

www.gov.uk/naturalengland

Request for Quotation

##

## Request for Quotation

**Literature review of environmental impacts of Floating offshore wind design envelope**

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: tamara.rowson@naturalengland.org.uk

Date: 16th September 2022

Time: 17:00

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**

Tamara Rowson 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 | 29-Aug-2022 at 17:00 |
| Deadline for clarifications questions | 21- Sep -2022 at 17:00 |
| Deadline for receipt of Quotation | 23- Sep-2022 at 17:00 |
| Intended date of Contract Award | 30- Sep -2022 |
| Intended Contract Start Date | 07- Oct -2022 |
| Intended Delivery Date / Contract Duration  | 24- Mar -2023 |

### 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):

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| “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 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/)

**Background to Natural England**

Within Natural England’s Approach to Offshore Wind[[1]](#footnote-2) we aim to focus on accurate evidenced environmental sensitivity information, with evidence-based mitigation to be implemented at all stages where impact is predicted.

**Background to the project**

Globally Floating Offshore Wind (FLOW) is predicted to be in a pre-commercial phase (2021-2025) and moving to a commercial phase from 2026 onwards[[2]](#footnote-3). The British Energy Security Strategy (April 2022) includes an ambition to deliver 5 GW of FLOW by 2030. The Crown Estate has confirmed it wants to unlock up to 4 GW of FLOW capacity in the Celtic Sea, awarding leasing rights by the end of 2023.

There are several precommercial trial and commercial FLOW projects established globally (please see Table 1). The main concepts for floating foundations are spar-buoy (Single Point Anchor Reservoir buoy), semi-submersible and tension leg platform. There are various options for anchors and mooring lines. Anchors can take the form of deadweight anchors that sit on the seabed, drag anchors that are set by pulling them through the soil, or dynamically embedded anchors. Suction assisted foundations include suction anchors, suction piles, caissons, and suction buckets. Gravity based foundations and clump weights are generally used in hard soils where conditions are not suitable for suction anchors due to soil penetration limitations. Catenary mooring lines are connected to the platform, hang freely in the water column, and are anchored to the seafloor. Tensioned mooring lines are stretched until the lines are taut.

There is currently an opportunity to gather information on environmental effects from global trial and precommercial FLOW projects to provide an evidence base to inform decision making and spatial planning in relation to upcoming commercial scale FLOW in England.

**The requirement**

Contractors are required to complete a desk-based review of available literature, grey literature and environmental monitoring and reporting from international FLOW projects to identify potential environmental benefits and risks of FLOW in relation to the technical design envelop identified for England.

Objective 1:

Review the FLOW foundation design envelope for the Celtic Sea as identified by the Crown Estate, based on technology and design boundaries for above and below water elements.

Objective 2:

Identify, assess, and describe potential pressure pathways including new and novel pressure impact pathways associated with FLOW projects, and pressures that that will have differing effects to traditional Offshore wind foundation types. Examples of impacts may include, but not be limited to, those considered in Table 2. The identification of pressures should be in line with the Advice on Operations for SAC and SPAs for Electricity from renewable energy sources and Cables <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk>.

Objective 3:

From known and new pressures associated with the development of FLOW design envelope, assess the impacts on feature/sub feature or supporting habitat sensitivity to those pressures. Pressures are to be identified, described, and assessed against established pressure benchmarks where these are available and effect pathways stated.

Objective 4:

Assess the worst-case scenario design envelope of FLOW in relation to impacts to each environmental receptor or group of receptors.

Objective 5:

Present potential mitigation measures for impacts associated with each category of turbine and seabed attachment within the FLOW design envelope, as identified from trial projects or included within the literature. This may include, but not be limited to:

* considerations of rotor height
* use of specific foundation types in specific habitats
* integrated load cells within mooring lines potentially detect entanglement
* micro siting of anchors
* nature based design standards

Objective 6:

Identify evidence gap and suggest further research.

**Estimated cost**

Under £24,999 including VAT

**Estimated timeline/duration**

Invitation to Tender September 2022

Contract Award October 2022

Draft Report due February 2023

Final Report to be completed for publication by March 2023

**Key Contacts**

Tamara Rowson

**Output**

The contractor to produce a comprehensive report, setting out the key considerations for

* Identify potential impact pathways from FLOW design envelope
* Assess potential pressures on environmental receptors, in accordance with pressure benchmarks
* Present mitigation measures
* Identify Worst Case Scenario FLOW design envelope for England
* Provide recommendations to Natural England on follow up research
* Provide to Natural England for review
* Incorporate amendments.

Inception meeting

Monthly updates

Draft Report to be issued by 1st Feb

Final report to be issued by 1st Mar

It is anticipated that this contract will be awarded for a period of 6 months to end no later than 24/03/22. Prices will remain fixed for the duration of the contract award period. We may at our sole discretion extend this contract to include related or further work. Any extension shall be agreed in advance of any work commencing and may be subject to further competition.

**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%

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Criteria | weighting | To include: |
| **Experience** | 30 | To include:* please submit pen portraits/thumbnails separately.of key personnel who will be directly involved in the project
 |
| **Methodology** | 60 | * Please submit Outline method of how you proposes to deliver the services.
 |
| **Quality Assurance** | 10 | To include:* Please detail how you will manage quality assurance and
 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **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 Tamara Rowson tamara.rowson@naturalengland.org.uk

There will by project review meetings once a month, A draft report will be provided for review, amendments incorporated into the final report. Supplier performance will be measured against the project objectives.

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

Invoices to be issued after draft and final reporting completed.

### 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.

1. Natural England’s Approach to Offshore Wind: Our ambitions, aims and objectives (TIN181): <http://nepubprod.appspot.com/publication/5400620875120640> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. ([GWEC-Report-Floating-Offshore-Wind-A-Global-Opportunity.pdf](https://gwec.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/GWEC-Report-Floating-Offshore-Wind-A-Global-Opportunity.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)