering is that the Authority will receive a bona fide competitive tender from all persons tendering. We therefore certify that this is a bona fide tender and that we have not fixed or adjusted the amount of the tender or our rates and prices included therein by or in accordance with any agreement or arrangement with any other person.

2. We also certify that we have not done and undertake not to do at any time before the hour and date specified for the return of this tender any of the following acts:

1. communicate to any person other than the Authority the amount or approximate amount of our proposed tender, except where the disclosure, in confidence, of the approximate amount is necessary to obtain any insurance premium quotation required for the preparation of the tender;
2. enter into any agreement or arrangement with any other person that he shall refrain for submitting a tender or as to the amount included in the tender;
3. offer or pay or give or agree to pay or give any sum of money, inducement or valuable consideration directly or indirectly to any person doing or having done or causing or having caused to be done, in relation to any other actual or proposed tender for the contract any act, omission or thing of the kind described above.

3. In this certificate, the word “person” shall include any person, body or association, corporate or unincorporated; and “any agreement or arrangement” includes any such information, formal or informal, whether legally binding or not.

……………………………………………………………………………….….

Signature (duly authorised on behalf of the tenderer)

……….………………………………………………………………………….

Print name

…………………………………………………………….…………………….

On behalf of (organisation name)

…………………………………………………………………….…………….

Date

# Declaration 2: Form of Tender

To: The North Sea Transition Authority

1. Having considered the invitation to tender and all accompanying documents

(including without limitation, the terms and conditions of contract and the Specification) we confirm that we are fully satisfied as to our experience and ability to deliver the goods/services in all respects in accordance with the requirements of this invitation to tender.

2. We hereby tender and undertake to provide and complete all the services required to be performed in accordance with the terms and conditions of contract and the Specification for the amount set out in the Pricing Schedule.

3. We agree that any insertion by us of any conditions qualifying this tender or any unauthorised alteration to any of the terms and conditions of contract made by us may result in the rejection of this tender.

4. We agree that this tender shall remain open to be accepted by the Authority for 8 weeks from the date below.

5. We understand that if we are a subsidiary (within the meaning of section 1159 of (and schedule 6 to) the Companies Act 2006) if requested by the Authority we may be required to secure a Deed of Guarantee in favour of the Authority from our holding company or ultimate holding company, as determined by the Authority in their discretion.

6. We understand that the Authority is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender it may receive.

7. We certify that this is a bona fide tender.

…………………………………………………………………………........

Signature (duly authorised on behalf of the tenderer)

…………………………………………………………………………………

Print name

………………………………………………………………………….

On behalf of (organisation name)

………………………………………………………………………….

Email address

………………………………………………………………………….

Telephone Number

………………………………………………………………………….

Date

# Declaration 3: Conflict of Interest

I have nothing to declare with respect to any current or potential interest or conflict in relation to this research (or any potential providers who may be subcontracted to deliver this work, their advisers or other related parties). By conflict of interest, I mean, anything which could be reasonably perceived to affect the impartiality of this research, or to indicate a professional or personal interest in the outcomes from this research.

Signed …………………………………….

Name …………………………………….

Position …………………………………….

***OR***

I wish to declare the following with respect to personal or professional interests related to relevant organisations\*;

* X
* X

*Where a potential conflict of interest has been declared for an individual or organisation within a consortia, please clearly outline the role which this individual or organisation will play in the proposed project and how any conflict of interest has or will be mitigated.*

* X
* X

Signed …………………………………….

Name …………………………………….

Position …………………………………….

Please complete this form and return this with your ITT documentation - Nil returns **are** required.

**\*** These may include (but are not restricted to);

* A professional or personal interest in the outcome of this research
* For evaluation projects, a close working, governance, or commercial involvement in the project under evaluation
* Current or past employment with relevant organisations
* Payment (cash or other) received or likely to be received from relevant organisations for goods or services provided (Including consulting or advisory fees)
* Gifts or entertainment received from relevant organisations
* Shareholdings (excluding those within unit trusts, pension funds etc) in relevant organisations
* Close personal relationship or friendships with individuals employed by or otherwise closely associated with relevant organisations

***All of the above apply both to the individual signing this form and their close family / friends / partners etc.***

If your situation changes during the project in terms of interests or conflicts, you must notify the NSTA straight away.

A DECLARATION OF INTEREST WILL NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THE INDIVIDUAL OR ORGANISATION CANNOT WORK ON THE PROJECT; BUT IT IS VITAL THAT ANY INTEREST OR CONFLICT IS DECLARED SO IT CAN BE CONSIDERED OPENLY.

# Declaration 4: Questions for tenderers

In some circumstances the Authority is required by law to exclude you from participating further in a procurement. If you cannot answer ‘no’ to every question in this section it is very unlikely that your application will be accepted, and you should contact us for advice before completing this form.

Please state ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ to each question.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Has your organisation or any directors or partner or any other person who has powers of representation, decision or control been convicted of any of the following offences?** | **Answer** |
| 1. conspiracy within the meaning of [section 1](http://www.lexisnexis.com:80/uk/legal/search/runRemoteLink.do?langcountry=GB&linkInfo=F%23GB%23UK_ACTS%23section%251%25sect%251%25num%251977_45a%25&risb=21_T12077301839&bct=A&service=citation&A=0.2630909849289865) or 1A of the Criminal Law Act 1977 or article 9 or 9A of the Criminal Attempts and Conspiracy (Northern Ireland) Order 1983 where that conspiracy relates to participation in a criminal organisation as defined in Article 2 of Council Framework Decision 2008/841/JHA;
 |  |
| 1. corruption within the meaning of [section 1](http://www.lexisnexis.com:80/uk/legal/search/runRemoteLink.do?langcountry=GB&linkInfo=F%23GB%23UK_ACTS%23section%251%25sect%251%25num%251889_69a%25&risb=21_T12077301839&bct=A&service=citation&A=0.774070316337072)(2) of the Public Bodies Corrupt Practices Act 1889 or [section 1](http://www.lexisnexis.com:80/uk/legal/search/runRemoteLink.do?langcountry=GB&linkInfo=F%23GB%23UK_ACTS%23section%251%25sect%251%25num%251906_34a%25&risb=21_T12077301839&bct=A&service=citation&A=0.24433813672949012) of the Prevention of Corruption Act 1906; where the offence relates to active corruption;
 |  |
| 1. the offence of bribery, where the offence relates to active corruption;
 |  |
| 1. bribery within the meaning of section 1 or 6 of the Bribery Act 2010;
 |  |
| 1. fraud, where the offence relates to fraud affecting the European Communities’ financial interests as defined by Article 1 of the Convention on the protection of the financial interests of the European Communities, within the meaning of:
 |  |
| 1. the offence of cheating the Revenue;
 |  |
| 1. the offence of conspiracy to defraud;
 |  |
| 1. fraud or theft within the meaning of the [Theft Act 1968](http://www.lexisnexis.com:80/uk/legal/search/runRemoteLink.do?langcountry=GB&linkInfo=F%23GB%23UK_ACTS%23num%251968_60a_Title%25&risb=21_T12077301839&bct=A&service=citation&A=0.35766330215827113), the Theft Act (Northern Ireland) 1969, the Theft Act 1978 or the Theft (Northern Ireland) Order 1978;
 |  |
| 1. fraudulent trading within the meaning of [section 458](http://www.lexisnexis.com:80/uk/legal/search/runRemoteLink.do?langcountry=GB&linkInfo=F%23GB%23UK_ACTS%23section%25458%25sect%25458%25num%251985_6a%25&risb=21_T12077301839&bct=A&service=citation&A=0.5972529271560607) of the Companies Act 1985, article 451 of the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 or section 993 of the Companies Act 2006;
 |  |
| 1. fraudulent evasion within the meaning of section 170 of the [Customs and Excise Management Act 1979](http://www.lexisnexis.com:80/uk/legal/search/runRemoteLink.do?langcountry=GB&linkInfo=F%23GB%23UK_ACTS%23num%251979_2a_Title%25&risb=21_T12077301839&bct=A&service=citation&A=0.22540552446837803)  [or section 72 of the Value Added Tax Act 1994](http://www.lexisnexis.com:80/uk/legal/search/runRemoteLink.do?langcountry=GB&linkInfo=F%23GB%23UK_ACTS%23num%251994_23a_Title%25&risb=21_T12077301839&bct=A&service=citation&A=0.9838628229561671);
 |  |
| 1. an offence in connection with taxation in the European Union within the meaning of section 71 of the Criminal Justice Act 1993;
 |  |
| 1. destroying, defacing or concealing of documents or procuring the execution of a valuable security within the meaning of [section 20](http://www.lexisnexis.com:80/uk/legal/search/runRemoteLink.do?langcountry=GB&linkInfo=F%23GB%23UK_ACTS%23section%2520%25sect%2520%25num%251968_60a%25&risb=21_T12077301839&bct=A&service=citation&A=0.5036676212568264) of the Theft Act 1968 or section 19 of the Theft Act (Northern Ireland) 1969;
 |  |
| 1. fraud within the meaning of section 2, 3 or 4 of the Fraud Act 2006; or
 |  |
| 1. making, adapting, supplying or offering to supply articles for use in frauds within the meaning of section 7 of the Fraud Act 2006;
 |  |
| 1. money laundering within the meaning of section 340(11) of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002;
 |  |
| 1. an offence in connection with the proceeds of criminal conduct within the meaning of section 93A, 93B or 93C of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 or article 45, 46 or 47 of the Proceeds of Crime (Northern Ireland) Order 1996; or
 |  |
| 1. an offence in connection with the proceeds of drug trafficking within the meaning of section 49, 50 or 51 of the Drug Trafficking Act 1994; or
 |  |
| 1. any other offence within the meaning of Article 45(1) of Directive 2004/18/EC as defined by the national law of any relevant State.
 |  |

**Annex A: Pricing Schedule**

**Part A – Staff/project team charges**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Set up Costs – please specify  |  |
|  |
| Expenses  |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **\*Grade/level of staff** | **Daily rate** **(ex VAT)** | **No. days offered over course of contract** | **Tasks to be undertaken on this project** | **Total price offered per staff member** |
|  | £ |  |  | £ |
|  | £ |  |  | £ |
|  | £ |  |  | £ |
|  | £ |  |  | £ |
|  | £ |  |  | £ |
| **Sub-total**  |  | **£** |

[\*Suppliers should also include sub-contractors]

**Part B – Non-staff/project team charges**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item** | **No. of items** | **Price per item** **(ex VAT)** | **Total price per offered** |
|  |  | £ | £ |
|  |  | £ | £ |
|  |  | £ | £ |
|  |  | £ | £ |
|  |  | £ | £ |
| **Sub-total**  | **£** |

**Part C – Full price offered**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Sub-total (Part A + Part B)** | **£** |
| **VAT** | **£** |
| **TOTAL (Sub-total + VAT)** | **£** |