Pre-Tender Market Engagement (PTME)

**[Landscape Works Implementation and aftercare establishment for a number of regional Flood Risk Management Capital Programme Projects]**

**Date Response required: 12.00 pm : 22-Jun-21**

# PURPOSE

This Pre-Tender Market Engagement (PTME) seeks information in preparation for the potential procurement of Suppliers for a regionally focussed call-off delivery arrangement (from herein referred to as a “**Potential Suppliers**”) to provide general hard and soft landscape works including specialist wetland/habitat creation associated works and establishment aftercare services in the North of England and the Midlands as required. The purpose of this PTME is to:

* + 1. help define the requirement;
		2. help provide a better understanding of the feasibility of the requirement;
		3. understand the best approach;
		4. understand the capacity of the market to deliver and possible risks involved; and
		5. provide the market with an opportunity to ask questions, raise queries and any issues to be addressed at an early stage.

The Environment Agency shall maintain commercial confidentiality of information received during the PTME.

# INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the UK has been subject to record levels of rainfall which has left many homes and businesses flooded, causing considerable disruption and economic damage. In response, the Environment Agency has been working to increase protection from river flooding to many thousands of properties as part of their Flood Alleviation Schemes.

In those places where we are constructing flood defences, we often need large amounts of space to build embankments or move heavy machinery around. While responsibility of reinstating the site will lie with the Civils Contractor, in mitigation of this negative impact and to fulfil and discharge our obligations and planning consents, we will require specialist landscape planting works along with their establishment aftercare for up to 5 – 10 years. These could include environmental enhancements such as improving public realm and amenity / recreation / green infrastructure enhancements or habitat improvement or creation and will primarily include the planting of trees but also hedges, shrubs, grasses and bulbs but this is not exhaustive

The scope of this pre tender market engagement work will be to support a number of projects in the North East, North West and the Midlands using regionally sourced landscape contractors.

# HIGH LEVEL OUTLINE PROJECT OUTCOMES REQUIRED

The overall requirement for this arrangement is the provision of hard and soft landscape works as a specialised local resource to support regional social value and the delivery of landscape planting implementation and/or establishment aftercare for a range of capital programme projects.

This will assist our Project Managers to meet and achieve the required quality, cost and timeframe and to achieve a successful handover at the end of the establishment and aftercare period, not only to meet our own project objectives and resource pressures but also to meet and discharge those conditions imposed by the planning authorities and stakeholders. Please note: these schemes are subject to change depending on how the projects progress.

A number of projects within the Environment Agency’s Flood Risk Management portfolio have been identified where an opportunity exists for the establishment of a regional call-off delivery arrangement for landscape works as part of this pre-tender engagement.. They have been divided into three regional hub lots as follows; with an expectation that we will shortlist a minimum of two or three landscape contractors per Lot. Contractors may apply to undertake work in more than one Lot subject to having a geographical base and management /supervisory staff within the Lots for which they apply.

Indicative timeframes have been provided where available, and number of projects may alter as the programme develops:

*LOT 1: North East Hub*

* York Flood Cell – B8 Clementhorpe (Winter 21/22)
* York Flood Cell – B10 Clifton Ings (Autumn ‘22)
* York Flood Cell – Foss Storage Area (Winter 22/23)
* York Flood Cell – F4 & F5 Tang Hall & Osbaldwick
* Bentley Ings Pumping Station - Aftercare only (Autumn ‘21)
* Hebden Bridge (Winter 22/23)
* Castle Hill / Holderness Drain (Winter 22/23)
* Humber – Hull Frontage - Aftercare only (June ‘21)

*LOT 2: North West Hub*

* Hambleton (23/24)
* Kendal (22/23)
* Carlisle – Phase 1 – Aftercare only (Mar ’22)
* Carlisle – Phase 2 – Aftercare only (Mar ’22)
* Carlisle Phase 3 – Aftercare only (Spring ’25)
* Rickerby – Aftercare only (Mar ’22)
* Radcliffe and Redvales - Phase 1 - Aftercare only (Nov ’21)
* Radcliffe and Redvales - Phase 2 - Aftercare only (Nov ’22)
* Padiham (24/25)
* Gosling Sike - (23/24)
* Earby - (22/23
* Preston – (24/25)
* Appleby (22/23)
* Low Crosby (22/23)

*LOT 3: Midlands Hub*

* Torksey – (21/22)
* Tenbury – (22/23)
* Lowdham – (22/23)
* Bewdley (22/23)
* South Ferriby - 3 years aftercare only (‘23)
* Bromford FRMS, Birmingham (Autumn ’21)

Please note that this list of contracts is not exhaustive and there is no firm offer of all of the work progressing under the proposed call-off arrangement.

# OUTPUTS/DELIVERABLES

Arboricultural works, earthworks, site preparation, including the use of herbicides in or near rivers and tidal waters for the control of invasive species, some hard landscaping works including fencing, soft landscape works including the supply and planting of aquaticand marginal plants, trees andshrubs, especially of UK native provenance, seeding of grasses and wildflora in sensitive locations and associated establishment aftercare works over a period of up to five and in some case ten years.

KEY DATES & TENDERING PROCESS

* 1. It is anticipated that project level procurement will start end of June / early July, with the first contracts expected to commence end of September 2021. These indicative dates are for information purposes only. The Environment Agency reserve the right to amend these dates at any time, and Potential Suppliers rely on them entirely at their own risk. The tender documents will include a Landscape Specification together with a schedule of rates for a comprehensive list of standard items that will require pricing and submission for consideration. Quality and competency assessments will be undertaken in order to establish preferred suppliers for each Lot.
	2. Each individual contract will require a period of establishment aftercare maintenance. The duration is normally up to 5 years but can be up to 10 years, dependent upon the planning conditions applicable to each project.
	3. The landscape contract tender process will follow this approximate timeline:
* Invitation to Tender (ITT) issued at the end of June / early July.
* Contract to be awarded at the end of September.
* First call-off at the end of September / early October.

# RESPONSE

# Please respond by email to Graham.Duddle@environment-agency.gov.uk with the following by 12.00 pm (BST) 22nd June 21 (the “Response Deadline”).

Q1 Would you be interested in bidding for this project?

Q2 Have you experience working within a JCLI Contract?

Q3 Would you be able to resource this work within the timeframes proposed?

Q4 Is what the Environment Agency asking for clear, if not, what improvements would you suggest?

Q5 What, if anything, has the Environment Agency missed or overlooked in setting out their requirement?

Q6 Is there anything here which is irrelevant, outdated or unnecessary?

Q7 Do you either hold, or are working towards a full accredited membership of BALI?

Q8 Would you have the capacity to undertake multiple concurrent contracts if you were shortlisted to one of the Lots listed and were successful in being awarded a number of individual contracts?

Q9 Do you have the skillset and accreditation to undertake this work?

Q10 What other expertise can you offer over and above the stated deliverables?

Q11 Would you be likely to use subcontractors to deliver any of the deliverables? If so for which elements and why?

# QUESTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

* 1. Potential Suppliers may raise questions or seek clarification regarding any aspect of this PTME document at any time prior to the Response Deadline. Questions must be submitted by email to **Graham Duddle** only at: Graham.duddle@environment-agency.gov.uk
	2. To ensure that all Potential Suppliers have equal access to information regarding this PTME exercise, responses to questions raised by Potential Suppliers will be published in a “Questions and Answers” document, which will also be circulated by email, with updates appearing at regular intervals (approximately two to three working days).
	3. Responses to questions will not identify the originator of the question.
	4. If a Potential Supplier wishes to ask a question or seek clarification without the question and answer being revealed, then the Potential Supplier must state this in their email and provide its justification for withholding the question and any response. If the Environment Agency does not consider that there is sufficient justification for withholding the question and the corresponding response, the Potential Supplier will be invited to decide whether:

the question/clarification and the response should in fact be published; or

it wishes to withdraw the question/clarification.

# GENERAL CONDITIONS

* 1. This PTME will help the Environment Agency to refine the requirements and to understand the potential level of interest in the delivering requirements. It will also aid Potential Supplier’s understanding of the requirements in advance of any formal competitive tender exercise.
	2. The Environment Agency reserves the right to change any information contained within this PTME at any time, and Potential Suppliers rely upon it entirely at their own risk.
	3. The Environment Agency reserves the right not to proceed with a competitive tender exercise after this PTME or to award any contract.
	4. Any and all costs associated with the production of such a response to this PTME must be borne by the Potential Suppliers.
	5. No down-selection of Potential Suppliers will take place as a consequence of any responses or interactions relating to this PTME.
	6. The Environment Agency expects that all responses to this PTME will be provided by Potential Suppliers in good faith to the best of their ability in the light of information available at the time of their response.
	7. No information provided by a Potential Supplier in response to this PTME will be carried forward, used or acknowledged in any way for the purpose of evaluating the Potential Supplier, in any subsequent formal procurement process.