



The Coal  
Authority

Resolving the *impacts* of mining

T 0345 762 6848

T +44(0)1623 637000

[www.gov.uk/coalauthority](http://www.gov.uk/coalauthority)

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# **Research on diffuse pollution from historic metal mine activity in the UK.**

## **1. INTRODUCTION, SCOPE AND PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES DOCUMENT**

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## **1. Purpose and Scope of Document**

The purpose of this document is to explain the procurement process and the objective of the procurement process. This document details the following:

- the Authority's high level requirements for research on diffuse pollution from historic metal mine activity in the UK.
- the overall timetable and process for this procurement
- the Expression of Interest Phase (EOI)
- the Clarification Process
- the information required in the submission
- the Selection Criteria and process that will be used to evaluate the Expression of Interest submissions

## **2. Introduction**

Thank you for showing an interest in the Authority's requirement for research on diffuse pollution from historic metal mine activity in the UK.

The Authority is seeking to appoint a contractor or contractors to provide the service described in the scope document with effect from April 2018

## **3. Background**

The Authority was established by Parliament to undertake specific statutory duties, set out in the Coal Industry Act 1994, associated with licensing coal mining operations; managing property and the historic legacy arising from the ownership of the coal reserves and underground workings; settling subsidence damage claims not falling on coal mine operators and providing access to coal mining information.

It employs 200, based mainly at the head office in Mansfield with some field staff remotely based in order to enable a fast response to incidents in the coal mining areas.

The Authority is funded by Grant-in-Aid from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. The Authority takes pride in its achievements, quality and motivation of staff, and is focused on delivering its high level objectives.

## **4. Sustainability & Innovation**

The Authority expects its suppliers to work collaboratively and be supportive of its approach to continually improve performance, through the selection of sustainable products and solutions, innovative thinking and the employment of best practice to meet its objectives and targets.

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The Authority recognises that improving its performance is an ongoing process and that its suppliers are important partners in our aim to become more sustainable.

Details of our approach to sustainability and our overall performance can be found within the supplied documents and at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coal-authority-sustainability-framework>  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coal-authority-sustainability-report-2015-16>

### 5. Objective of Project

The Authority is looking to work with service partners to deliver our requirements. The Authority requires delivery partners that will facilitate the achievement of its vision in an open manner and with mutual trust and co-operation. Both parties need to operate on the understanding that the Authority must receive value for money whilst the contractor must make a reasonable profit.

As a publicly funded organisation the Authority needs to obtain value for money whilst achieving the right balance of cost and quality. It is expected that this contract will deliver benefits through close working relationships and continuous improvement.

### 6. Background & Scope

In the 2011 "Water for Life" White Paper (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/water-for-life>), Government made a commitment to tackle pollution from abandoned metal mines. The Coal Authority works in partnership with the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) and the Environment Agency to deliver healthier waters and habitats by dealing with this legacy of historical metal mining in England. This work is identified as a priority in the Coal Authority's corporate objectives.

To date, focus has been placed on dealing with point sources of pollution from adit and shaft discharges. Diffuse pollution arising from run off and infiltration through spoil heaps and contaminated bankside soils, and contaminated groundwater entry in water courses, can account for significant proportions of the overall metal flux in impacted catchments, particularly during periods of high river flows and precipitation events. With increased levels of precipitation forecast by climate models in the UK, this issue is likely to become more acute in future years. There is a strong need to further understand the mechanisms involved in the transport and fate of metals from these diffuse sources to enable the effective remediation of them.

The Coal Authority is seeking research partners to undertake field-based research into this important area over the next 2-3 years to enable an evidence-based approach to remediation of diffuse pollution as part of its ongoing work with the Environment Agency and Defra.

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This initial call is for expressions of interest on one or both of the topics detailed below. Successful applicants will then be invited to submit full proposals in due course.

**The Authority is seeking outline research proposals that tackle one or both of the following topics:**

(i) Groundwater inputs: Investigation into the role of groundwater / baseflow in metal flux in specific water bodies / stream reaches.

Current approaches to surface water monitoring are not sufficient to clearly identify key pollution sources arising from groundwater entry into river reaches. A previous literature review commissioned by the Environment Agency in 2007 (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/attenuation-of-mine-pollutants-in-the-hyporheic-zone>), for example, has indicated that the hyporheic zone is a critical region for interactions between surface and ground waters, however a number of outstanding research questions remain.

The key research questions in this area are:

- How important are groundwater/surface water interaction zones, such as the hyporheic zone, in determining the overall metal loadings in water bodies and the partition between point and diffuse sources?
- What monitoring methodologies and strategies can be employed to more effectively identify contaminated groundwater entry into reaches?
- Is there a role for remote monitoring technologies (such as via drones) for identifying and quantifying diffuse metal inputs?

(ii) Spoil heap inputs: The relative importance of particulate erosion/run-off versus infiltration/pore water in mobilising metals from spoil heaps (bankside soils) to rivers.

In order to effectively remediate diffuse pollution from contaminated spoil heaps or bankside soils, the primary mechanisms of transport of metals from these sources into watercourses need to be established. Currently it is not clear how important erosion is versus infiltration in transport of metals into rivers and thus how best to remediate these pollution sources.

Key research questions in this area are:

- What factors determine the relative importance of erosion vs infiltration in metal mobilisation from spoil heaps and contaminated soils to watercourses?
- What are the most significant mechanisms of metal mobilisation from these diffuse sources?
- What are the potential impacts of increased precipitation and the increased frequency of intense precipitation events on the relative importance of these mechanisms?
- What monitoring methodologies and strategies should be employed to quantify metal inputs from these diffuse pollution sources?
- Can remote monitoring technologies (such as drones) be effectively deployed to identify and quantify metal inputs from diffuse sources?

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- What remediation measures are likely to be most effective in dealing with diffuse pollution arising from these sources?

Both projects should have a significant field component but may also include an element of laboratory-based study if justified.

The Authority may award contract(s) to one or more research teams for either or both of the groundwater or spoil heap topics.

You should indicate which topic you are expressing an interest in.

Please submit separate submissions for each topic as indicated in the procurement portal.

### 7. Procurement Procedure

The Authority as a Non Departmental Public Body is required to undertake this process in compliance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and has selected the *restricted procedure* for this requirement.

The process will be managed through the Authority's eTendering portal which provides a secure delivery mechanism and an auditable record of the process. There is no cost associated to using the portal and merely requires a short registration process.

Any issues, queries or problems with the eTendering portal needs to be addressed to BravoSolution Helpdesk on telephone number 0800 368 4850 or by email [help@bravosolution.co.uk](mailto:help@bravosolution.co.uk).

Any questions in respect of the Expression of Interest documentation are to be sent via the portal using the messaging facility within the system. This ensures that a complete audit trail of the process is achieved. Questions raised which result in additional information being provided will be shared with all organisations together with the Authority's response, but will not breach any areas of commercially sensitive information.

The Authority accepts no liability for any costs incurred by organisations in respect of preparing and submitting the Expression of Interest documentation or any element of the procurement process.

### 8. Programme for Delivery

Phase	Process	Date
Expression of Interest	Contract Notice Published	14 December 17
	Expression of Interest Documentation available	14 December 17
	Deadline for Queries	10 January 18
	Expression of Interest Closing Date	17 January 18
	Selection of Tenderers	w.c. 29 January 18

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Tender	Invitation to Tender issued*	w.c. 29 January 18
	Invitation to Tender return*	w.c. 26 February 18
	Evaluation of Tenders starts including any clarifications*	w.c. 26 February 18
Award	Award Notification*	w.c.12 March 18
	Contract Award *	w.c.19 March 18

\*Any Changes will be notified as appropriate throughout the procurement process.

### 9. Expression of Interest Phase

The Expression of Interest for this framework is by completion of the Pre-qualification information requested. It *is not* the Authority's intention to hold individual meetings with interested organisations to answer questions at this Expression of Interest stage. Clarification to questions may be submitted via the 'Messages' function in the eTendering system.

The information available for this Expression of Interest includes:

1 Scope of Requirement
2 Procurement Guidance
3 Questionnaire

### Selection Criteria/Scoring

The criteria for the selection of organisations to progress through to the tender phase is as detailed in the Contract Notice and in accordance with Regulations 57, 58, 59 and 60 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

The Authority will exclude an operator from those it will invite to tender if it may be treated as illegal on grounds specified in Regulation 57 – participated in a criminal organisation, corruption, bribery and/or fraud.

*Self Certify Tax Compliance. Under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, an authority can disqualify a supplier from participating in a procurement process if it has not fulfilled its tax obligations under UK law or of the relevant State in which the economic operator is established.*

*DOTAS – Disclosure of Tax Avoidance Scheme is the legislative regime which requires promoters and taxpayers to disclose to HMRC the marketing or the use of certain tax avoidance arrangements. A failed DOTAS scheme is one which has been shown either through litigation or through settlement not to achieve the tax result that it set out to obtain.*

Organisations will need to satisfy the minimum standards required to be invited to tender in the following areas:

- economic and financial standing
- technical or professional ability

## **10. Economic and Financial Standing**

The following information will be evaluated in the questionnaire;

- Economic / Financial Standing
- Group Status
- Guarantees
- Insurance

## **11. Technical or Professional ability**

The following information will be assessed and the selection will be based on the demonstration of the capacity & capability to deliver the requirements detailed within the background information.

- Health & Safety management, responsibilities & culture
- notifiable incidents & enforcement orders
- environmental legislation compliance
- experience to demonstrate competence and capability in the areas identified within the specification

## **12. Scoring**

Scoring questions are identified within the tender and the table below provides a summary of the scoring to be applied.

<b>Score Categories</b>	<b>Meaning</b>	<b>Scores</b>
Adds Value	The evaluators believe that as well as meeting requirements in all respects, the response has additional features that benefit and adds value for the Authority	5
Fully Acceptable	The evaluators are fully satisfied that the proposal meets the requirement in all aspects	4
Minor Reservations	The evaluators are confident that the supplier has the ability to meet the requirement but have some minor reservations	3
Significant Reservations	The evaluators believe the supplier has the ability to partially meet the requirement, but has some major reservations about the approach or solution proposed. The supplier has not met the minimum requirements as specified.	2
Requirement Not Met	The evaluators believe that the evidence fails to show that the contractor is capable in the requirements area	0

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The following questions are the scoring questions

Subject	Question	Weighting
Summary of relevant experience	<p>By way of an attachment please provide a summary of relevant research experience and outputs related to the research topic (specify if groundwater or spoil heap inputs).</p> <p>Please include information about technical capacity (such as field testing equipment, laboratories etc.).</p> <p>Maximum of two sides of A4</p>	20%
Skills & experience	<p>By way of an attachment please provide a summary of key staff who have delivered similar project(s) including brief CV's.</p> <p>Where current technical or staff capacity does not exist in all areas required please indicate your potential approach to obtaining this capacity (e.g. collaboration, third party contracting, direct recruitment/purchase, etc.).</p> <p>Maximum of one side of A4 per CV.</p>	20%
Approach to research	<p>By way of an attachment please provide a high level outline of your approach to addressing the research questions within the topic (including likely timescales and identification of potential field sites for investigation). If you do not wish to be considered for this topic please indicate this clearly in the submission.</p> <p>Maximum of three sides of A4</p>	60%

Each question will be individually assessed

The Coal Authority reserves the right to deem any submission scoring a 0 or 2 for any scored question as non – compliant and as such may be excluded from consideration

There are also a number of mandatory questions that a tenderer must achieve a “Requirements Met” Score as a minimum otherwise the submission will not be further assessed.

These questions are indicated below.

The “Requirements Met” score required in the health and safety and environmental sections of the technical questionnaire is 40%.

The Coal Authority reserves the right to exclude any submission not achieving this minimum requirement for those sections

Section	Maximum Score
General Information	For Information
Grounds for Mandatory Exclusion	Requirements Met

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Grounds for Discretionary Exclusion	Requirements Met
Economic & Financial Standing	Requirements Met
Technical & Professional Ability – Health & Safety	Requirements Met
Technical & Professional Ability – Environment	Requirements Met
Technical & Professional Ability – Confidentiality	For Information
Declaration	Requirements Met

### 13. Guidelines

The answers should cover all your activities and not just those applicable to the contract.

The questionnaire should be completed by a partner/director/senior manager.

Please answer each question fully. The Authority stresses the value and importance of substantiating answers with supporting documentation when requested.

The questionnaire should be completed accurately, if successful this document will form part of the contract.

The response and supporting documents must relate specifically to the organisations policy and arrangements.

The submission will be the basis for the assessment in the selection process to enable the Authority to select organisations that will be invited to tender. Organisations currently providing services to the Authority must provide full details as requested and not just refer to the Authority.

Appendices in the form of attachments are either requested for the response to a specific question or can be included in the General Attachment area of this questionnaire but where included must be clearly labelled and cross referenced to ensure the information supplied can be assessed in full.

### 14. What's next

#### Tender Process

The maximum number of tenderers to be selected to go through to tender phase will be 10.

Successful organisations will be invited to tender and documentation will be made available via the eTendering portal.

Conditions of contract will be the Authority's Works & Services Terms & Conditions

The tender submissions will be assessed in accordance with Award Criteria which will be detailed within the Invitation to Tender documentation.

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Feedback will be provided to organisations which are not successful in progressing through to the tender phase through the issue of a letter providing debrief information on the assessment of the Expression of Interest in accordance with the Regulations.

## Appendix A – Values & Behaviours

### External values

#### **Expert**

We deliver peace of mind underpinned by our expertise and in-depth knowledge of our subject.

#### **All Angles**

We bring all our experience from public safety, environmental and information viewpoints to deliver more sustainable solutions.

#### **Inventive**

We always look for creative and intelligent ways to meet our customers' needs.

#### **Agile**

We are agile, responsive and committed to delivering the best value solutions for customers.

## Appendix B – Transparency Guidance

### Transparency

Government has set out the need for greater transparency across its operations to enable the public to hold public bodies and politicians to account. This includes commitments relating to public expenditure, intended to help achieve better value for money.

As part of the transparency agenda, Government has made the following commitments with regard to procurement and contracting:

- All new central government ICT contracts over the value of £10,000 to be published in full online from July 2010.
- All new central government tender documents for contracts over £10,000 to be published on a single website from September 2010, with this information to be made available to the public free of charge.
- All new central government contracts over the value of £10,000 to be published in full from January 2011.
- New items of central government spending over £25,000 to be published online from November 2010.

Suppliers and those organisations looking to bid for public sector contracts should be aware that if they are awarded a new Government contract, the resulting contract between the supplier and Government will be published. In some circumstances, limited redactions will be made to some contracts before they are published in order to comply with existing law and for the protection of national security.

The publication of information incorporates but is not limited to the following documentation/information. This will cover potential contract extensions and orders placed against a framework or term contract.

Contracts: contract, specification, terms and conditions, schedules and pricing – issued by both the tenderer and the Authority.

Tenders: invitation to tender, specification, terms and conditions, prequalification questionnaires, OJEU notices – issued by the Authority.

Spending: summary of invoice information in relation to payments made and includes invoice values – submitted by suppliers.