



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

www.gov.uk/defra

Invitation to Tender

Designing a Natural Capital Approach to Estimating the Full Economic Costs of Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) in the UK

Tender Reference: C5172

November 2022

Important Notice

All references in this ITT to the Authority include, where appropriate and unless the context otherwise requires, references to the Authority's predecessors and successor(s).

The Information has been prepared to assist interested parties in deciding whether or not to submit a Response in relation to the procurement. It does not purport to be all-inclusive or to contain all of the information that a Tenderer may require. Any descriptions of existing and proposed contractual arrangements are of a general nature only. Where the Information describes any contractual arrangements which are not yet in force, those arrangements are subject to change. Any reference to a contract or other document is qualified in full by reference to the entire terms of the contract or document to which reference is made.

The issue of this ITT in no way commits the Authority to award the contract to any person or party. The Authority reserves the right to terminate the competition, to award a contract without prior notice, to change the basis, the procedures and the timescales set out or referred to in this ITT, or to reject any or all Responses and to terminate discussions with any or all Tenderers at any time. Nothing in this ITT should be interpreted as a commitment by the Authority to award a Contract to a Tenderer.

The Authority does not make any representation or warranty (express or implied) as to the accuracy, reasonableness or completeness of the Information. All such persons or entities expressly disclaim any and all liability (other than in respect of fraudulent misrepresentation) based on or relating to any such information or representations or warranties (express or implied) contained in, or errors or omissions from, this document or based on or relating to the recipient's use, or the use by any of its subsidiaries or the respective representatives of any of them, in the course of its or their evaluation of the service or any other decision. In the absence of express written warranties or representations as referred to below, the Information shall not form the basis of any agreements or arrangements entered into in connection with this procurement.

The Information has been provided in good faith and all reasonable endeavours have been made, and will be made, to inform you of the requirements of the Authority. However, the Information does not purport to be comprehensive or to have been independently verified. You should form your own conclusions about the methods and resources needed to meet these requirements. In particular, neither the Authority nor any of its advisers accept responsibility for representations, writings, negotiations or understandings in connection with this procurement made by the Authority (whether directly or by its agents or representatives), except in respect of any fraudulent misrepresentation made by it. Tenderers are expected to carry out their own checks for verification.

The only information which will have any legal effect and / or upon which any person may rely will be such information (if any) as has been specifically and expressly represented and / or warranted in the Contract or other relevant agreements entered into at the same time as the Contract is entered into or becomes unconditional.

Subject always to the provisions of the preceding paragraph, Tenderers considering entering a contractual relationship with the Authority should make their own investigations and enquiries as to the Authority's requirements beforehand. The subject matter of this ITT shall only have any contractual effect when it is incorporated into the expressed terms of an executed contract.

The issue of this ITT is not to be construed as a commitment by the Authority to enter into a contract as a result of this procurement process. Any expenditure, work or effort undertaken prior to the execution of a Contract is accordingly a matter solely for the commercial judgement of the Tenderer. The Authority reserves the right to withdraw from the procurement at any time or to re-invite Responses on the same or any alternative basis.

Nothing in this ITT shall constitute legal, financial or tax advice. This ITT is not a recommendation by the Authority, nor any other person, to bid for, enter into or agree to enter into any contract in connection with this procurement, nor to acquire shares in the capital of any company that is to carry out any part of the service or in any parent company of that company. In considering any investment in the shares of any company or in bidding for the award of the service, each Tenderer, potential contractor, funder and investor should make its own independent assessment and seek its own professional financial, taxation, insurance and legal advice and conduct its own investigations into the opportunity of being awarded a contract in relation to this procurement and of the legal, financial, taxation and other consequences of entering into contractual arrangements in connection with this the procurement.

This ITT and the Information is confidential.

This ITT is subject to copyright. Neither this ITT, nor the Information, nor any other information supplied in connection with it, may, except with the prior written consent of the Authority, be published, reproduced, copied, distributed or disclosed to any person, nor used for any purpose other than consideration by each Tenderer of whether or not to submit a Response.

The Authority reserves the right at any time to issue further supplementary instructions and updates and amendments to the instructions and Information contained in this ITT as it shall in its absolute discretion think fit.

The Authority will not be responsible for the costs or expenses of any Tenderer in relation to any matter referred to in this ITT howsoever incurred, including the evaluation of the service opportunity, the award, or any proposal for the award of the contract or negotiation of the associated contractual agreements.

Each Tenderer's acceptance of delivery of this ITT constitutes its agreement to and acceptance of the terms set out in this Important Notice.

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SECTION 1: TENDER PARTICULARS

GLOSSARY

Unless the context otherwise requires, the following words and expressions used within this Invitation to Tender (except Appendix B: Authority's Conditions of Contract) have the following meanings (to be interpreted in the singular or plural as the context requires):

TERM	MEANING
“Authority”	the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs acting as part of the Crown.
“Atamis”	the e-Tendering system used by the Authority for conducting this procurement, which can be found at https://defra-family.force.com/s/Welcome
“Contract”	the contract (set out in Appendix B) to be entered into by the Authority and the successful Tenderer.
“EIR”	the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (as amended) together with any guidance and/or codes of practice issued by the Information Commissioner or any Government Department in relation to those Regulations.
“FOIA”	the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (as amended) and any subordinate legislation made under that Act together with any guidance and/or codes of practice issued by the Information Commissioner or any Government Department in relation to that legislation.
“Information”	means the information contained in the ITT or sent with it, and any information which has been made available to the Tenderer by the Authority, its employees, agents or advisers in connection with the procurement.
“ITT”	this invitation to tender and all related documents published by the Authority and made available to Tenderers.
“Pricing Schedule”	the form accessed via Atamis in which Tenderers are required to submit their pricing information as part of a Tender.
“Regulations”	the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

“Response”	means the information submitted in response to the ITT via the online response forms on Atamis including the Tenderer’s formal Tender.
“Tender”	a formal tender in response to this ITT.
“Tenderer”	anyone responding to this ITT and, where the context requires, includes a potential tenderer.
“Timetable”	the timetable set out in Part 2 of this Section.

References to a “Section” and to an “Appendix” are references to a section and to an appendix in the ITT.

Reference to a statute or statutory provision is a reference to such statute or statutory provision as amended or re-enacted. A reference to a statute or statutory provision includes any subordinate legislation made under that statute or statutory provision, as amended or re-enacted.

PART 1: GENERAL

- 1.1 The Authority is looking for suppliers who can conduct a comprehensive assessment of the economic costs of INNS not previously estimated, including non-monetised natural capital costs. The approach could be regionally focused (and potentially habitat driven) to be consistent with the 25 YEP and provides comparable value estimates on a per km² basis. This is important to ensure that the natural capital approach can be complemented by cost-effectiveness analysis to identify the most cost-effective interventions to control / eradicate INNS while also considering restoration costs. More complex analysis may employ various scenarios to identify how a change in the abundance of some INNS (e.g. relative to climate change) may impact both natural capital and the cost of control, through a regional lens.
- 1.2 This procurement is **NOT** being carried out in accordance with the Regulations because it is below the relevant financial threshold. However, the Authority will conduct the procedure fairly, openly and transparently.
- 1.3 The Authority is using Atamis for this procurement which means the ITT and the forms for submitting a Tender are only available in electronic form. It can be accessed via your web browser at <https://defra-family.force.com/s/Welcome>.

- 1.4 Tenderers are required to submit their Tender in accordance with the instructions set out in Atamis and the ITT.
- 1.5 The information contained in the ITT is designed to ensure that all Tenders are given equal and fair consideration. It is important that Tenderers provide all the information asked for in the format and order specified so that the Authority can make an informed decision.
- 1.6 Tenderers should read the ITT carefully before submitting a Tender. It sets out:
- the Timetable and process for the procurement
 - provides sufficient information to allow Tenderers to submit a compliant Tender;
 - presents the award criteria and evaluation criteria which will be used to assess the Tenders; and
 - the administrative arrangements for the receipt of Tenders.
- 1.7 Tenderers are responsible for ensuring that they understand the requirements for this procurement. If any information is unclear, or if a Tenderer considers that insufficient information has been provided, they should raise a query via the clarification process described in clause 3.13.
- 1.8 Tenderers are responsible for ensuring they have submitted a complete and accurate Tender and that prices quoted are arithmetically correct for the units stated.
- 1.9 Failure to comply with the instructions set out in the ITT or the provision of false, inaccurate or misleading information (at any stage of this procurement) may result in the Tenderer's exclusion from this procurement.
- 1.10 If there is any conflict between the information set out in the ITT and the information displayed in Atamis, the information in the ITT shall take precedence over the information displayed in Atamis.
- 1.11 The copyright in the ITT is vested in the Crown and may not be reproduced, copied or stored in any medium without the prior written consent of the Authority, The ITT, and any document issued as a supplement to it, are and shall remain the property of the Crown and must be returned upon demand.

PART 2: PROPOSED TIMETABLE AND ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

2.1 The Timetable below is subject to change by the Authority and Tenderers will be informed accordingly.

Procurement Activity	Anticipated Date	
Finalise Tender Pack (ITT)	28/10/2022	
Publish Tender Pack	08/11/2022	
Clarification deadline	Date	Time
	28/11/2022	12:00 (GMT)
Tender Pack / ITT response date	Date	Time
	05/12/2022	12:00 (GMT)
Technical Evaluation	05/12/2022– 12/12/2022	
Moderation Meeting	14/12/2022	
Approval of Contract Award Report	21/12/2022	
Issue decision letters to Tenderers issued	21/12/2022	
Contract award / contract issued	06/01/2023	
Contract Start Date	09/01/2023	
Publish Contract Award Notice and Redacted Contract	19/01/2023	
Duration of Contract	24/01/2024 (12 months)	
Extension Period	2 months	

PART 3: COMPLETION OF TENDER

3.1 By submitting a Tender, Tenderers agree:

- to be bound by the ITT; and
- that if the Authority accepts the Tender in writing, the Tenderer will execute the Contract in the form set out in Appendix B or in such amended form as may be agreed in writing by the Authority.

3.2 The Authority may terminate or amend the procurement or the ITT at any time. Any such termination or amendment will be notified in writing to all Tenderers. In order to give Tenderers reasonable time in which to take an amendment into account in preparing their Tenders, the Authority may, at its discretion, extend the deadline for Tenders.

3.3 Unless otherwise stated in the ITT or in writing by the Authority, all communications from Tenderers (including Tenderers' sub-contractors, consultants and advisers) during the procurement must be made using Atamis. The Authority will not respond to communications made by other means and Tenderers should not rely on communications from the Authority unless they are made through Atamis.

Submission of Tenders

3.4 Tenderers must complete all parts of the Tender form in Atamis in accordance with the instructions therein.

3.5 Tenderers should print off the Form of Tender which must be signed by an authorised signatory. The signed Form of Tender must be uploaded and submitted via Atamis as part of a Tender in accordance with the instructions in Atamis.

3.6 The Tender and any documents accompanying it must be in English.

3.7 Prices must be submitted in £ Sterling exclusive of VAT.

3.8 Tenders will be checked for completeness and compliance with the requirements of the ITT and only compliant Tenders will be evaluated.

3.9 Tenderers must be explicit and comprehensive in their Tender as this will be the single source of information used to score and rank Tenders. The Authority will take into account only information which is specifically asked for in the ITT.

3.10 Where a length of response is stipulated, for example, a word count limit, only the information within the set limit will be evaluated.

- 3.11 Failure to provide the information required or supply documents referred to in the Tender within the deadline for Tenders may result in rejection of the Tender.
- 3.12 Tenderers should avoid reference to general marketing or promotional information/material (except where this is specifically required by the relevant question). General marketing or promotional brochures may not be accepted where these are not deemed to be specifically relevant to the question.
- 3.13 Different persons may be responsible for evaluating different responses to questions in a Tender. Therefore, Tenderers should not cross-refer to answers given elsewhere in a Tender but should answer each question so that it forms a stand-alone response. This may mean Tenderers need to repeat certain information in response to different questions if this is required by those questions.

Clarifications sought by Tenderers

- 3.13 Any request for clarification regarding the ITT should be submitted at the earliest opportunity via Atamis and in any event no later than the deadline for clarifications set out in the Timetable. The Authority is under no obligation to respond to queries raised after the clarification deadline.
- 3.14 The Authority will respond to all reasonable clarifications as soon as possible but cannot guarantee a minimum response time. The Authority will publish all clarifications and its responses to all Tenderers other than in exceptional circumstances.
- 3.15 If a Tenderer believes that a request for clarification is commercially sensitive or that publishing the same together with the Authority's response as set out above would reveal information, disclosure of which would be detrimental to the Tenderer, it should clearly state this when submitting the clarification request. However, if the Authority considers either that:
- the clarification and response is not commercially sensitive; and/or
 - all Tenderers may benefit from its disclosure,

the Authority will notify the Tenderer of this (via Atamis), and the Tenderer will have an opportunity to withdraw the request for clarification. If the request for clarification is not withdrawn within 48 hours of the Authority's notification, the Authority may publish the clarification request and its response to all Tenderers and the Authority shall not be liable to the Tenderer for any consequences of such publication.

- 3.16 The Authority may not respond to a request for clarification or publish it where the Authority considers that the response may prejudice the Authority's commercial interests. In such circumstances, the Authority will inform the Tenderer of its view.

Changes to Tenders

- 3.17 Tenderers may modify their Tenders prior to the deadline for Tenders. No Tenders may be modified after the deadline for Tenders.
- 3.18 Tenderers may withdraw their Tenders at any time by submitting a notice via Atamis. Unless withdrawn, Tenders shall remain valid and open to acceptance by the Authority for 120 days from the deadline for Tenders.

Receipt of Tenders

- 3.19 Tenders must be uploaded onto Atamis no later than the time and date set out in the Timetable as the deadline for Tenders. The Authority will not consider Tenders received after the deadline. The Authority may, however, at its own discretion, extend the deadline and in such circumstances the Authority will notify all Tenderers of any change.
- 3.20 If a Tenderer experiences problem when uploading its Tender, it should contact the Atamis helpdesk for assistance and also inform the Authority.

Acceptance of Tenders

- 3.21 By issuing the ITT, communicating with a Tenderer or a Tenderer's representative or agents or any other communication in respect of this procurement, the Authority shall not be bound to accept any Tender or award any contract.

Costs of Tendering

- 3.22 Tenderers shall bear all their own costs and expenses incurred in the preparation and submission of their Tenders, site visits and presentations and the Authority will in no case be responsible or liable for those costs, regardless of the outcome of the procurement in relation to individual Tenders, even if the procurement is terminated or amended by the Authority.

Clarifications sought by the Authority

- 3.23 The Authority reserves the right (but is not obliged) to seek clarification of any aspect of a Tender and/or provide additional information during the evaluation phase in order to carry out a fair evaluation. Failure to respond adequately may result in the Tender being rejected.
- 3.24 Tenderers must give the names of two people in their organisation who can answer the Authority's clarification questions. The Authority will not contact any other persons. Tenderers must notify the Authority promptly of any changes.

Confidentiality of the ITT and related documents

- 3.25 The contents of the ITT and of any other documents and information published or provided by the Authority in respect of this procurement are provided on condition that they remain the property of the Authority, are kept confidential (save in so far as they are already in the public domain) and that the Tenderer shall take all necessary precautions to ensure that they remain confidential and are not disclosed, save as described below.
- 3.26 Tenderers may disclose information relating to the procurement to their advisers and sub-contractors in the following circumstances:
- disclosure is for the purpose of enabling a Tender to be submitted and the recipient of the information undertakes in writing to keep it confidential on the same terms as the Tenderer;
 - the Authority gives prior consent in writing to the disclosure;
 - the disclosure is made for the purpose of obtaining legal advice in relation to the procurement; or
 - the Tenderer is legally required to disclose the information.
- 3.27 Tenderers shall not undertake any publicity activities in relation to the ITT without the prior written agreement of the Authority, including agreement on the format and content of any publicity. For example, no statements may be made to the media regarding the nature of any Tender, its contents or any proposals relating to it without the prior written consent of the Authority.
- 3.28 All Central Government Departments, their Executive Agencies and Non-Departmental Public Bodies are subject to control and reporting within Government. In particular, they report to the Cabinet Office and HM Treasury for all expenditure. Further the Cabinet Office has a cross-Government role delivering overall Government policy on public procurement, including ensuring value for money and related aspects of good procurement practice.
- 3.29 For these purposes, the Authority may disclose within Government any of the Tenderer's documents and information (including any that the Tenderer considers to be confidential and/or commercially sensitive) provided in its Tender. The information will not be disclosed outside Government during the procurement. Tenderers consent to these terms as part of the procurement.

Confidentiality: References and third-party evaluators:

- 3.30 When providing details of contracts as part of a Tender, Tenderers agree to waive any contractual or other confidentiality rights and obligations associated with these contracts.
- 3.31 The Authority may contact any named customer contact given as a reference or otherwise referred to as part of a Tender (and including any contacts or references given as part of the Tenderer's SSQ response). The named customer contact does not owe the Authority any duty of care or have any legal liability, except for any deceitful or maliciously false statements of fact.
- 3.32 Subject to clauses 3.34 to 3.38 the Authority confirms that it will keep confidential and will not disclose to any third parties any information obtained from a named customer contact, other than to the Cabinet Office and/or contracting authorities defined by the Regulations.
- 3.33 The Authority may use third parties in the course of its evaluation of Tenders. The Authority may disclose information contained therein to such third parties for the purposes of the Authority's evaluation of Tenders in accordance with the ITT. This right shall be in addition to the provisions of clauses 3.28, 3.29 and 3.34 to 3.38.

Commercially sensitive information and Freedom of Information

- 3.34 In accordance with the obligations placed on public authorities by the FOIA and the EIR, which provide a public right of access to information held by public bodies, the Authority may disclose information submitted to the Authority by the Tenderer.
- 3.35 If the Tenderer considers any information which it supplies to be commercially sensitive or confidential it should complete the schedule of Commercially Sensitive Information set out in Atamis and:
- clearly identify such information as confidential or commercially sensitive;
 - explain the potential implications of disclosure of such information; and
 - provide an estimate of the period of time during which the Tenderer believes that such information will remain confidential or commercially sensitive.
- 3.36 Where a Tenderer identifies information as confidential and/or commercially sensitive, the Authority will endeavour to maintain the confidentiality of that information, and will, where practicable, consult with the Tenderer before information relating to that Tenderer is disclosed pursuant to a request for information under FOIA and/or EIR to establish whether an exemption from disclosure may apply.

- 3.37 However, even where information is identified as being confidential or commercially sensitive, there may be circumstances in which the Authority may be required to disclose such information in accordance with the FOIA or the EIR (in addition to any other transparency obligations as set out in clauses 3.28 and 3.29). In particular, the Authority is required to form an independent judgment concerning whether the information is exempt from disclosure under the FOIA or the EIR and whether the public interest favours disclosure or not. Accordingly, the Authority cannot guarantee that any information marked “confidential” or “commercially sensitive” will not be disclosed and accepts no liability for any loss or prejudice caused by the disclosure of information.
- 3.38 If a Tenderer receives a request for information relating to this procurement under the FOIA or the EIR during the procurement, this should be immediately passed on to the Authority and the Tenderer should not respond to the request without first consulting the Authority.

Disclaimers

- 3.39 Whilst the information in the ITT and supporting documents have been prepared in good faith the Authority does not warrant that it is comprehensive or that it has been independently verified.
- 3.40 Neither the Authority nor its respective advisors, directors, officers, members, partners, employees, other staff or agents:
- makes any representation or warranty (express or implied) as to the accuracy, reasonableness or completeness of the ITT or of any other written or oral communication transmitted (or otherwise made available) to any Tenderer;
 - accepts any liability for the information contained in the ITT or in any other written or oral communication transmitted (or otherwise made available) to any Tenderer, or for the fairness, accuracy or completeness of that information; or
 - shall be liable for any loss or damage (other than in respect of fraudulent misrepresentation) arising as a result of reliance on such information or any subsequent communication.

Any party considering entering into contractual relationships with the Authority following receipt of the ITT should make its own investigations and independent assessment of the Authority and its requirements for the goods and/or services and should seek its own professional financial and legal advice.

- 3.41 Neither the issue of the ITT nor any of the information presented in it should be regarded as a commitment or representation on the part of the Authority to enter into a contractual arrangement. Nothing in the ITT or in any other communication made between the Authority and any other party should be interpreted as constituting a

contract, agreement or representation between the Authority and any other party (save for a formal award of contract made in writing) or as constituting a contract, agreement or representation that a contract shall be offered.

Canvassing

- 3.42 Any Tenderer which directly or indirectly canvasses any officer, member, employee, or agent of the Authority or its members or any other relevant body or any of its officers or members concerning the Contract or this procurement which directly or indirectly obtains or attempts to obtain information from any such officer, member, employee or agent concerning any other Tenderer or Tender will be excluded from this procurement and its Tender rejected.
- 3.43 The Tenderer shall not make contact with any employee, agent or consultant of the Authority which is in any way connected with this procurement during this procurement, unless instructed otherwise by the Authority.

Conflicts of Interest

- 3.44 The concept of a conflict of interest includes any situation where relevant staff members of the Authority, involved in this procurement have, directly or indirectly, a financial, economic or other personal interest which might be perceived to compromise their impartiality and independence in the context of the procurement procedure and/or affect the integrity of the contract award.
- 3.45 If the Tenderer is aware of any circumstances giving rise to a conflict of interest or has any indication that a conflict of interest exists or may arise you should inform the Authority of this as soon as possible (whether before or after they have submitted a Tender). Tenderers should remain alert to the possibility of conflicts of interest arising at all stages of the procurement and should update the Authority if any new circumstances or information arises, or there are any changes to information already provided to the Authority. Failure to do so, and/or to properly manage any conflicts of interest may result in a Tender being rejected.
- 3.46 Provided that it has been carried out in a transparent manner, routine pre-market engagement carried out by the Authority should not represent a conflict of interest for the Tenderer.

Changes to a Tenderer's Circumstances

- 3.47 The Authority may:
- reject a Tender if there is a subsequent change of identity, control, financial standing or other factor which may affect the Authority's evaluation of the Tender;

- revisit information contained in a Tender at any time to take account of subsequent changes to a Tenderer's circumstances; or
- at any point during the procurement require a Tenderer to certify there has been no material change to information submitted in its Tender and in the absence of such certificate, reject the Tender.

Sub-Contracting

3.48 Where the Tenderer proposes to use one or more sub-contractors to deliver some or all of the contract requirements, all information requested in the Tender should be given in respect of the prime contractor and a separate appendix should be used to provide details of the proposed bidding model that includes:

- members of the supply chain;
- the percentage of work being delivered by each sub-contractor; and
- the key contract deliverables each sub-contractor will be responsible for

3.49 The Authority recognises that arrangements in relation to sub-contracting may be subject to future change and may not be finalised until a later date. However, Tenderers should note that where information provided to the Authority indicates that sub-contractors are to play a significant role in delivering key contract requirements, any changes to those sub-contracting arrangements may affect the ability of the Tenderer to proceed with the procurement process or to provide the supplies and/or services required. If the proposed supply chain changes at any time after submission of its Tender, the Tenderer should inform the Authority immediately via Atamis. The Authority may deselect the Tenderer prior to any award of contract, based on an assessment of the updated information.

Pricing

3.50 Prices must be submitted in £ Sterling exclusive of VAT.

3.51 The Contract is to be awarded as a fixed price. which will be paid according to the deliverables stated in the Specification of Requirements.

3.52 The Pricing Schedule sets out the minimum level of pricing information required for the Tender. The Authority may request a detailed breakdown of any Tender.

Notification of Award and Standstill N/A

3.53 The Authority will notify successful and unsuccessful Tenderers of its decision.

3.54 **TUPE (Not Applicable)**

PART 4: GOVERNMENT POLICY IN RELATION TO TRANSPARENCY

- 4.1 Tenderers should be aware that the Government has set out the need for greater transparency in public sector procurement. Tenderers should note that if they are awarded a Contract, the tender documents and Contract will be published on the Contracts Finder website <https://www.gov.uk/contracts-finder>. In some circumstances, limited redactions may be made to some contracts before they are published.

PART 5: ARMED FORCES COVENANT – (NOT APPLICABLE)

SECTION 2: EVALUATION

Evaluation comprises the stages set out in the table below. More information on evaluation criteria is set out in Atamis.

Stage	Section Reference	Evaluation Criteria	Question Scoring/ Weighting (%)
Stage 1	Form of Tender	This stage is not scored but if you do not upload a complete, signed and dated Form of Tender in accordance with the instructions in Atamis, your Tender will be rejected as non-compliant.	Pass/Fail
Stage 2	Selection Stage:	<p>This stage is designed to select those Tenderers who are suitable to deliver the Authority's requirements and will be evaluated in accordance with the criteria set out in Sections 1 to 4 of the response form in Atamis and Part 1 of this Section 2 below (in respect of economic and financial standing and technical and professional ability).</p> <p>Failure to meet the stated selection criteria will result in a Response being rejected at this stage and no further assessment of the remainder of the Response (including the Tender) pursuant to the remaining stages below will be undertaken by the Authority.</p>	Pass/Fail
Stage 3	Technical & Professional Ability – Project Specific Requirements (Technical Questionnaire)	This stage will be evaluated in accordance with the criteria set out in the Technical Questionnaire.	Scored E01 - Sustainability Weighting= Pass/ Fail

		<p>Some requirements are mandatory and if you cannot provide them your Tender may be rejected.</p> <p>Scored as 70% weighting of the total available score, consisting of the following breakdown of questions:</p>	<p>E02 - Equality & Diversity Policy Weighting= Pass/ Fail</p> <p>E03 - Understanding of the Policy, Delivery and Evidence Requirements Weighting = 25%</p> <p>E04 - Approach and methodology Weighting = 40%</p> <p>E05 – Experience and expertise Weighting = 25%</p> <p>E06 - Project Management & Risk Management Weighting = 10%</p>
Stage 4	Pricing Schedule	Prices will be evaluated in accordance with criteria set out in the Pricing Schedule on the ITT and Atamis.	Scored weighting 30%
Stage 5	Final score / Award	<p>A Response which passes stage 1 and 2 will proceed to evaluation of Tenders in accordance with stages 3 to 5.</p> <p>The final score is calculated as follows:</p> <p>Total Technical Quality Requirements will make up to a maximum of 70% of total score. (Stage 3)</p> <p>Total Price Requirements will make up to a maximum of 30% of total score. (Stage 4)</p> <p>The most economically advantageous Tender will be the Tender with the highest final score.</p>	

- 1.1 Tenders will be evaluated on quality and price using the evaluation criteria set out in Atamis to determine which Tender is the most economically advantageous. The Authority will award the Contract to the Tenderer which submits the most economically advantageous tender which will be the highest scoring Tender after the weightings in clause 1.3 are applied.
- 1.2 Each question will be scored separately, and no reference will be made between the questions.
- 1.3 To ensure that the relative importance of both sets of criteria is correctly reflected in the overall score, a weighting system will be applied to the evaluation:
 - the total quality scores awarded will form **70%** of the final score;
 - The score awarded for price will form **30%** of the final score.
- 1.4 Each scoring question in the quality evaluation is given a weighting to indicate the relative importance of that question in the overall quality score. Weightings for quality scores are provided with the evaluation criteria and are detailed on Atamis for each question in the response form. The evaluation criteria for price are set out in the Pricing Schedule.
- 1.5 Evaluation of Tenders will be undertaken by a panel appointed by the Authority. Each panel member will first undertake an independent evaluation of the Tenders applying the relevant evaluation criteria for each question. Then, a moderation meeting will be held at which the evaluation panel will reach a consensus on the marking of each question.
- 1.6 Questions asked by the Authority to evaluate submission's Technical Quality can be found on Atamis. These are repeated as Appendix C of this ITT for information purposes.
- 1.7 The method for scoring price can be found on Atamis.
- 1.8 The submissions against the Technical Quality questions E03 – E06 will be evaluated using the following scoring criteria:

For a score of 100: Excellent - Response is completely relevant and excellent overall. The response is comprehensive, unambiguous and demonstrates a best-in-class thorough understanding of the requirement and provides details of how the requirement will be met in full.

For a score of 70: Good - Response is relevant and good. The response demonstrates a good understanding and provides details on how the requirements will be fulfilled.

For a score of 50: Acceptable - Response is relevant and acceptable. The response provides sufficient evidence to fulfil basic requirements.

For a score of 20: Poor - Response is partially relevant and/or poor. The response addresses some elements of the requirements but contains insufficient / limited detail or explanation to demonstrate how the requirement will be fulfilled.

For a score of 0: Unacceptable - Nil or inadequate response. Fails to demonstrate an ability to meet the requirement.

If a Tenderer receives a 'Fail' in either question E01 or E02 they will be eliminated from the procurement. If a score of twenty (20) or less is awarded to a Tenderer's response to any scored question the Authority may choose to reject the Tender.

The commercial evaluation will be based on a total price and bidders will be required to provide a full price breakdown of the work package, and matched against milestones in the commercial workbook

Tenderers must provide a financial proposal, including rates and hours for each participating team member and costing analysed by work stages. The project is for a fixed cost. A breakdown of costs against each objective and against each key personnel including a detailed breakdown for equipment, consumables; overheads and travel costs etc is required. The Authority is keen to receive competitive Day Rates which must be set out in the "Commercial Workbook" (provided in the ITT pack); "Staff Costs" worksheet and ensure the details entered in the "Milestone" worksheet are that of the deliverables detailed in the specification.

The above is required to be uploaded to the 'Commercial Envelope' of Atamis.

Where subcontractors or joint contractors are used, a separate breakdown for each should be provided in addition to the overall project costs.

Day rates for all staff should be provided along with a general description of duties.

Tenderers will be required to submit a total fixed cost for completion of the project and include a breakdown of costs against each objective and against key personnel. Costs will need to be reasonable and competitive and offer value for money.

Evaluation

The calculation used is the following:

Score = $\frac{\text{Lowest Tender Price}}{\text{Tender Price}} \times 30\%$ Maximum available marks

Tender Price

For example, if three Tender Responses are received and Tenderer A has quoted £3,000 as their total price, Tenderer B has quoted £5,000 and Tenderer C has quoted £6,000 then the calculation will be as follows:

Tenderer A Score = $\frac{£3000}{£3000} \times 30\%$ (Maximum available marks) = 30%

Tenderer B Score = $\frac{£3000}{£5000} \times 30\%$ (Maximum available marks) = 18%

Tenderer C Score = $\frac{£3000}{£6000} \times 30\%$ (Maximum available marks) = 15%

***Please Note:**

Tenderers must be aware that all bids are submitted in acceptance with agreed Defra terms and conditions of contract. Any clarifications regarding terms and conditions must be discussed & agreed during the tender period. No discussion of terms and conditions of contract shall be held following tender submission. Failure to agree with the terms and conditions of contract post tender shall result in a bid being deemed non-compliant.

SECTION 3: SPECIFICATION OF REQUIREMENTS

This section sets out the Authority's requirements.

1. Aim

This study should:

- Develop a method to assess the wider natural capital costs of INNS. Atkins (2019) proposed a few methods to do this, and the proposed work here should develop a cohesive system that can assess the natural capital costs of a wide variety of INNS.
- Estimate the wider and non-direct economic impacts of INNS. The cohesive system should then be used to estimate the non-direct/natural capital costs of INNS in the

UK. This should build on the work of Atkins (2019) including their suggested priorities.

This study should **not**:

- Replicate previous research into the economic costs of INNS. We are not looking for an assessment of direct costs of INNS and the study should clearly state how the new approach will be additional to previous research.

2. Background

Invasive non-native species (INNS) represent a significant and growing threat to ecosystems and ecosystem services in GB. The arrival and establishment of these species can have severe adverse economic impacts on a wide range of sectors (e.g. agriculture, transport and utilities). As of 2019, there were 3,224 non-native species in Great Britain (GB), of which 2,010 were classified as established (reproducing in the wild) (Joint Nature Conservation Committee, 2020). Of these, 193 were considered to be invasive (i.e. exerting a negative impact on native biodiversity) with associated economic and financial costs. An estimated 10-12 new non-native species become established every year. (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, 2015)

A 2010 study on “The Economic Costs of Invasive Non-Native Species on Great Britain” (Williams, et al., 2010) compiled useful estimates of the costs of INNS on GB by focussing on financial control costs and market impacts of INNS. In 2019, Atkins produced a scoping study for Defra setting out the proposed next steps to produce research that comprehensively estimates all the economic impacts, including natural capital impacts, of invasive non-native species. As such, in 2022, CABI were hired by Defra to produce an update estimate to the 2010 figures to reflect changes in the economic costs of INNS over the last decade (**Eschen, et al., 2022**)¹.

However, there remains a significant gap in our understanding of the size and nature of the economic impacts of INNS, and as such, a better framework of estimating the costs is needed to help prioritise investment in prevention, intervention and management of INNS. A comprehensive estimate of the costs of INNS needs to include an assessment of the wider and non-direct costs of INNS. The 25-year Environment Plan (25 YEP) emphasizes the need for both a natural capital approach to valuing nature as a means of capturing non-market impacts and indirect costs, as well as the need for an effective strategy to dealing with INNS.

¹ This research has not yet been published by Defra. The methodology of that research replicates Williams, et al., (2010). These procurement specifications are not asking for a repeat of Williams, et al., (2012) or Eschen, et al., (2022) but a new methodology and respective economic impact cost based on wider natural capital costs.

Therefore, we want to commission the development of a natural capital approach to estimating the full economic costs of invasive non-native species in the UK.

3. Project Objectives

Using the works by Atkins (2019) as a foundation, the proposed research should provide a comprehensive assessment of the economic costs of INNS not previously estimated, including non-monetised natural capital costs. The approach could be regionally focused (and potentially habitat driven) to be consistent with the 25 YEP and provides comparable value estimates on a per km² basis. This is important to ensure that the natural capital approach can be complemented by cost-effectiveness analysis to identify the most cost-effective interventions to control / eradicate INNS while also considering restoration costs. More complex analysis may employ various scenarios to identify how a change in the abundance of some INNS (e.g. relative to climate change) may impact both natural capital and the cost of control, through a regional lens.

New monetisation methods could draw on existing projects that are already using natural capital approaches to inform land management strategies or methods used to study the impact of Japanese Knotweed on house prices. The study should ensure that the impacts of INNS (both positive and negative) are not double counted when added to the direct costs of INNS counted in previous work.

4. Approach and Methodology

The tenderers will be expected to clearly set out the methods in which they expect to meet each work package. This may include but is not limited to:

- Review of existing natural capital approaches to estimating economic impacts.
- Ensuring previously estimated direct economic impacts are not duplicated.
- Creating new natural capital methods of estimating the impact of INNS and applying these to the UK

The tenderer is expected to produce two outputs:

- A main report detailing (i) the new approach to estimating the impacts of INNS in the UK and (ii) an estimate of the natural capital impacts of INNS in the UK.

- In addition the estimate(s) should be in the form of spreadsheets that permit disaggregation to provide granular estimates of the impacts of individual species and the sectors these impacts occur in (e.g. agriculture, forestry, etc.).

Headline findings should also be detailed in the main report.

The deadline for this project is **February 2024**.

Tenderers are requested to submit a plan for the project as part of their response to this Invitation to Tender. This includes identification of appropriate dates for meetings with the Project's steering group and Defra's project manager and dates for delivery of draft and final versions of the Project's Outputs.

The timetable and suggested dates for delivery of key outputs are set out below. The dates for the final project output are fixed but there is flexibility in the timing and sequencing of interim outputs.

Payment milestones	Milestone description	Payment
Inception Meeting	Inception meeting with Defra, receipt of meeting minutes, project plan and risk register.	
Completion of cognitive testing and pilot study	Results from cognitive testing, pilot completed	
Work Package 1 (WP1) completed; interim report delivered	WP1 fieldwork completed. Interim report delivered.	20%
Work Package 2 (WP2) completed	WP2 fieldwork completed.	
Final Report	Final report, incorporating final comments from the steering group and external peer review feedback. Presentation to be carried out for stakeholders across Defra.	80%

SECTION 4: GOVERNANCE AND CONTRACT MANAGEMENT

1. The quality of the service provided will be regularly monitored by the Authority against the elements outlined in Section 5 and Section 6 below.
2. An official within Defra will act as the Project Officer responsible for the day to day management of the contract. The Supplier will appoint a Project Manager who will act as the principal point of contact for Defra. Tenderers may propose subcontracting arrangements but should provide a single manager responsible to Defra for fulfilment of the contract and for liaison with Defra's contact person.
3. The Supplier will be required to provide the Project Officer at Defra with regular progress updates. The form of these updates will be agreed in the inception meeting but is likely to involve weekly project management telephone meetings initially, changing to every two weeks when project is well-established. The Supplier will also

agree to make all reasonable efforts to meet with Defra officials as and when required.

4. Defra will establish a project Advisory Group that will comprise representatives drawn from Defra, relevant agencies, other experts and the Supplier. The function of the Advisory Group shall be to meet at key junctures in the project and provide additional technical and subject expertise to support the Supplier and Defra.
5. Following completion of a deliverable a review discussion will be undertaken with key members of the programme team to discuss what was achieved, what went well and any opportunities for improvement on future assignments.
6. The Supplier shall meet the agreed deadlines for delivery of the project deliverables and will notify the Authority without delay if there is a risk that they may be unable to meet this deadline. Tenderers should provide an assessment of risks and countermeasures in a risk management plan as part of their submission.
7. Efficiencies and Continuous Improvement in Service Lifetime

7.1. The Contractor shall have an ongoing obligation throughout the Contract to identify new and potential improvements to the processes/objectives outlined in section 3.1 above which shall include, but are not limited to:

- New or potential improvement which enhances the quality, responsiveness, procedures, methods and/or customer support services; and
- Changes in business processes and ways of working that would enable the Services to be delivered at lower costs and /or at greater benefits to the Authority.

8. Performance Management

8.1. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are essential in order to align supplier performance with the requirements of the Authority and to do so in a fair and practical way. KPIs have to be realistic and achievable; they also have to be met otherwise indicating that the service is failing to deliver.

8.2. The Contract shall be managed in accordance with the Authority's Terms and Conditions and KPIs under the Performance Management Framework.

The proposed KPIs are set out in Section 5 and Section 6.

9. Travel and Subsistence

All Travel and Subsistence should be in line with Defra's Travel and Subsistence Policy. Claims should always be supported by valid receipts for audit purposes and must not exceed any of the stated rates below. Should the stated rate be exceeded, Defra reserve the right to reimburse only up to the stated rate.

Rail Travel

All Journeys – Standard class rail unless a clear business case demonstrating value for money can be presented. This includes international rail journeys by Eurostar and other international and overseas rail operators.

Mileage Allowance

Mileage Allowance	First 10,000 business miles in the tax year	Each business mile over 10,000 in the tax year
Private cars and vans – no public transport rate*	45p	25p
Private cars and vans – public transport rate	25p	25p
Private motor cycles	24p	24p
Passenger supplement	5p	5p
Equipment supplement**	3p	3p
Bicycle	20p	20p

or where there is no practical public transport alternative. If the use of the vehicle is not essential the 'public transport rate' should be claimed.

** Under HMRC rules this expense is taxable.

UK Subsistence

*NB the 'no public transport rate' for car and van travel can only be claimed where the use of a private vehicle for the journey is essential e.g. on grounds of disability

Location	Rate (Upper Limit)
London (Bed and Breakfast)	£130
UK Other (Bed and Breakfast)	£75
Rates for specific cities (bed and breakfast)	Bristol £100 per night Weybridge £100 per night Warrington £90 per night Reading £85 per night

SECTION 5: PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

1. Overview of the PMF

- 1.1. As part of the Authority's continuous drive to improve the performance of all Contractors, this PMF will be used to monitor, measure and control all aspects of the Supplier's performance of contract responsibilities.
- 1.2. The PMF purpose is to set out the obligations on the successful Contractor, to outline how the successful Contractor's performance will be monitored, evaluated and rectified for performance.
- 1.3. The Authority may define any reasonable performance management indicators for the Contractor under the following categories:
 - Updates to Authority
 - Data Handling
 - Participatory Outputs
 - Reports
 - Presentations
- 1.4. The above categories are consistent with all Contract awards allowing the Authority to monitor Contractor' performance at both individual level and at the enterprise level with the individual Contractor.

2. Management of the PMF

- 2.1. Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) shall be monitored on a regular basis and shall form part of the contract performance review. Performance of KPI's will be reported by the Contractor to the Authority on monthly basis. The Contractor shall detail performance against KPI's in Monthly Reports and at quarterly Contract Meetings with the Authority; who will review this and make comments if any.
- 2.2. The Contractor shall maintain their own management reports, including a Risk and Issues Log and present these as requested by the Authority at any meeting requested by the Authority.
- 2.3. Any performance issues highlighted in these reports will be addressed by the Contractor, who shall be required to provide an improvement plan ("Remediation Plan") to address all issues highlighted within a week of the Authority request.
- 2.4. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are essential in order to align Contractor's performance with the requirements of the Authority and to do so in a fair and practical way. KPIs must be realistic and achievable; they also have to be met otherwise

indicating that the service is failing to deliver. The successful Contractor will ensure that failure and non-performance is quickly rectified.

- 2.5. The Authority reserves the right to amend the existing KPI's detailed in Section 6 or add any new KPI's. Any changes to the KPI's shall be confirmed by way of a Contract Change Note.

SECTION 6: KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPI's)

KPI and deliverables	Measurement	Fail	Acceptable
1. Updates to Authority	Regular, and ad hoc, verbal and written updates summarising progress and challenges	Updates are infrequent or lacking enough detail to assure the Authority of progress	Updates are timely and include enough detail to assure the Authority of progress
2. Data handling	Secure, accessible and organised collecting and storage of data/information relating to the project	Data, information and files are not kept up-to-date and are unavailable	All project data and information are up-to-date and accessible to the Authority
a. Evidence synthesis	Collection and storage of external and internal evidence sources, as well as any annotations / analysis	Evidence is only cited and not made available to the Authority	Evidence is gathered, stored and accessible to the Authority
b. Evaluation questions	Proportionate collection and secure storage of key informant views and secondary data underpinning evaluation questions	Inadequate range of views and information accessed and not stored	Key stakeholders consulted and their views and other information are gathered and stored securely
c. Baselines and data collection plan	Collection and storage of data used to develop and test counterfactuals and baselines	Data is inadequate to achieve deliverable	Data is adequate and available to the Authority
3. Participatory outputs	Notes and outputs from participatory exercises with stakeholders	Notes and outputs are incomplete or missing	Notes and outputs are detailed and stored for future reference
a. Theory of Change	Notes and outputs from development of ToC	Notes and outputs are incomplete and do not reflect the participatory process	Notes and outputs show how the ToC was developed in a participatory way with a range of stakeholders

b. Evaluation questions	Notes, information and ratings underpinning development of the evaluation questions	Notes, information and ratings are incomplete or missing and not clearly linked to evaluation questions	Notes, information and ratings for each evaluation question are clearly linked and transparent
4. Reports	Draft iterations and final reports, including comment logs and requested changes	Reports are late, incomplete and do not adequately address feedback from the Authority or deliverables	Reports are on time, complete, incorporate comments and address all deliverables
5. Presentations	Presentation materials and delivery of key findings	Presentations do not take place	Presentations take place and convey key findings clearly

APPENDIX A
FORM OF TENDER

To be returned by 12:00 pm (UK time) on 5th December 2022.

Kingsley Ibizugbe
Procurement Advisor
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Procurement and Commercial Function

TENDER FOR THE: Designing a Natural Capital Approach to Estimating the Full Economic Costs of Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) in the UK

Tender Ref: C5172

-
1. We have examined the invitation to tender and its schedules set out below (the **ITT**) and do hereby offer to provide the goods and/or services specified in the ITT and in accordance with the attached documents to the Authority commencing date **09/01/2023** for the period specified in the ITT.
 - Tender Particulars (Section 1)
 - Specification of Requirements (Section 3)
 - Form of Tender (Appendix A)
 - Authority's Conditions of Contract (Appendix B)
 2. If this tender is accepted, we will execute the Contract and any other documents required by the Authority within 10 days of being asked to do so.
 3. We agree that:
 - a. before executing the Contract substantially in the form set out in the ITT, the formal acceptance of this tender in writing by this Authority or such parts as may be specified, together with the documents attached shall comprise a binding contract between the Authority and us;
 - b. pursuant to EU Directive 1999/93/EC (Community Framework for Electronic Signatures) and the Electronic Communications Act 2000, the Contract may be executed electronically using the Authority's electronic tendering and contract management system, Atamis;

- c. we are legally bound to comply with the confidentiality provisions set out in the ITT;
- d. any other terms or conditions or any general reservation which may be provided in any correspondence sent by the Authority in connection with this procurement shall not form part of this tender without the prior written consent of the Authority;
- e. this tender shall remain valid for 120 days from the closing date for tenders specified in the ITT; and
- f. the Authority may disclose our information and documents (submitted to the Authority during the procurement) more widely within Government for the purpose of ensuring effective cross-Government procurement processes, including value for money and related purposes.

4. We confirm that:

- a. there are no circumstances affecting our organisation which could give rise to an actual or potential conflict of interest that would affect the integrity of the Authority's decision making in relation to the award of the Contract; or
- b. if there are or may be such circumstances giving rise to an actual or potential conflict of interest, we have disclosed this in full to the Authority.

5. We undertake and it shall be a condition of the Contract that:

- a. the amount of our tender has not been calculated by agreement or arrangement with any person other than the Authority and that the amount of our tender has not been communicated to any person until after the closing date for the submission of tenders and in any event not without the consent of the Authority;
- b. we have not canvassed and will not, before the evaluation process, canvass or solicit any member or officer, employee or agent of the Authority or other contracting authority in connection with the award of the Contract and that no person employed by us has done or will do any such act; and
- c. made arrangements with any other party about whether or not they may submit a tender except for the purposes of forming a joint venture.

6. I warrant that I am authorised to sign this tender and confirm that we have complied with all the requirements of the ITT.

Signed

Date

In the capacity of

**Authorised to sign
Tender for and on
behalf of**

Postal Address

**Post Code
Telephone No.**

Email Address:

APPENDIX B
AUTHORITY'S CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT

APPENDIX C
TECHNICAL EVALUATION QUESTIONS

APPENDIX D

STAFF TIME IN DAYS TEMPLATE

For Completion (Available on Atamis. Please upload to Atamis)

APPENDIX E

PRICING SCHEDULE

For Completion (Available on Atamis. Please upload to Atamis)

APPENDIX F

TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE (Included for reference purposes only)