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Request for Quotation



## Request for Quotation

**Atmospheric ammonia monitoring at Sefton Coast Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Braunton Burrows Special Area of Conservation (SAC) to inform a Shared Nitrogen Action Plan (SNAP)**

You are invited to submit a quotation for the requirement described in the specification below.

Please confirm, by email, receipt of these documents and whether you intend to submit a quote.

**Your response should be returned to the following email address by:**

**Email: siobhan.murphy@naturalengland.org.uk**

**Date: 3 May 2023**

**Time: 12:00 GMT**

Ensure you state the reference number and ‘Final Submission’ in the subject field to make it clear that it is your response.

**Contact Details and Timeline**

Siobhan Murphy will be your contact for any questions linked to the content of the quote pack or the process. Please submit any questions by email and note that, unless commercially sensitive, both the question and the response will be circulated to all tenderers.

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| --- | --- |
| Action | Date |
| Date of issue of RFQ | 18 Apr-2023  |
| Deadline for clarifications questions | 27 Apr-2023 at 12:00 GMT |
| Deadline for receipt of Quotation | 3 May-2023 at 12:00 GMT |
| Intended date of Contract Award | 11 May-2023 |
| Intended Contract Start Date | 18 May-2023 |
| Intended Delivery Date / Contract Duration  | 18 May-2023 to 31-Aug-2024 |

### Glossary

Unless the context otherwise requires the following words and expressions used within this Request for Quotation shall have the following meanings (to be interpreted in the singular or plural as the context requires):

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| --- | --- |
| “Authority” | Means the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs acting as part of Natural England |
| “RFQ” | Means this Request for Quotation and all related documents published by the Authority and made available to suppliers |
| “Contract” | Means the contract to be entered into by the Authority and the successful supplier. |

###

### Conditions applying to the RFQ

You should examine your response to the RFQ and related documents ensuring it is complete prior to submitting your completed quotation.

Your quotation must contain sufficient information to enable the Authority to evaluate it fairly and effectively. You should ensure that you have prepared your quotation fully and accurately and that prices quoted are arithmetically correct for the units stated.

The supplier by submitting a quotation is deemed to accept the terms and conditions in the RFQ. Failure to comply with the instructions set out in the RTQ may result in the supplier’s exclusion from this procurement.

### Acceptance of Quotations

By issuing this RFQ the Authority does not bind itself to accept any quotation and reserves the right not to award a contract to any supplier who submits a quotation.

#### Costs

The Authority will not reimburse you for any costs and expenses which you incur preparing and submitting your quotation, even if the Authority amends or terminates the procurement process.

#### Mandatory Requirements

The RFQ includes mandatory requirements and, if you do not comply with them, your quotation will not be evaluated. All mandatory requirements are set out in Bravo.

#### Clarifications

The Authority reserves the right to discuss, confidentially, any aspect of your quotation with you prior to any award of Contract to clarify matters.

#### Amendments

The Authority may amend the RFQ at any time prior to the deadline for receipt. If it amends the RFQ the Authority will notify you in writing and may extend the deadline for receipt in order to give you a reasonable time in which to take the amendment into account.

#### Conditions of Contract

The terms and conditions attached [Condensed Terms and Conditions](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419955/standard-condensed-terms.doc) will be included in any contract awarded as a result of this RFQ process. The Authority will not accept any material changes to these terms and conditions proposed by a supplier.

#### Specification

The Authority is Natural England. The Authority’s priorities are to secure a healthy natural environment; a sustainable, low-carbon economy; a thriving farming sector and a sustainable, healthy and secure food supply. Further information about the Authority can be found at: [Natural England](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/)

**Project Background**

The Dynamic Dunescapes DuneLIFE project (LIFE 17 NAT/UK/000570) is a six-year project running from September 2018. Declines in the extent and quality of sand dunes, often due to over-stabilisation, have reached a critical point. The latest Article 17 UK report states all seven sand dune habitats and H3110 freshwater feature are in an overall bad conservation status. DuneLIFE will improve the SAC’s condition by tackling the root causes of decline such as over-stabilisation, encroachment of invasive species and nutrient enrichment. It will implement best practice techniques in ways which are sustainable and promote their replication and transfer. The project is led by Natural England working in partnership with the National Trust, Plantlife, Natural Resources Wales and three Wildlife Trusts. The project is financially supported by LIFE, a financial instrument of the European Commission, and the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Shared Nitrogen Action Plans (SNAPs) aim to integrate national, local and restoration approaches at a site level, as a remedy for sites affected by nitrogen deposition or considered at risk from excess N deposition. As recommended by the IPENS Nitrogen Deposition Theme Plan, pilot SNAPs will test the value, feasibility and future development of this approach.

The data collected through this proposed contract will establish local deposition before and after the SNAP is put in place, providing useful evidence from dune sites and help to demonstrate the effectiveness of local mitigation measures. Local site air quality data will be collected, which will give us fine grain information on the levels of nitrogen pollutants negatively impacting on the sand dune sites on the Sefton Coast and at Braunton Burrows. This will allow us to better target our mitigation efforts, including prioritising landowners to engage with. The data will be an important part of the pilot Shared Nitrogen Action Plans (SNAPs) that are being funded as part of the Dynamic Dunescapes DuneLIFE project. This is a best practice mechanism featured in the Government’s Clean Air Strategy 2019.

The Sefton Coast SAC has major conurbations and transport links near the site, whereas, in contrast, Braunton Burrows SAC is in a very rural location.

There is currently one air quality monitoring station at Ainsdale NNR, within the Sefton Coast SAC - this is monitored as part of Natural England’s Long Term Monitoring Network LTMN and data is uploaded to UKEAP National Ammonia Monitoring Network and Precip-Net. There is currently no air quality monitoring station at Braunton Burrows, however, the Long Term Monitoring Network plans to install an air quality monitoring station at Braunton Burrows during spring 2023, data from that station will be uploaded to UKEAP National Ammonia Monitoring Network and Precip-Net, this is separate from the proposed air quality monitoring specified in this Request for Quotation, however, any relevant data available through the LTMN monitoring should also be used as appropriate in the final reports for this project.

 **Data sources**

* [UKEAP: National Ammonia Monitoring Network](https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/data/non-auto-data?uka_id=UKA00635&network=namn&s=View+Site) (Ainsdale Dunes)
* [UKEAP: Precip-Net](https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/data/non-auto-data?uka_id=UKA00635&network=ukeap&s=View+Site) (Ainsdale Dunes)

**Scope of work required**

**Atmospheric ammonia monitoring at Sefton Coast SAC and Braunton Burrows SAC**

The Dynamic Dunescapes DuneLIFE project is seeking a quotation for the provision of suitable atmospheric ammonia monitoring at Braunton Burrows SAC and Sefton Coast SAC and a report on findings to help inform the SNAPs for these sites and to provide a baseline for future monitoring to determine whether actions agreed through the SNAPs lead to any change in air quality in years to come.

The atmospheric ammonia monitoring will be carried out using passive ammonia concentration samplers at 7 monitoring points within each of Sefton Coast SAC and Braunton Burrows SAC (14 monitoring stations in total) over an initial period of twelve months. The successful contractor will supply the samplers. Natural England site staff are available to install the samplers with advice from the successful contractor and NE staff will be able to service and maintain the equipment and send samples away from site to the laboratory for testing.

We require the quotation to cover:

Laboratory costs to include each month for 12 months: preparation and supply of samplers (triplicate samplers per monitoring location, 7 locations per SAC), postage, analysis and quality assurance/quality control of data.

Data publishing with Environmental Information Data Centre, including making data accessible and discoverable in perpetuity, with full metadata and a data DOI.

It is envisaged that about 5 hours of meetings will be required throughout the project between Natural England staff and the successful contractor e.g., at project setup, half-year update, full year update and reporting/feedback. The half-point meeting will happen at the start of 2024. The meetings are likely to be held on-line over Teams or a similar platform.

Once all data has been collected and analysed a separate written report providing interpretation of the data is to be provided to Natural England for each site (Sefton Coast SAC and Braunton Burrows SAC). The report is to help inform the Shared Nitrogen Action Plan for each site. Natural England requires the opportunity to comment on draft Final Reports. A draft report in MS Word will be expected at least 10 working days before the deadline in order for comments to be made. Tenderers should be aware that Natural England and Defra may publish reports. Reports must comply with Natural England’s publication style guidance (this will be supplied in advance of the report).

It is anticipated that this contract will be awarded for a period of 15 months to end no later than 31/08/2024. Prices will remain fixed for the duration of the contract award period. We may at our sole discretion extend this contract by a further 2 weeks to 16/09/2024 to include related or further work. Any extension shall be agreed in advance of any work commencing and may be subject to further competition.

**Value of Contract**

£25,000 to £40,000 ex VAT

**Prices**

Prices must be submitted in £ sterling, inclusive of VAT.

**Quotation Submission**

We will award this contract in line with the most economically advantageous tender (MEAT) as set out in the following award criteria:

Price – 50%

Quality – 50%

The following quality criteria are weighted in accordance with the importance and relevance

attached to each one.

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| Criteria | weighting | To include: |
| **staff** | 50 | To include:* please submit pen portraits/thumbnails separately of staff to work on this project with details of experience of carrying out similar contracts clearly identified.
 |
| **Methodology** |  50 | * Please submit Outline method of how you propose to deliver the services.
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| --- | --- |
| **Score** | **Justification** |
| For a score of hundred (100):   | Excellent - Response is completely relevant and excellent overall.  The response is comprehensive, unambiguous and demonstrates a thorough understanding of the requirement and provides details of how the requirement will be met in full. |
| For a score of seventy (70):   | Good - Response is relevant and good.  The response demonstrates a good understanding and provides details on how the requirements will be fulfilled.  |
| For a score of fifty (50):   | Acceptable - Response is relevant and acceptable.  The response provides sufficient evidence to fulfil basic requirements. |
| For a score of twenty (20):   | Poor - Response is partially relevant and/or poor.  The response addresses some elements of the requirements but contains insufficient / limited detail or explanation to demonstrate how the requirement will be fulfilled. |
| For a score of zero (0):   | Unacceptable - Nil or inadequate response.  Fails to demonstrate an ability to meet the requirement. |

**Contract Management**

This contract shall be managed on behalf of the Authority by:

Siobhan Murphy

siobhan.murphy@naturalengland.org.uk

Tel 0208 026 7561

Address:

Natural England

Sterling House

Dix’s Field

Exeter

EX1 1QA

We will raise purchase orders to cover the cost of the services and will issue to the awarded supplier following contract award.

### Disclosure

All Central Government Departments, their Executive Agencies and Non Departmental Public Bodies are subject to control and reporting within Government. In particular, they report to the Cabinet Office and HM Treasury for all expenditure. Further the Cabinet Office has a cross-Government role delivering overall Government policy on public procurement, including ensuring value for money and related aspects of good procurement practice.

For these purposes, the Authority may disclose within Government any details contained in your quotation. The information will not be disclosed outside Government during the procurement.

In addition, the Authority is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, which provide a public right of access to information held by public bodies. In accordance with these two statutes, the Authority may be required to disclose information contained in your quotation to any person who submits a request for information pursuant to those statutes.

By submitting a quotation, you consent to these terms as part of the procurement.

### Disclaimers

Whilst the information in this RFQ and any supporting information referred to herein or provided to you by the Authority have been prepared in good faith the Authority does not warrant that this information is comprehensive or that it has been independently verified.

The Authority does not:

* make any representation or warranty (express or implied) as to the accuracy, reasonableness or completeness of the RFQ;
* accept any liability for the information contained in the RFQ or for the fairness, accuracy or completeness of that information; or
* accept any liability for any loss or damage (other than in respect of fraudulent misrepresentation or any other liability which cannot lawfully be excluded) arising as a result of reliance on such information or any subsequent communication.

Any supplier considering entering into contractual relationships with the Authority following receipt of the RFQ should make its own investigations and independent assessment of the Authority and its requirements for the goods and/or services and should seek its own professional financial and legal advice.

**Protection of Personal Data**

In order to comply with the General Data Protection Regulations 2018, the contractor must agree to the following:

* You must only process any personal data in strict accordance with instructions from the Authority
* You must ensure that all the personal data that we disclose to you, or you collect on our behalf under this agreement are kept confidential.
* You must take reasonable steps to ensure the reliability of employees who have access to personal data.
* Only employees who may be required to assist in meeting the obligations under this agreement may have access to the personal data.
* Any disclosure of personal data must be made in confidence and extend only so far as that which is specifically necessary for the purposes of this agreement.
* You must ensure that there are appropriate security measures in place to safeguard against any unauthorised access or unlawful processing or accidental loss, destruction or damage or disclosure of the personal data.
* On termination of this agreement, for whatever reason, the personal data must be returned to us promptly and safely, together with all copies in your possession or control.

**General Data Protection Regulations 2018**

For the purposes of the Regulations the Authority is the data processor.

The personal information that we have asked you provide on individuals (data subjects) that will be working for you on this contract will be used in compiling the tender list and in assessing your offer. If you are unsuccessful the information will be **held and destroyed within two years** of the award of contracts. If you are awarded a contract, it will be retained for the duration of the contract and destroyed within **seven years** of the contract’s expiry.

We may monitor the performance of the individuals during the execution of the contract, and the results of our monitoring, together with the information that you have provided, will be used in determining what work is allocated under the contract, and in any renewal of the contract or in the award of future contracts of a similar nature. The information will not be disclosed to anyone outside the Authority without the consent of the data subject, unless the Authority is required by law to make such disclosures.

**Additional Information**

Further information about Sefton Coast SAC can be accessed [here](https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteGeneralDetail.aspx?SiteCode=UK0013076&SiteName=Sefton&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=&SeaArea=&IFCAArea=)

Further information about Braunton Burrows SAC can be accessed [here](https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteGeneralDetail.aspx?SiteCode=UK0012570&SiteName=&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=&unitId=&SeaArea=&IFCAArea=)