

**National Highways**

**Prior Information Notice (PIN)**

**Contract reference & title:** ITIP0366 Weather Forecasting Information Services.

**To:**  All Suppliers

**Pre-tender estimate**: £3.9 Million

**Estimated invitation to tender date:** 29/08/2024

**Expected tender period**: 30 days

**Expected contract period:** 3 years (+1+1+1 optional)

**Brief Description and Overview:**

National Highways seeks to engage a qualified service provider to deliver comprehensive winter weather forecasting services. These services will support our winter maintenance decisions and ensure effective management of the Strategic Road Network (SRN) during severe weather conditions.

**Scope of Services:**

1. **National Forecast Service: Lot 1**
   * Provide detailed weather forecasts from October to April.
   * Supply embedded forecasters at the National Traffic Operations Centre (NTOC).
2. **Area Forecasting Service: Lot 2**
   * Support winter maintenance decisions across various regions.
   * Aid in the deployment of gritter fleets for de-icing and snow removal operations.
   * Assist in strategic planning to maintain road safety and mobility during severe weather.

These services are crucial for minimising winter accidents, ensuring uninterrupted mobility, and fulfilling our statutory obligations as the Highway Authority.

**The draft specifications can be found in the attached documents.**

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| 1. **Service Offerings:**    * Which specific services (Lot) related to Weather Forecasting Information Services are you interested in providing? 2. **Potential Issues:**    * Do you foresee any potential risks or challenges in delivering the required services? Please list any risks/challenges by Lot if applicable.    * How would you propose to mitigate these challenges? 3. **Innovative Solutions:**    * Do you have any innovative ideas or advanced methodologies for forecast delivery that could assist users in making treatment decisions?    * How could these innovations be integrated into the project, and what benefits would they bring? 4. **Value Addition:**    * Are there any additional features or services you believe could add significant value to the project?    * How would these features improve the overall effectiveness and efficiency of the service delivery? 5. **Technology and Tools:**    * What technologies and tools do you use to ensure accurate and reliable forecast delivery?    * Are there any proprietary tools or platforms that you would utilise for this project? 6. **Compliance and Standards:**    * Are your services compliant with relevant industry standards and regulations?    * How do you ensure ongoing compliance throughout the project?   **7. Specification:**   * Is there anything within the draft specifications attached that is unclear? |
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| **Estimated** invitation to tender date | 29/08/2024\* |
| **Estimated** tender period end date | 29/09/2024\* |
| **Estimated** evaluation completion date | 15/11/2024\* |
| **Estimated** contract award date | 14/01/2025\* |

**\*These dates are provisional and subject to change.**

**Actions now required:**

1. Please advise if you are / are not interested in tendering for this opportunity by 08/08/2024 – 12pm (UK time)
2. Please respond to the above questions and return these via e-mail to the below address

Please send replies to:

[*WeatherForecastInformationServices@nationalhighways.co.uk*](mailto:WeatherForecastInformationServices@nationalhighways.co.uk)

*Nothing in this communication (or in any associated documents) and its outcome, will be taken as constituting an offer (whether implied or otherwise) or any agreement, whether express or implied, between National Highways and suppliers. Please be advised all information contained within this PIN is indicative at this stage.*

*National Highways reserves the right not to proceed with the tender.*

Registered office Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford GU1 4LZ

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