Query	Draft answer
Is the budget maximum of £35,000 intended to cover both phases of the project covering up to 9 months as well as training and support after handover, or just the first 3-month stage?	Yes, the budget is intended to cover the above.
Will you consider an extension to the submission deadline due to the shutdown period over the holidays to allow tenderers the time to adequately address your requirements?	No, there will be no extension of the submission deadline.
Will the Client supply the data environment and software licenses by which to build and host the data and platform, or is the tenderer responsible? The amount of data may prohibit transferring the model easily after the architecture and development of the interface has been done. Approximately how many users will require access to the platform in a read only and read-write capacity?	We would expect the consultant to develop the data environment and platform and then hand these over at the end of this piece of work. We would expect circa 20 users to require RO access and 1-2 would require RW access.
As the nature of the government funding programmes causes competition between members of the same cluster, have you discussed with the NW cluster members their willingness to share the data listed in Appendix 6 as the responsibility of the developers? I understand NDAs will be executed; however, there may be hesitation to share information that could be commercially sensitive as it is listed in the Appendix which would impact the ability of the tenderer to aggregate the data requested.	Members have been consulted during recent re-launch of the NZNW organisation, and there is a consensus that enhanced data sharing through a Project Intelligence Platform (under NDA) is required to facilitate cluster development.
Once the platform is turned over to NZNW in a manner that allows updating, how does the Client intend to identify 'defects' from the work of the tenderer versus NZNW user error to be corrected at the tenderer's expense? Such a warranty on a platform open to modification may not be reasonable, and the risk must be accounted for in the project cost.	Defects would be identified when substantial errors/crashes/etc are noted within the system resulting from "ordinary day-to-day use". The terms and full definition of this would be agreed during system handover

Does the client have responsible persons to be consulted on security issues related to the platform, access rights and hosting of data to ensure compliance with cyber security requirements?	We would expect advice on such issues to be provided by the consultant throughout the course of this project.
How flexible is the scope if new priorities or data requirements arise during Stage 1? Will changes to deliverables or scope require renegotiation or additional funding?	Substantial work has been undertaken prior to this tender to explore the data requirements for a NW project intelligence platform to facilitate industrial decarbonisation and we believe this to be a complete data specification. If, however, opportunities were identified through this PIP development process that would better drive decarbonisation of the industrial cluster these would be considered on a case-by-case basis. We envisage the quoted budget as being sufficient for delivery of this project.
How is the success of the beta platform in Stage 1 defined, and what specific criteria will be used to decide whether the project proceeds to Stage 2?	The success of the beta platform will be defined as provision of a fully functional platform which provides the data requirements noted in appendix 6, incorporating test data from a select group of stakeholders. Progression to Stage 2 will be decided based upon a qualitative assessment of the performance of the beta platform against the requirements outlined in the invitation to tender.
What contingencies are in place if the allocated budget proves insufficient due to unanticipated technical challenges or stakeholder demands?	This is a fixed price tender for a total of £35,000.

What are the expectations for interoperability with existing regional systems (e.g., public sector databases, other decarbonization initiatives)? Is there a plan to include APIs or automation for data integration?	At present this system will stand alone, and be utilised predominantly by NZNW and participating organisations. In the medium term, we expect to utilise the data within the PIP to inform wider energy system planning with public and private sector partners - the ability to abstract discrete portions of the PIP data (e.g. energy demand and location of a potential site). At present these systems are also under development, and so an API is unlikely to be created within the timespan of this project, but a user-friendly portal to download specific sections of the data could be a feature of a proposed PIP solution.
How will the platform ensure data quality, validation, and compliance, particularly given the inclusion of sensitive information from multiple stakeholders?	Stakeholders contributing data would be expected to utilise their own data validation and compliance in line with guidance developed during this project to ensure that data is fit for integration within the PIP data platform.
What level of commitment and input is expected from stakeholders during both stages, particularly in testing and providing feedback? Will non-participation impact project timelines?	At stage 1 we would expect a select group of stakeholders to contribute regularly providing appropriate feedback in the development of this project. At stage 2, the much broader range of stakeholder engagement with NZNW members will be required. We do not anticipate that non-participation will hold back project timelines.
How will stakeholder expectations be managed if the platform evolves significantly during testing or feedback phases?	Substantial work has been undertaken prior to this tender to explore the data requirements for a NW project intelligence platform in coordination with a broad stakeholder group representing NZNW members and partners. We do not therefore anticipate any significant changes to functionality during testing and feedback. Any such changes would be managed through discussion with this stakeholder group.

What governance mechanisms will oversee the project during its delivery phases and post-handover, especially in managing conflicts or delays?	The project working group, likely composed of NZNW, ECW, the NWNZH, and the chosen contractor, will undertake the day-to-day oversight of the project, with NZNW leading this work.
	Any wider governance issues will be passed from the working group to senior stakeholders for discussion and decision.
What are the identified risks for the project's implementation (e.g., data gaps, resource constraints, stakeholder disengagement), and what mitigations are planned?	In the relaunch of NZNW, the PIP concept was identified as gap within existing operation of the north west industrial cluster, and members are behind the development of this platform and committed to engaging – this is therefore identified as a minor risk and mitigation has been conducted in advance of need.
	Data gaps are sought to be mitigated by using a a combination of publicly accessible and bespoke data initially.
Which business users will need to be involved in Stage 1 to help it be a success? Will there be a need for external users to be involved in the process at all?	NZNW and ECW will be the primary stakeholders involved during Stage 1, along with minimal business users who can provide test data to establish the workability of the developing platform.

What are the non-functional requirements for the solution expected to be? For example do you have a view of the data volume sizes expected for this (how many projects from each provider?) and the frequency of updates required (daily, weekly, monthly)?	We would expect that data volumes would initially be small - in the ~100GB range. The backend is likely to contain mainly text/numeric input NZNW develops and further integration of spatial data is required this is likely to grow toward circa ~10TB depending on the scale and range of analyses conducted within the tool
Are the requirements or use-cases defined for the solution already which would inform the design of the potential data platform?	This platform is envisioned to become a critical tool for all stakeholders involved, from government bodies to private sector partners and academic institutions. By offering a centralised hub for project data, the platform will facilitate better communication, collaboration, and decision-making across the board. This will not only streamline our decarbonisation efforts but also enhance the overall impact and efficiency of our initiatives. The PIP is a critical tool in supporting This stage involves defining the platform's scope and functionalities through comprehensive requirements gathering and stakeholder engagement.
Do you envisage the future data platform being run as a service by a 3rd party rather than an in house procured and managed platform?	At present this is not the envisaged outcome for the platform and the intention is for an in-house procured and managed platform.