

AWE Electrical Network

Prior Information Notice: Request for Information (RFI) Ref: CC001

AWE Plc (“AWE”) is seeking to better understand the UK electrical network market and is investigating the strategic options for managing and enhancing our large-scale electrical networks. This notice is for market engagement only and is not a call for competition.

You can find out more information about AWE here: <https://www.awe.co.uk/>

There is a 10-year investment demand (circa £150m-£200m) to extend, refurbish, maintain and replace our existing High Voltage (“HV”) network (including substation assets & cabling) coupled with replacement and ongoing maintenance of our Low Voltage (“LV”) electrical network. The output from this Request for Information will inform the approach AWE will take to procure Works, Services and Goods to deliver the electrical capability network.

AWE’s strategic aspirations are:

- Modernise and strengthen its electrical network infrastructure
- Improve network resilience and obsolescence management
- Benefit from modern standards and requirements
- Reduce the cost base of new infrastructure, refurbishment of existing assets and overall operation & maintenance
- Benefit from latest electrical network innovations

Overview of HV and LV network requirements:

1. Allow AWE to operate its electrical network in a manner compliant with UK legislation, including AWE’s Nuclear Site Licence Conditions.
2. Provide a distributed capacity of up to 70Mva and 11Mva across two sites.

Strategic Options

AWE is analysing the following strategic supply chain options:

1. Placing piecemeal ‘ad-hoc’ contracts
2. Procuring a bespoke AWE Framework Agreement with separate call-offs and opportunity for ‘Early Contractor Involvement’
3. Existing Government Framework Agreement e.g. CCS CWAS Framework
4. Management Contractor contract
5. Fully outsourced arrangement
6. Joint investment

AWE will hold a virtual presentation to provide details to interested parties about our requirement. This will take place on MS Teams at **14:00 on Tuesday 2nd August 2022** and will last approximately 30 minutes. After this presentation, all attendees are invited to submit a written response to the Market Engagement Questions set out later in this document.

For the avoidance of doubt, this early market engagement exercise is not part of a formal procurement process. Involvement in the early market engagement does not prejudice or preclude other organisations from taking part in any subsequent procurement exercise. Any decision by a potential participant to respond or not respond to the early market engagement will have no impact on or reflect in any manner on any future procurement process.

The nature of this RFI is such that AWE intends to operate restrictions within the relevant procurement regulations in order to protect essential national security interests. If an economic operator has connections with any hostile entity or foreign states which are deemed by AWE to pose a risk to the UK's national security interests or is otherwise considered not to possess the reliability necessary to exclude risks to the security of the United Kingdom, AWE reserves its right to exclude them from this exercise.

AWE considers it likely that any procurement event relating to this requirement will be exempt from the provisions of the DSPCR 2011 under Regulation 7(1)(a). It should be noted that successful bidders in any procurement that may arise in relation to this requirement would be required to provide security-cleared personnel who are British Nationals, in order to work on AWE sites.

Market Engagement Questions (to be answered after AWE's presentation)

1. Your views as to what would be an effective supply chain delivery model for managing a large-scale site electrical network.
2. Any new or anticipated market innovations (specific to HV and LV networks) of which you are aware.
3. What contracting approaches you have in place for similar requirements with other organisations (e.g. framework agreements, alliance contract etc.)?
4. AWE is looking at the strategic supply chain options (outlined above). Please provide your views, including pros and cons, of these strategic options. Where possible, provide your views in the context of their implementation on a Nuclear-Licensed and/or sensitive site.
5. What you believe to be the key current risks in the electrical network market, including any emerging risks?
6. How you see energy landscape changing over the next 10-15 years?
7. Your views about innovation within Electrical Networks to meet carbon neutral demands inclusive of Electric Vehicle Charging.

If you wish to attend the presentation on Tuesday 2nd August at 14:00, please email CapitalSCM@awe.co.uk, quoting reference CC01 and providing contact details of attendees.

The deadline to request a presentation invite is Tuesday 26th July 2022.