

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION FOR DEFRA CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS SERVICE (CAS)NUMBERS LICENSE



Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs

Introduction

1. The purpose of this prospectus (and any associated published procurement notices) is for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs “**DEFRA**” to commence a fact-finding exercise to understand the market around the requirement for DEFRA to use Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) numbers.
2. Interested Parties are requested to read this prospectus and complete the market engagement questionnaire at <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=UCQKdycCYkyQx044U38RApY4Chp82VhPpFqbEB3q4ddUNIFBVkhORTNOUTJUTDJBT0xNUUtNMFE3OC4u>¹ by Monday 12th August 2024 at 15:00hrs. DEFRA will review those questionnaires and then follow up with the market if there are interested parties.

Disclaimer

3. This prospectus is written and provided in good faith; DEFRA reserves the right to alter any aspect of this document, or to not proceed with the procurement in any way. This prospectus summarises certain aspects of the procurement but does not purport to contain complete descriptions of it, nor to be all inclusive or contain all the information that a prospective tenderer may require when determining whether to take part in this market engagement process. No representation or warranty, express or implied, is or will be made, and no responsibility or liability is or will be accepted by DEFRA or any of its advisors as to the accuracy, adequacy or completeness of the information within this prospectus. This prospectus is not intended to form the basis of any investment decision or other evaluation by the recipient(s) and does not constitute and should not be considered as a recommendation by any person. DEFRA shall not be liable for any costs or expenses of any prospective tenderer in relation to any matter in connection with this market engagement process, howsoever incurred.

Background

4. Defra is the UK government department which is responsible for improving and protecting the environment. Defra aims to grow a green economy and sustain thriving rural communities, and also support the UK's world-leading food, farming and fishing industries. Defra works with 33 agencies (including the EA) and public bodies², collectively referred to as “**Defra Group**”.
5. Defra has developed an IT system called ‘Comply with UK REACH’ (CWUKR) to support the UK Chemical Industry with submitting dossiers and information regarding their use of chemicals to the Agency for UK REACH (HSE). CWUKR uses a dataset which includes the following information
 - (a) CAS Preferred Names
 - (b) CAS Registry Numbers
 - (c) EC Numbers

as identifiers for specific substances. CAS Registry Numbers are used by governmental agencies for substance identification in regulatory applications because they are unique, globally recognised and easy to validate.

CAS objectives

6. DEFRA require a licence to;

¹ The market engagement questionnaire has been replicated in Annex 1 but please can prospective suppliers complete the Forms at this link.

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations#department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs>

- (a) Use a dataset that includes the above information for the approximately 145,000 substance records held by CAS to enable DEFRA to populate an internal database that will be used by third party registrants to properly match substance identifiers during the submission process within CWUKR; and
- (b) To publish CAS Registry numbers in the public domain.
- (c) The timelines for this procurement require a contract in place (and the requisite onboarding activities to be completed) for the 1st November 2024.

Commercial approach

Overview

7. DEFRA intends to use market engagement to support the Discovery against Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) Registry Numbers :

- (a) is anyone in the market able to deliver against the requirements stated above;
- (b) is anyone fully accredited with the ability to use CAS Registry Numbers and sell this service onto a third party; and
- (c) is able to achieve the timelines stated above;

Annex 1: Market engagement questionnaire

No.	Question	Response type	Relevant section
1.	Organisation details	Free text for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisation name • First name • Surname • Job title • E-mail address • Phone number 	
2.	Can you provide the elements of the Service listed above?	Yes/No	
3.	Is your company an SME?	Yes/No	
4.	Are you able to provide <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A dataset that includes CAS Registry numbers, CAS preferred names and EC Numbers - A right to published CAS Registry numbers in the public domain? 	Yes/No	
5.	Are you able to meet the timelines stated within this prospectus?	Yes/No	