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| Date: **21/06/2022** |

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Prior Information Notice**

1. The Trade Remedies Authority (TRA) (”the customer”) has a potential requirement for the provision of “Market and Product Data for Metal and Alloy Commodities”.
2. The Secretary of State for the Department for International Trade (“DIT”) is the contracting authority responsible for meeting this anticipated requirement on behalf of the Customer.
3. It is anticipated the contract shall be for a period of 24 months, including any available contract option(s). The requirement has an estimated total value of £82,462 (ex-VAT) and this value includes any available contract option(s).
4. The customer will conduct supplier calls with all suppliers express a willingness to deliver this requirement. **Please contact CommercialResearchandConsultancy@trade.gov.uk by 8th July 2022 if your organisation would like to participate**.
5. The full specification shall be provided with the contract documents, but it is expected to incorporate procuring a database on **market data** and **production data** on specific metals to assist with its investigations.
6. The customer require access to market prices for various raw metal inputs (e.g., aluminium ingots or iron ore for steel) as well as data to help calculate alloy prices (e.g., aluminium alloy prices to assist in calculating the cost of the conversion process). TRA investigations focus on goods classified under specific 6-, 8- or 10-digit commodity codes. The customer’s preference is for the supplier to provide the ability to search for market and production data by commodity code or through another system that can clearly identify goods being investigated. This will ensure the data can be linked to the specific product under investigation. The relevant data required can be grouped into categories which cover:

* General media: Required to identify subsidies
* Global markets: Required for pricing benchmarks
* Industry: Required to check comprehension and coverage
* Entity: Required for profit calculations

1. The customer requires data to complete certain calculations and verify information received from interested parties. This allows case teams to provide accurate, evidence-based advice to the Secretary of State to make informed decisions on whether to revoke/impose certain types of tariff measures to protect UK industry against dumped/subsidised goods or surges on imports.
2. There must be sufficient quality assurance processes in place to ensure the data provided is reliable and credible. We must be able to demonstrate that the data is authoritative (I.e., it is used by a range of other users such as market participants, public authorities or reputable media outlets).
3. Below is a breakdown of the types of data that may be required during a TRA investigation. **The customer is aware that the requirements are extensive and thus, they do not expect suppliers to meet all these requirements, but they are looking to discuss with suppliers what can be provided or whether a suite of tools may be better suited for the organisation**:

* International trends in production including forecasts for relevant sectors and raw materials
* Segmentation of markets (including historic information on these developments)
* Relevant government policies on specific products (including subsidies, government intervention programmes/ export taxes imposed/ freedom of trade statistics in various countries)
* Regulatory restraints or requirements
* Raw material inputs and supplies (to create the final product)
* Shipping costs
* Domestic product prices (both current and historic)
* National and international benchmark prices for relevant inputs
* Prices and volumes of imports and exports (historic) of metals from key countries across ALL continents. We are particularly keen to ensure we receive information on prices from Asia, not only China, but other countries in that region as well, (e.g., South Korea, Thailand, Vietnam, Japan).
* Energy prices (electricity/ gas) in key countries
* Labour prices in key countries
* Prices for exports and imports to and from the UK from a range of countries as well as from specific countries to other countries.
* Any information regarding stocks/stockpiling (relevant to global trade shocks, such as the pandemic stockpiling)
* Profit margins, market size, production volume and capacity in different countries
* Trade remedy measures against these commodities in other countries
* Forecast for construction and other industries that use these commodities
* Information relating to the end users of the commodities (metals)
* Information on average wages in these sectors in the UK
* Information on unemployment in the UK
* Information on these industries in the UK e.g., level of competitiveness, estimates of market share, turnover, prices, industry growth, the primary sectors that this industry feeds into e.g., is it construction/food/cars.
* Economic significance of these industries in the UK (referring primarily to turnover, employment, gross value added).
* Any data on factors affecting raw material inputs in different countries (including countries across the globe such as China, Russia etc)
* Any data on factors affecting energy prices in different countries
* Any data on factors affecting labour markets in different countries

1. When considering usability of the service, our requirements would be:

* Transparency in investigations is a key requirement for the customer and although no raw data would be published, conclusions based on this raw data will be published and thus the customer requires assurance from the data supplier that any processed information is able to be published. The customer is happy to discuss options with any potential supplier to confirm its requirements.
* Minimum of 4 years of historic data.
* Ability for multiple users to have access to the database.
* The client endpoint software should be fully supported and confirmed as being free from malware or viruses that could compromise any user of the platform.
* ISO27001 compliant.
* Any software should adhere to NCSC (National Cyber Security Centre) Guidelines.
* Downloadable data – we would need to consider the format that we would be permitted to download this data and whether our hardware would accommodate this.
* Minimum of one training session (additional sessions if required) to be provided to each end user. Preferably presented virtually (via MS Teams) or face to face (office in Reading).
* User manual of the platform should be provided.
* An established process to escalate issues/queries as well as a point of contact (relationship manager to represent the supplier).
* Flexibility to get quotes on accessing additional data relating to other commodities on an adhoc basis. Other commodities might include products such as fuel, ceramics, tyres, optical fibre cables.