

Description

This notice seeks to inform interested suppliers that the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) is planning to launch a tender for research to inform development and implementation of the Heat Networks Zoning policy.

The Department plans to hold a supplier engagement event before launching the invite to tender on Monday 8th March from 11:00-12:30 for this upcoming research opportunity. The purpose of this event will be to:

- Provide suppliers with an overview of the research context and provide details on the proposed methodologies, timescales, and deliverables.
- Give suppliers the opportunity to ask questions about the project and provide feedback on the research scope, including its deliverability within the desired timeframe.
- Direct suppliers to guidance on registering for the CCS Research Marketplace (the framework through which this research will be commissioned) and define the filters that will be used to identify potential suppliers.

The supplier engagement event will be held via Microsoft Teams. If you would like to attend, please email Research@uksbs.co.uk with the subject line – “**CR21041 Heat Network Zoning Research Event**”, by 16:00 Friday 5th March 2021 to receive an invite.

This research project may attract, but is not limited to, those with experience in climate change, housing, non-domestic properties, heating and energy efficiency. Those interested in conducting deliberative and survey research projects will also be interested in this opportunity.

Background context

The Heat Networks Team have recently commissioned external consultancy support to develop proposals to introduce a Heat Network Zoning policy (Heat Network Zoning Project) and are currently piloting a methodology in six cities across England (Heat Network Zoning Pilot). Both workstreams will culminate in a public consultation in Spring/Summer 2021.

In development of the Project and the Pilot, we are directly engaging with a subset of Local Authorities and larger public and private sector stakeholders (Health & Educational Campuses, Social Housing, New Development, Large Private Sector). These stakeholders will shape the development of the policy and pilot the designation of Heat Network Zones: areas in which heat networks are the appropriate solution for decarbonising heat (and cooling).

Whilst we have ready access to stakeholders from a policy development perspective, these are likely to be biased by existing policy interest despite our efforts to reduce this. We have identified a critical evidence gap in the wider views, attitudes and perspectives of stakeholders who are unlikely to be involved in the development of Zones but may be impacted by their introduction.

The Heat Network Zoning Research Project will therefore enable us to plug this evidence gap by testing the attitudes towards preferred policy proposals which will underpin the Consultation. Furthermore, the stakeholders being targeted for this research are unlikely to naturally respond to the consultation as they would not immediately understand its relevance.

The first phase of the Research Project will inform development of the consultation and the second phase will run parallel to the consultation. The outputs will feed back into our post-consultation proposals and inform our decision as to whether the policy should be introduced, and critically, the

extent to which it is applied. It's critical that the research is commissioned now to ensure that the outputs can inform the policy's development before it becomes too established.

The outcome will be a policy which is considerate of not just key strategic stakeholders but the attitudes, views and perspectives of the wider businesses and civil society to which it may apply.

More information

We propose that this research project is carried out in two phases. This would include:

Phase 1: Deliberative workshops with eligible buildings in-scope of the zoning policy (high-heat load non-domestic properties, non-domestic public sector properties, social housing providers and housing developers undertaking projects in the zone), social housing residents and local authorities responsible for the zones. These should be facilitated by an expert with an understanding of heat networks, including what they are and how they are developed.

Phase 2 (following phase 1): Survey of eligible buildings in-scope of the zoning policy, social housing residents and buildings which could be in-scope of the policy in future.

This is the preferred method for this research and will be outlined in greater depth at the supplier engagement event. We acknowledge that there may be other ways suppliers could meet the overall aims of this research project, and we encourage suppliers to raise suggestions for how the research objectives can be met.

Procurement:

This contract will be procured via the CCS Research Marketplace. In order to receive an invitation to quote for this contract suppliers must be registered on the CCS Research Marketplace.

Those who are not registered on the CCS Research Marketplace are urged to do so at the first opportunity to avoid missing this, and future opportunities. Information on this is listed below, and the registration process with Crown Commercial Services can take fifteen (15) working days.

<https://supplierregistration.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/dps#research>