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Date: 11 March 2025

Dear Sir or Madam,

TENDER FOR HYDRODYNAMIC MONITORING FOR THE BLACKWATER ESTUARY NATURAL FLOOD MANAGEMENT PROJECT

Period March 2025 to March 2027

You are invited to tender in competition with others to provide the goods and/or services specified above to the RSPB.

The following documents are enclosed and must be, where applicable, completed and signed on behalf of the supplier.

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| Document A | Instruction and Information |
| Document B | RSPB: A Brief Introduction |
| Document C | Specification of Goods / Services |
| Document D | Company Information |
| Document E | Form of Offer |
| Document F | Terms and Conditions |
| Document G | Certificate of Bona Fide Offer |

Your tender response should be emailed to james.dunn@rspb.org.uk by 17:00 on Friday 28th  March 2025.

Only tenders submitted in accordance with the RSPB’s Terms and Conditions will be considered. Any tenders that are incomplete, or received after the time indicated, may be disregarded.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of this tender prior to tendering, please email [james.dunn@rspb.org.uk](mailto:james.dunn@rspb.org.uk)

If you do not wish to tender on this occasion, please let us know.

Yours faithfully

James Dunn

Senior Project Manager

RSPB

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|  | **Document A**  **Instructions and information** |

1. This document is designed to be completed electronically. You are required to mark boxes, insert information or submit additional documentation in response to the questions herein. Whilst the text boxes should expand as you add text, if there is insufficient space for your response please attach a separate document clearly marked with the name of your Company, the reference number and the number(s) of the question(s) to which it relates. Please ‘sign’ this document by adding your name to the end of Document G.
2. If you are unable to comply with a request for information or provide documentation requested then a written account explaining the absence of the information must accompany the return of this tender. Please be aware that the failure to respond to any of the questions, without a written reason, may result in a negative evaluation of that element within the overall evaluation of this questionnaire.
3. The RSPB may require supplementary information or clarification or further evidence of the information given. The RSPB may wish to visit reference sites given as evidence of relevant experience.
4. The RSPB may request interviews with all or a selection of applicants or none. Applicants will be notified in due course. The ability of suppliers may also be determined by, amongst other factors, references, certification, site visits and ‘mystery shopping’.
5. Please answer the questions specifically for your company, NOT for the group if you are part of a group of companies. Please note the term “Company” refers to: Sole proprietor, partnership, incorporated company, co-operative, or voluntary organisation as appropriate.
6. During the term of this agreement and for 1 year thereafter, neither party shall solicit to work for it any person who is or was employed by the other party and who has been involved in the provision of the Services at any time during the preceding 12 months. For the avoidance of doubt, if a person who is or was employed by the other party at the relevant time responds to a publicly advertised recruitment campaign, the recruiting party shall not be deemed to have solicited that person from the other party. If either party is in breach of this it shall pay to the other party an amount equivalent to the gross salary paid by that other party to the relevant employee for the final 12 months of employment.
7. No charge will be made to the RSPB by applicants for any preparation costs accrued during the tender process, whether the applicant was successful or not.
8. You are invited to submit your best offer for the work as detailed below. The RSPB reserves the right to undertake post-tender negotiations.
9. If you require any further information or clarification regarding this tender please email james.dunn@rspb.org.uk.
10. It should be noted that in any contractual relationship that is subsequently entered into, reference will be made to the detailed information provided in the formal response to this tender document provided by the successful organisation. Thus answers and information given in your reply will become a binding part of the contractual obligations between yourselves and the RSPB.
11. Timetable

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| Invitation to Tender document sent out | 14/03/2025 |
| Tender documents to be returned | 17:00 on 28/03/2025 |
| Award of contract | 03/04/2025 |
| Commencement of services / orders for goods | 03/04/2025 |
| End of contract\* | 31/03/2027 |

\* Three-year contracts may be extended for a further year.

1. The RSPB does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any Tender, and reserves the right to accept part only of a Tender. RSPB reserves the right to procure individual elements of the required solution from one or more supplier as appropriate.

Whilst the RSPB aims to provide feedback on failed submissions this may not always be possible, and the RSPB is under no obligation to do so.

1. Tender Evaluation Process

Tenders that fail to meet essential requirements may be excluded from consideration.

Tenders that fulfil essential requirements will be evaluated on the basis of the most economically advantageous tender, weightings as detailed below.

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| **Criterion** | **Weighting** |
| Service Delivery | 40% |
| Price | 40% |
| Relevant experience | 10% |
| Environmental, Health and Safety | 10% |

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|  | **Document B**  **A Brief Introduction** |

The RSPB has secured funding to deliver sand and gravel beach recharge in the Blackwater Estuary. The Blackwater Estuary NFM project is funded through the Environment Agency’s £25m Natural Flood Management Programme which aims to protect communities from flooding whilst providing benefit to nature and society.

Working with partners, Essex Wildlife Trust and Harwich Haven Authority, the RSPB will create and replenish approximately 6.7 Ha of shingle beach in the Blackwater Estuary to protect coastal flood defences and intertidal saltmarsh, whilst creating habitat for beach nesting birds, the nesting sites of which are increasingly under threat due to climate change induced sea level rise.

One of the requirements of the funding is to undertake monitoring to demonstrate the benefit of Natural Flood Management in reducing flood risk and filling knowledge gaps on the effectiveness of NFM. The RSPB and partners are undertaking a suite of monitoring to demonstrate the flood risk and ecological benefits of beach recharge. This will include the use of miniature buoys to measure and understand changes in hydrodynamic regime following a recharge campaign.

For details on the RSPB’s challenges and achievements in the previous financial year please go to

[How the RSPB is Run | About Us - The RSPB](https://www.rspb.org.uk/about-the-rspb/about-us/how-the-rspb-is-run/)

For an overview of the RSPB please go to:

[About the RSPB - The RSPB](https://www.rspb.org.uk/about-the-rspb/)

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|  | **Document C**  **Specification** |

The RSPB would like to appoint a contractor to assemble and deploy miniature buoys, to the B4+ specification, in line with guidance published in the miniature buoy handbook ([The Mini Buoy Handbook](https://cailadd90.github.io/MiniBuoyHandbook/)).

The buoys shall be deployed at the Tollesbury Wick recharge site shown in the below figure. This will be undertaken prior to delivery of the beach recharge to capture baseline hydrodynamic conditions including inundation duration, current velocity and wave orbital velocity for 25 days during summer months (May – September) and for 25 days during winter months (October – April). This will be followed by a post-delivery deployment once the recharge has been delivered to the sites, again, during both summer months and winter months, each for 25 days.

The results should be extracted and analysed in a short report that outlines how hydrodynamic regime has changed following the recharge and the benefits, or otherwise, this provides for coastal erosion and flood risk management in the Blackwater Estuary.

A trial deployment should be undertaken by the appointed contractor, in the first instance, using one buoy to understand challenges and limitations to deployment. The appointed contactor will be responsible for identifying and obtaining any relevant consents or exemptions required for deployment of the buoys. The RSPB will be responsible for obtaining landowner permission.

The appointed contractor shall ensure that appropriate health and safety procedures are followed during deployment and retrieval of the buoys. Consideration should be given to how the buoys can be checked periodically to ensure they remain in situ during deployment and continue to function properly.

A map of a river

Description automatically generated

The successful supplier will supply a service to which the following points will apply:

The information below is a statement of minimum requirements and is not intended to limit creative or original thinking in the preparation of proposals.

1. Identify and obtain the necessary consents or exemptions to undertake deployment of mini buoys at the proposed locations and as part of a trial deployment with the relevant regulatory authorities.

*Are you able to meet this specification in full? If so please give details below*

*If not please state any differences in service offered*

|  |
| --- |
| Specification met? Yes /Part met  / No (tick as appropriate)  Details |

1. Assemble and trial deploy one B4+ design mini buoy in line with details in the ‘Mini Buoy Handbook ([The Mini Buoy Handbook](https://cailadd90.github.io/MiniBuoyHandbook/))’ at a chosen location.

*Are you able to meet this specification in full? If so please give details below*

*If not please state any differences in service offered*

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| --- |
| Specification met? Yes /Part met  / No (tick as appropriate)  Details |

1. Assemble and deploy the B4+ design mini buoys in line with instructions in the ‘Mini Buoy Handbook ([The Mini Buoy Handbook](https://cailadd90.github.io/MiniBuoyHandbook/))’ and this specification (Document C).

*Are you able to meet this specification in full? If so please give details below*

*If not please state any differences in service offered*

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| Specification met? Yes /Part met  / No (tick as appropriate)  Details |

1. Retrieve the mini buoys following each deployment to retrieve data and to present and analyse results in a short report once the recharge is complete.

*Are you able to meet this specification in full? If so please give details below*

*If not please state any differences in service offered*

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| Specification met? Yes /Part met  / No (tick as appropriate)  Details |

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|  | | | **Document D**  **Company Information** |
| **1.0** | **General** | | |
|  |  | | |
| **1.1** | **Registered Name**    **Trading Name (if different)** | | |
|  |  | | |
| **1.2** | **Correspondence Details**  **Name of person applying on behalf of the company**    **Address:**    **Telephone:**    **Mobile:**    **Email:** | | |
|  | **Registered office Address (if different from above)** | | |
|  |  | | |
| **1.3** | **Company Registration No (if applicable)**    **VAT registration number (if applicable)** | | |
|  |  | | |
| **1.4** | **Date company was founded (if a limited company, date of incorporation)** | | |
|  |  | | |
| **1.5** | **Company structure and nature of company**  Please outline the nature of the company, whether it is a partnership, sole trader, plc etc.    Is the company proposed as party to the contract part of a larger organisation? If so please explain the relationship between the various parts of the organisation, up to the ultimate holding company.    Current number of full time equivalent staff currently employed by the company (not larger parent company) | | |
|  |  | | |
| **1.6** | **Accreditation by / Membership of Trade Association(s)**  **Is your Company registered with any industry accreditation body? YES  NO**  **If yes, please provide details:**    **Is your Company on any public sector Framework agreements? YES NO**  **If yes, please provide details:**    **Please state membership of any professional bodies/ other associations below:** | | |
| **1.7** | **Quality Assurance**  **Is all / part of your company ISO9001 Quality Assured? YES NO**  **Is all / part of your company ISO14001 Quality Assured? YES NO**  **If yes please provide copy of certification**  **Do you have any other Quality Assurance? If Yes, please summarise details below** | | |
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| **1.8** | **Environmental Commitments**  **Is all / part of your company registered under Science Based Targets Is all / part of your company registered or signed up to Science Based Targets (**[**https://sciencebasedtargets.org/net-zero**](https://sciencebasedtargets.org/net-zero)**), SME Climate Hub (**[**https://smeclimatehub.org/uk/**](https://smeclimatehub.org/uk/)**),  ISO 14064, ISO 14067 or a similar scheme to calculate and reduce your impact on the climate?**  **YES NO**  **If Yes, please summarise details below** | | |
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| **2.0** | **Financial & Business Probity** |
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| **2.1** | | **Judgements etc.**  **Are there any judgements, claims or suits pending or outstanding against your company?**  **Yes  No** If Yes, please provide full details  **Has your company ever failed to complete a contract?**  **Yes  No** If Yes, please provide full details |
| **2.2** | | Please answer all of the following questions as they apply to your Company’s circumstances. Please confirm that:  1) being a company, no resolution has been passed or Order of the Court made for the company’s winding up otherwise than for the purposes of bona fide reconstruction or amalgamation, nor has a receiver, manager or administrator on behalf of a creditor been appointed in respect of the company’s business or any part thereof, nor is it the subject of any proceedings for any of the above procedures, nor is it the subject of similar procedures under the law of any other state.  **Confirmed  Not confirmed  Non-applicable**  2) being a partnership, it has not granted a trust deed or become otherwise apparently insolvent, or it is not the subject of a petition presented for sequestration of its estate.  **Confirmed  Not confirmed  Non-applicable**  3) being an individual, you are not bankrupt, or have not had a receiving order or administration order made against you, or have not made a composition or arrangement or trust deed with or for the benefit of your creditors, or have not made any conveyance or assignment for the benefit of your creditors, or have not had a petition presented for sequestration of your estate or do not appear to be able to pay or to have no reasonable prospect of being able to pay a debt within the meaning of the Insolvency Act or any similar procedure under the law of any EC member state.  **Confirmed  Not confirmed  Non-applicable**  4) no Directors, Partners, Associates or the Company Secretary have been involved in any Company which has been liquidated or gone into receivership.  **Confirmed  Not confirmed  Non-applicable**  5) none of the Directors, Partners, Associates or the Company Secretary have been convicted of a criminal offence relating to the conduct of their business or profession.  **Confirmed  Not confirmed  Non-applicable**  6) neither the Company nor any of the Directors, Partners, Associates or Company Secretary has committed an act of grave misconduct in the course of their business or profession.  **Confirmed  Not confirmed  Non-applicable**  7) all obligations relating to the payment of taxes under the law of any part of the United Kingdom or the EC member state in which the Company is established has been fulfilled  **Confirmed  Not confirmed  Non-applicable**  8) all obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions under the law of any part of the United Kingdom or the EC member state in which the Company is established have been fulfilled.  **Confirmed  Not confirmed  Non-applicable**  If you have ticked **‘Not confirmed’** for any questions above please give details here |

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| **2.3** | Please list the names of any Director, Partner, Associate or Company Secretary who have been employed by the RSPB, giving department and dates.    Please give details of any Director, Partner, Associate or Company Secretary who have a relative who is employed by the RSPB at a senior level.    Please list the names of any Director, Partner, Associate or Company Secretary who have any involvement in other Companies who provide services to the RSPB    Is any work being undertaken or likely to be undertaken during the next three years by the Company or staff within it which could give rise to a conflict of interest through acting for third parties or otherwise? If yes, please explain the actual or likely circumstances and how such potential conflicts of interest would be handled. |

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| **2.4** | **Insurances (a scanned copy of each certificate may be requested)** | | | | |
|  |  | **Insurer** | **Policy No** | **Value of Cover** | **Expiry Date** |
|  | Employers Liability |  |  |  |  |
|  | Public Liability |  |  |  |  |
|  | Prof. Indemnity |  |  |  |  |
|  | All Risks  (if applicable) |  |  |  |  |

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| **2.5** | **Has your company (or any building/project you have undertaken) won any awards, accolades or recognition?**  **YES  NO** If yes please provide full details. |

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| **3.0** | **Health & Safety and Environment** |
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| **3.1** | Has your company been served with any enforcement or prohibition notices or been prosecuted in the past 5 years for breaches of health & safety legislation?  **YES**  **NO** If yes please provide full details. |
| **3.2** | Has your company been served with any enforcement or prohibition notices or been prosecuted in the past 5 years for breaches of environmental legislation?  **YES  NO** If yes please provide full details. |
| **3.3** | Has your company been served with any enforcement or prohibition notices or been prosecuted in the past 5 years for breaches of data protection legislation?  **YES  NO** If yes please provide full details. |
| **3.4** | Have any restrictive clauses in relation to your company’s Employer’s Liability, Public Liability or Professional Indemnity Insurance policies been enforced in the last 5 years due to past Health & Safety performance?  **YES**  **NO**  If yes please provide full details. |

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|  | **Document E**  **Form of Offer** |

**Cost**

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| Cost for providing goods/services, as outlined in specifications (Document C) | £      + VAT |

**Added Value**

As well as any charity rate that you may be able to offer, the RSPB is always open to corporate partnerships that deliver benefit to your organisation, the RSPB and nature. Working as part of your CSR agenda we can provide opportunities for fundraising, secondments, interns and volunteering, offering your staff both personal and career development opportunities. We also welcome all forms of gifts in kind as valuable contributions to our work.

Suppliers should provide details of any associated added value features/services/gifts in kind available to the RSPB under the terms of this Tender. (Attach separate document if needed).

Please note, added value donations will not be part of the criteria we use to decide on which supplier to choose.

**Management Information**

The supplier shall be required to provide regular management information to the RSPB. Suppliers are therefore required to submit within their Tender offer examples of management information available to the RSPB. (Attach separate document if needed)

**Proposed Project Team**

Please indicate personnel expected to carry out management and delivery of this contract with the RSPB and their areas of responsibility. Include summary CVs for the Partner/Director in overall charge of the commission and of your proposed team, including technical qualifications and details of experience. (Attach separate document if needed)

**Approach to the Project**

What would be your approach to this project (including methods, any management and control procedures, quality assurance, resources etc.)? (Attach separate document if needed)

**References**

Suppliers are requested to provide details of three references from their existing clientele, supplying full name, address, telephone number, email address, contact name, period of Contract and the estimated annual value of the Contract. In supplying this information, Suppliers shall have granted the RSPB permission to seek such information as deemed necessary, in relation to the Suppliers performance with their nominated references.

Reference 1

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Company Name |  | |
| Address |  | |
| Telephone No |  | Ext |
| Email |  | |
| Contact |  | Dates of work |
| Nature of work done |  | Value of contract |

Reference 2

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Company Name |  | |
| Address |  | |
| Telephone No |  | Ext |
| Email |  | |
| Contact |  | Dates of work |
| Nature of work done |  | Value of contract |

Reference 3

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Company Name |  | |
| Address |  | |
| Telephone No |  | Ext |
| Email |  | |
| Contact |  | Dates of Work |
| Nature of work done |  | Value of contract |

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|  | **Document F**  **RSPB Terms and Conditions** |

The basis of the contractual agreement between RSPB and the applicant is detailed in the [‘RSPB Terms and Conditions of Purchase of Goods and Services’](https://www.rspb.org.uk/about-the-rspb/about-us/how-the-rspb-is-run/supplier-terms-and-conditions/) – please click on this link to download. In applying for this tender you are explicitly agreeing to be bound by these Terms and Conditions for the duration of the contract. If you require any alterations to these Terms and Conditions please state your issues below. (Attach separate document if needed)

The RSPB expects that all suppliers it works with to adhere to certain ethical and environmental standards. Please download the [RSPB Ethical and Environmental Procurement Policy](https://www.rspb.org.uk/about-the-rspb/about-us/how-the-rspb-is-run/supplier-terms-and-conditions/) and tick this box if you agree to be bound by its terms and conditions 

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|  | **Document G**  **Certificate of Bona Fide Offer** |

We certify that this offer is made in good faith, and that we have not fixed or adjusted the amount of the offer by or under or in accordance with any agreement of arrangement with any other person. We also certify that we have not, and we undertake that we will not:

1 a) communicate to any person other than the person inviting these offers the amount or approximate amount of the offer or proposed offer, except where the disclosure, in confidence, of the approximate amount of the offer was necessary to obtain insurance quotations required for the preparation of the offer;

b) enter into any agreement with any other person that s/he shall refrain from making an offer or as to the amount of any offer to be submitted;

2 pay, give or offer or agree to pay or to give any sum of money or other valuable consideration directly or indirectly to any person for doing or having done or causing or having caused to be done in relation to any offer or proposed offer for the goods/services any act or thing of the sort described in 1 a) or 1 b) above.

We acknowledge that if we acted or shall act in contravention of this certificate, the RSPB will be entitled to cancel the agreement and to recover from ourselves the amount of any loss and expense resulting from such cancellation.

I state that everything in this tender submission is truthful, that if found to be untruthful the RSPB can terminate any agreement between the RSPB and the company formed on the basis of this tender, and we will pay to the RSPB any loss or expenses the RSPB suffers as a result of such untruthfulness, whether an agreement is entered into or not.

In this certificate, the word “person” includes any persons and any body or association, corporate or unincorporated; “any agreement or arrangement” includes any transaction, formal or informal, and whether legally binding or not.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Signed |  |
| On behalf of |  |
| Date |  |

**Please note: a name added in an electronic document is functionally equivalent to a signature.**