## **Invitation to response to a Request for Information (RFI) regarding Woodland Creation on Vacant & Derelict Land in writing or via an Event, and an opportunity to discuss on a 1:1 basis with Defra.**

**Who is this RFI aimed at?**

It is unknown at this point in time if the whole contract opportunity could be fulfilled by a single delivery partner, or whether a specialist financial organisation is also required to fulfil the requirement of securing the ‘additional’ funds for this project. Therefore, it is requested that both environmental consultant//engineering and environmental financial organisations engage with the RFI, to enable the final opportunity advertised by Defra to be fit for purpose to meet the objectives.

**Timeline and process**

1. Following an initial RFI in November 2021, Defra is continuing to develop plans for a Vacant and Derelict Land (VDL) contract by initiating a second Request for Information (RFI). Dependent on feedback to the Request for Information, Defra may then issue an Invitation to Tender in Summer 2022.
2. You will find an attachment on Bravo within the RFI named **‘Woodland Creation on Vacant & Derelict Land contract opportunity – proposals'**, which outlines our proposals at this stage. We will be extending this information (before 13th May) to included further detail on the commercial elements proposed for this contract.
3. In the paper, we have proposed some *indicative* questions in red. This will demonstrate areas where we would welcome feedback via this RFI. When the commercial proposals have been included (before 13th May), we will be sending out a template for suppliers to return a written response to the indicative questions.
4. In addition to the written response to the RFI, the reason for publishing this PIN prior to all the information being available is to enable suppliers to note the date of a virtual supplier event, which we hope will be beneficial for suppliers to attend if interested in this opportunity. At this event, the Defra VDL project team will present the contract opportunity, as described in the **‘Woodland Creation on Vacant & Derelict Land contract opportunity – proposals'** in person at an open virtual event. There will be opportunities to take questions in an open forum on all aspects of the contract at this event.
5. 1 hour slots will also be available during the w/b 23rd May, for suppliers to discuss the opportunity individually, if preferred, with the Defra project team.
6. Interested parties are encouraged to respond their desire to attend and/or their availability via Bravo for:
	1. A three-hour presentation and discussion covering the key aspects of the VDL proposal and contractual arrangements to be held **Monday 23rd May, 1.30 – 4.30 PM.** This session will be recorded for those who cannot make this slot.
	2. Their preference for one-hour slot at the following times:
		1. **Wednesday 25th May** (2-3, 3-4, 4-5)
		2. **Thursday 26th May** (2-3, 3-4, 4-5)
		3. **Friday 27th May** (9-10, 10-11, 11-12)

All engagement will be held on Microsoft Teams.

1. During the one-hour slots, only questions asked of Defra, and their responses, will be shared publicly as part of this market engagement (excluding any information deemed commercially confident).
2. All feedback, questions and challenges received from the written RFI, the supplier event on the 23rd May, and the individual slots, will be considered in decision regarding the final design of this novel contract, and the most appropriate route to market.
3. Thank you in anticipation of your engagement.