Request for Quotation

**Nature and Biodiversity Footprint Phase 1: Scope Development**

January 2025

Request for Quotation

Nature and Biodiversity Footprint Phase 1: Scope Development

You are invited to submit a quotation for the requirement described in the specification, Section 2.

Please confirm by email, receipt of these documents and whether you intend to submit a quote or not.

Your response should be returned to the following email address by:

Email: Vicki.betts@environment-agency.gov.uk

Date: 29 January 2025

Time: 17:00

Ensure you include the name of the quotation and ‘Final Submission’ in the subject field to make it clear that it is your response.

Contact Details and Timetable

Vicki Betts will be your contact for any questions linked to the content of the quote or the process. Please submit any clarification questions via email and note that, unless commercially sensitive, both the question and the response will be circulated to all tenderers.

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| Action | Date |
| Date of issue of RFQ | 13/01/2025 at 10:00 GMT |
| Deadline for clarifications questions | 29/01/2025 at 12:00 GMT |
| Deadline for receipt of Quotation | 29/01/2025 at 17:00 GMT |
| Intended date of Contract Award | 05/02/2025 |
| Intended Contract Start Date | 06/02/2025 |
| Intended Delivery Date / Contract Duration | 31/03/2025 or  06/02/2025 to 31/03/2025 |

Section 1: General Information

Glossary

Unless the context otherwise requires, the following words and expressions used within this Request for Quotation shall have the following meanings (to be interpreted in the singular or plural as the context requires):

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| “Authority” | means The Environment Agency who is the Contracting Authority. |
| “Contract” | means the contract to be entered into by the Authority and the successful supplier. |
| “Response” | means the information submitted by a supplier in response to the RFQ. |
| “RFQ” | means this Request for Quotation and all related documents published by the Authority and made available to suppliers. |

Conditions applying to the RFQ

You should examine your Response and related documents ensuring it is complete and in accordance with the stated instructions prior to submission.

Your Response must contain sufficient information to enable the Authority to evaluate it fairly and effectively. You should ensure that you have prepared your Response fully and accurately and that prices quoted are arithmetically correct for the units stated.

By submitting a Response, you, the supplier, are deemed to accept the terms and conditions provided in the RFQ. Confirmation of this is required in Annex 2.

Failure to comply with the instructions set out in the RFQ may result in the supplier’s exclusion from this quotation process.

Acceptance of Quotations

By issuing this RFQ the Authority does not bind itself to accept any quotation and reserves the right not to award a contract to any supplier who submits a quotation.

Costs

The Authority will not reimburse you for any costs and expenses which you incur preparing and submitting your quotation, even if the Authority amends or terminates the procurement process.

Self-Declaration and Mandatory Requirements

The RFQ includes a self-declaration response (Annex 1) which covers basic information about the supplier, as well as any grounds for exclusion. If you do not comply with them, your quotation will not be evaluated.

Any mandatory requirements will be set out in Section 2, Specification of Requirements and, if you do not comply with them, your quotation will not be evaluated.

Clarifications

Any request for clarification regarding the RFQ and supporting documentation must be submitted via email no later than the deadline for clarifications set out in the Timetable. The Authority shall be under no obligation to respond to queries raised after the clarification deadline.

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 suppliers via email unless deemed commercially sensitive.

If a supplier believes that a request for clarification is commercially sensitive, it should clearly state this when submitting the clarification request. However, if the Authority considers either that:

* the clarification and response are not commercially sensitive; and
* all suppliers may benefit from its disclosure,

then the Authority will notify the supplier (via email), and the supplier will have an opportunity to withdraw the request for clarification by sending a further message requesting the withdrawal of the clarification request. If not withdrawn by the supplier within 2 working days of the Authority’s notification, the Authority may publish the clarification request and its response to all suppliers and the Authority shall not be liable to the supplier for any consequences of such publication.

The Authority reserves the right to seek clarification of any aspect of a quotation and/or provide additional information during the evaluation phase to carry out a fair evaluation. Where the Authority seeks clarification on any aspect of the quotation, the supplier must respond within the timeframe requested by the Authority.

Amendments

The Authority may amend the RFQ at any time prior to the deadline for receipt. If it amends the RFQ the Authority will notify you via email.

Suppliers may modify their quotation prior to the deadline for Responses. No Responses may be modified after the deadline for Responses.

Suppliers may withdraw their quotations at any time by submitting a notice via the email to the named contact.

Conditions of Contract

The Authority’s

* Standard Good and Services Terms & Conditions (used for purchases under £50k)

can be located on the [Environment Agency Website](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency/about/procurement#conditions-of-contract)

and will be applicable to any contract awarded as a result of this quotation process. The Authority will not accept any changes to these terms and conditions proposed by a supplier.

Suppliers should note that the quotation provided by the successful bidder will form part of the Contract.

Prices

Prices must be submitted in £ sterling, exclusive of VAT.

Disclosure

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. For these purposes, the Authority may disclose within Government any details contained in your quotation. The information will not be disclosed outside Government during the procurement.

In addition, the Authority is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, which provide a public right of access to information held by public bodies. In accordance with these two statutes, the Authority may be required to disclose information contained in your quotation to any person who submits a request for information pursuant to those statutes.

Further to the Government’s transparency agenda, all UK Government organisations must advertise on Contract Finder in accordance with the following publication thresholds:

* Central Contracting Authority’s: £12,000
* Sub Central Contracting Authority’s and NHS Trusts: £30,000

For the purpose of this RFQ the Authority is classified as a 'Sub Central Contracting Authority' with a publication threshold of £30,000 inclusive of VAT.

If this opportunity is advertised via Contracts Finder, we are obliged to publish details of the awarded contract including who has won the contract, the contract value, and indicate whether the winning supplier is a small and medium-sized enterprise (“SMEs”) or voluntary organisation or charity. A copy of the contract must also be published with confidential information redacted.

By submitting a Response, you consent to these terms as part of the procurement.

Disclaimers

Whilst the information in this RFQ and any supporting information referred to herein or provided to you by the Authority have been prepared in good faith the Authority does not warrant that this information is comprehensive or that it has been independently verified.

The Authority does not:

* make any representation or warranty (express or implied) as to the accuracy, reasonableness or completeness of the RFQ;
* accept any liability for the information contained in the RFQ or for the fairness, accuracy or completeness of that information; or
* accept any liability for any loss or damage (other than in respect of fraudulent misrepresentation or any other liability which cannot lawfully be excluded) arising as a result of reliance on such information or any subsequent communication.

Any supplier considering entering into contractual relationships with the Authority following receipt of the RFQ 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.

Information Security requirements

The Government Security Classification Policy (GSCP) sets out the administrative system used by HM Government (HMG) to protect information and data assets appropriately against prevalent threats through the use of ‘classification tiers’. HMG uses three classification tiers; OFFICIAL, SECRET and TOP SECRET. Each tier provides a set of recommended baseline behaviours and a set of protective controls, which are proportionate to the threat profile for that tier AND the potential impact of a compromise, accidental loss or incorrect disclosure of information held within that tier.

Tenderers and suppliers must ensure that appropriate protective security controls are in place to comply with the GSCP and manage the information shared and received as part of this tender exercise.

A full suite of guidance documents is available on GOV.UK, with specific guidance for tenderers and suppliers set out in [Guidance 1.6 - Contractors and Contracting Authorities.docx (publishing.service.gov.uk)](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1166155/Guidance_1.6_-_Contractors_and_Contracting_Authorities.pdf).

Use of Artificial Intelligence

The Authority expects suppliers to declare where they have used AI software in the creation of Tender responses or intend to use AI software in the performance of the contract. How any AI software was, or will be, used should be to be declared within the technical submission part of the tender. We may require you to answer specific question/s on this topic, particularly where the Authority expects that usage is highly likely or clearly relates to the contract requirements.

Suppliers must follow any guidelines or regulations related to AI use and declarations as indicated in the [PPN 2/24 Improving Transparency of AI use in Procurement](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ppn-0224-improving-transparency-of-ai-use-in-procurement/ppn-0224-improving-transparency-of-ai-use-in-procurement-html).

Any information, instructions, or data provided by the Authority to suppliers as part of this tender, the requirements, or contract should not be directly inserted into Generative AI software (such as Gemini, ChatGPT, or CoPilot) without prior permission, unless this information is clearly published in the public domain.

Use of any Authority confidential tender information for training AI software is prohibited. it is advised that Defra’s data or instructions, or anything marked as confidential should not be directly inserted into AIs. For example, putting Authority’s instruction email into Gemini, ChatGPT, or CoPilot is not recommended.

If you intend to use AI to provide goods or services to the Authority, then you are required to complete a declaration which is simply answering the question stated within the 'Information to be returned’. The answer to this question will not be used in scoring your quote.

Protection of Personal Data

In order to comply with the General Data Protection Regulations 2018 the supplier must agree to the following:

You must only process any personal data in strict accordance with instructions from the Authority.

* You must ensure that all the personal data that we disclose to you or you collect on our behalf under this agreement are kept confidential.
* You must take reasonable steps to ensure the reliability of employees who have access to personal data.
* Only employees who may be required to assist in meeting the obligations under this agreement may have access to the personal data.
* Any disclosure of personal data must be made in confidence and extend only so far as that which is specifically necessary for the purposes of this agreement.
* You must ensure that there are appropriate security measures in place to safeguard against any unauthorised access or unlawful processing or accidental loss, destruction or damage or disclosure of the personal data.
* On termination of this agreement, for whatever reason, the personal data must be returned to us promptly and safely, together with all copies in your possession or control.

General Data Protection Regulations 2018

For the purposes of the Regulations the Authority is the data processor.

The personal information that we have asked you provide on individuals (data subjects) that will be working for you on this contract will be used in compiling the tender list and in assessing your offer. If you are unsuccessful the information will be held and destroyed within two years of the award of contracts. If you are awarded a contract it will be retained for the duration of the contract and destroyed within seven years of the contract’s expiry.

We may monitor the performance of the individuals during the execution of the contract, and the results of our monitoring, together with the information that you have provided, will be used in determining what work is allocated under the contract, and in any renewal of the contract or in the award of future contracts of a similar nature. The information will not be disclosed to anyone outside the Authority without the consent of the data subject, unless the Authority is required by law to make such disclosures.

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI)

The Client is striving to create a diverse and inclusive working environment where every individual has equality of opportunity to progress and to apply their unique insights to making the UK a great place for living. The Service Provider is expected to respect this commitment in all dealings with The Environment Agency staff and service users.

Suppliers are expected to;

* support Defra group to achieve its Public Sector Equality Duty as defined by the Equality Act 2010, and to support delivery of [Defra group’s Equality & Diversity Strategy](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/defra-group-equality-diversity-and-inclusion-strategy-2020-to-2024/defra-group-equality-diversity-and-inclusion-strategy-2020-to-2024).
* meet the standards set out in the [Government’s Supplier Code of Conduct](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supplier-code-of-conduct)
* work with Defra group to ensure equality, diversity and inclusion impacts are addressed (positive and negative) in the goods, services and works we procure, barriers are removed and opportunities realised.

Sustainable Procurement

Addressing global sustainability impacts and realising additional community benefits within commercial activity is core to Defra group’s approach, working with its supply chain is key to achieving sustainable outcomes. In addition to supporting Defra group to meet its outcomes we look to understand and reduce negative sustainability impacts associated with our commercial activity and realise benefits.

The Client encourages its suppliers to share these values, work to address negative impacts and realise opportunities, measure performance and success.

Suppliers are expected to have an understanding of the Sustainable Development Goals, the interconnections between them and the relevance to the Goods, Services and works procured on the Client’s behalf

Conflicts of Interest

The concept of a conflict of interest includes but is not limited to any situation where an Involved Person or Relevant Body has 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.

We expect suppliers to mitigate appropriately against any real or perceived conflict of interest through their work with government. A supplier with a position of influence gained through a contract should not use that position to unfairly disadvantage any other supplier or reduce the potential for future competition

Where the supplier 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 quotation). 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 quotation being rejected.

Provided that it has been carried out in an open, fair and transparent manner, routine pre-market engagement carried out by the Authority should not represent a conflict of interest for the supplier.

Section 2: The Invitation

Specification of Requirements

1. Background to The Environment Agency

The Environment Agency was established in 1996 to protect and improve the environment. We have over 12,000 employees with offices located across England.

* Within England we are responsible for:
* regulating major industry and waste
* treatment of contaminated land
* water quality and resources
* fisheries
* inland river, estuary and harbour navigations
* conservation and ecology

We are also responsible for managing the risk of flooding from main rivers, reservoirs, estuaries and the sea.

For further information please visit [Environment Agency - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency)

2. Nature and Biodiversity Footprint Phase 1: Scope Development

2.1 Background to the specific work area relevant to this purchase

The Environment Agency (EA) intends to undertake a comprehensive assessment of its nature and biodiversity footprint. This project aims to identify and quantify the impacts of the EA's operations and supply chain on nature and biodiversity, forming the foundation for targeted, science-based management and disclosure reporting. The footprint will be used to support the EA's commitment to sustainability and compliance with emerging international frameworks such as the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD).

The first phase of this project is to develop a clearly defined scope for the footprint.

2.2 Requirement

Sustainability and evidence-based decision-making are central to the EA's operations. Following the successful quantification of carbon and resource footprints, the next step is to assess the EA's nature and biodiversity footprint.

We are defining ‘nature’ for the purposes of this exercise as the abundance, diversity, integrity and resilience of species, ecosystems and natural processes. The footprint will enable the EA to manage biodiversity impacts with the same rigour as its climate impacts, aligning with science-based targets (SBTN), TNFD recommendations and the Global Biodiversity Framework. The baseline year for our footprints (see section 2.6) is 2019/20.

The aim of this phase 1 project is to allow the EA to develop the project scope for the footprint work. This scope will be used to define the phase 2 footprint project. Phase 2 will be completed following a further open competitive tender exercise. The scope provided on completion of phase 1 must therefore be clear and comprehensive enough for the future successful supplier to independently bid and deliver on.

2.3 Overall Project Timescale

A calendar with yellow and black text

Description automatically generated

2.4 Scope content

As an output the project scope itself must set out:

1. The background to the footprint exercise and overarching methodological framework it will align to and why this is the best fit for the Environment Agency.
2. The scope/operational boundary of the footprint.
3. The measurement framework and metrics that will be used, based on analysis of strengths and weaknesses of the various alternatives.
4. Data plan, detailing:
   1. The existing datasets that will be used.
   2. Any necessary transformations that will be required to unify and standardise the data.
   3. Data gaps that will need to be filled and a plan to fill them. This should be a prioritised and phased plan.
   4. A plan for ongoing data management.
5. A draft outline delivery plan for the project.

We welcome ideas from the supplier on any additional content of the scope.

**2.5 Project activities**

To produce this scope, we would expect you to need to undertake the following activities:

1. Brief review of relevant frameworks for measuring organisations' impact on nature (e.g. natural capital).
2. Analysis and a rationale behind selecting the chosen framework for the footprint.
3. Define the approach to materiality to be taken. We would expect this to encompass:
   1. the most significant nature-related dependencies, impacts, risks and opportunities for the Environment Agency's discharge of its statutory duties and functions (an existing list of material issues for the Environment Agency will be made available); and
   2. the most significant dependencies, impacts, risks and opportunities to nature arising from the discharge of the Environment Agency's statutory duties and functions.
4. Screening assessment of the Environment Agency's direct operations, upstream and downstream value chain, to specify which activities are in scope of the footprint and out of scope of the footprint, and why. This must clarify the operational boundary for the footprint and be informed by materiality. The Environment Agency will work with you to develop a definition for the public sector value chain as it applies to our organisation, noting the differences between public sector and private sector value chains.
5. Limited (3-5) stakeholder interviews with Environment Agency staff, specifically with the project steering group and other technical experts/data owners (contacts will be supplied by the EA project manager).
6. Data verification, to establish a list of datasets to be used, any data transformations that will likely be necessary, and identified data gaps to be filled throughout the footprint project and in successive iterations.
7. Regular (weekly) MS Teams meetings with the EA project manager and attend steering group meetings.
8. Production of a final report of all findings, and the completed scope that will be used within the tender documentation for the phase 2 footprint project.

We welcome ideas from the supplier on the format of the report and sections therein.

2.6 Datasets available

2.6.1 Resource Consumption Footprint

The resource consumption footprint assesses the consumption of physical resources that are purchased for the EA’s operations. 18 impact indicators are assessed across environmental, economic, and social impact criteria.

The methodology to measure, track and report the EA’s resource consumption footprint entails: 1. Consumption assessment - Quantify total resources purchased for reporting period and identify consumption hotspots across the organisation for different resource types. 2. Impact assessment - Quantify environmental, economic, and social upstream impacts of most material resources and identify supply chain hotspots (using Life Cycle Inventory database Ecoinvent). 3. Apex assessment - Derive footprint index to support internal tracking and quarterly reporting of targets to reduce impact of signature resources. Includes the Mean Species Abundance impact of the Environment Agency's purchasing footprint, disaggregated by material type.

Format: raw data, methodology and outcome reports, and Excel-based analytical tool. Baseline year 2019/20.

2.6.2 Carbon Footprint

Our Carbon Footprint accounts for emissions arising from water, waste, facilities management and operational energy use, transport, fuel, asset construction, IT, commuting and homeworking, vehicle embodied carbon, fuel production, hotel stays and supply chain scope 1 and 2 emissions.

The methodology report describes the data sources and methodologies used to aggregate and apportion the EA’s 2019/20 baseline carbon footprint.

Format: Excel calculation tool and annual raw data spreadsheets dating to 2019/20.

More information on our Net Zero targets and roadmap are online at and [The Environment Agency: Reaching net zero by 2030](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65ba2f89ee7d49000d984a3a/EA-net-zero-2030-published-May-2021.pdf).

2.6.3 Conservation Projects Database

All projects that deliver benefits to biodiversity, whether on the ground, such as wildlife-rich habitat creation or partnership projects, or in the form of survey and research, where we have spent more than £1,000 on something other than staff time in the reporting year, regardless of which department the funding has come from. Contains habitat type and amount, species intervention, grid reference (single central point not a GIS polygon), qualitative benefits description.

Format: Access database, with data and annual summary reports dating back to 2010.

2.6.4 Natural Capital Account for Environment Agency Estate

Format: Completed Natural Capital Register and Account Tool, dating back to 2019/20. Input data is CORINE landcover, cut to GIS shapefile of the EA Estate.

2.6.5 Natural capital valuation of Environment Agency annual report and accounts outcome delivery

A valuation of the benefits of our work in natural capital terms, based on the Conservation Projects Database and outcomes reported in the [Environment Agency Annual Report and Accounts](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/environment-agency-annual-reports-and-accounts). Dating back to 2020/21.

Format: Reports and calculations based on performance against corporate scorecard KPIs.

2.6.6 Other KPI reporting data

Our Corporate Scorecard sets out some of the measures and metrics we use to track our performance and can be viewed here [Environment Agency corporate scorecard - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/environment-agency-corporate-scorecard). Datasets for activities detailed in the Corporate Scorecard are available.

Our Annual Report and Accounts also contain performance measures and metrics. Datasets for activities detailed in the Annual Report are available.

We also publish a number of datasets that may be relevant for footprinting through Open Data [Environment Agency Datasets - data.gov.uk](https://www.data.gov.uk/search?filters%5Bpublisher%5D=Environment+Agency).

3. Sustainability

The Environment Agency protects and improves the environment and is committed to reducing the sustainability impacts of its activities directly and through its supply chains. We expect the Contractor to share this commitment and adopt a sound, proactive sustainable approach in keeping with eMission2030 - our sustainability strategy, and our commitments compliant with all applicable legislation. This includes understanding and reducing direct and indirect sustainability impacts and realising opportunities, including but not restricted to; resilience to climate change, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, water use and quality, biosecurity, resource efficiency and waste, reducing the risk of pollution, biodiversity, modern slavery and equality, diversity & inclusion, negative community impacts.

As a delivery partner, the successful contractor is expected to pursue sustainability in their operations, thereby ensuring the Contracting Authority is not contracting with a supplier whose operational outputs run contrary to the Contracting Authority’s objectives. The successful contractor will need to approach the project with a focus on the entire life cycle of the project.

4. Outputs and Contract Management

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| Reference | Deliverable | Responsible Party | Date of completion |
| 1. DRAFT Footprint Project Scope | Project scope fulfilling the criteria set out in section 2.4 | Supplier | 20/03/2025 |
| 2. DRAFT Report | Report summarising findings and decisions made based on the activities set out in section 2.5 | Supplier | 20/03/2025 |
| 3. FINAL Footprint Project Scope | Project scope fulfilling the criteria set out in section 2.4 | Supplier | 31/03/2025 |
| 4. FINAL Report | Report summarising findings and decisions made based on the activities set out in section 2.5 | Supplier | 31/03/2025 |

4.1 Timescales and Deadlines

* W/C 3rd February 2025 – Start up meeting between EA project manager and supplier.
* Weekly MS Teams meetings thereafter.
* MILESTONE 1: 20th March 2025 – Draft scope and report due in digital format (MS Word, with Excel workbook if relevant) via e-mail.
* MILESTONE 2: 31st March 2025 – Final scope and report due in digital format (MS Word, with Excel workbook if relevant) via e-mail.
* Contract to be completed by 31st March 2025.

4.2 Payment

The Authority will raise purchase orders to cover the cost of the services and will issue to the awarded supplier following contract award.

The Authority’s preference is for all invoices to be sent electronically, quoting a valid Purchase Order number. Please submit a partial invoice for work completed to date on completion of milestone 1 (draft versions submitted) and a second partial invoice on completion of milestone 2 (final versions submitted/contract completion).

It is anticipated that this contract will be awarded for a period of 8 weeks to end no later than 31/03/2025. Prices will remain fixed for the duration of the contract award period. We may at our sole discretion extend this contract to include related or further work. Any extension shall be agreed in writing in advance of any work commencing and may be subject to further competition.

5. Evaluation Methodology

We will award this contract in line with the most economically advantageous tender (MEAT) as set out in the following award criteria:

Technical – 70%

Commercial – 30%

**5.1 Evaluation criteria**

Evaluation weightings are 70% technical and 30% commercial, the winning tenderer will be the highest scoring combined score.

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| Award Criteria | Weighting (%) | Evaluation Topic & Weighting | Sub-Criteria | Weighted Question |
| Technical | 70% | Service / Product Proposal | Methodology | 2 Questions  Q1.1 Understanding of the specification (20% of technical score available)  Q1.2 Proposed methodology (30% of technical score available) |
| Key personnel, project management and quality assurance | 2 Questions  Q2.1 Project team (20% of technical score available)  Q2.2 Project Management and quality assurance (20% of technical score available) |
| Management of sustainability and social value | 1 Question  Q3.1 Delivering a sustainable project  (10% of technical score available) |
| Commercial | 30% | Whole life cost of the proposed Contract | Commercial Model | 1 Question  Q4.1 Total cost (100% of commercial score available) |

Technical (70%)

Technical evaluations will be based on responses to specific questions covering key criteria which are outlined below. Scores for questions will be based on the following:

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| Description | Score | Definition |
| Very good | 100 | Addresses all the Authority’s requirements with all the relevant supporting information set out in the RFQ. There are no weaknesses and therefore the tender response gives the Authority complete confidence that all the requirements will be met to a high standard. |
| Good | 70 | Addresses all the Authority’s requirements with all the relevant supporting information set out in the RFQ. The response contains minor weaknesses and therefore the tender response gives the Authority confidence that all the requirements will be met to a good standard. |
| Moderate | 50 | Addresses most of the requirements with most of the relevant supporting information set out in the RFQ. The response contains moderate weaknesses and therefore the tender response gives the Authority confidence that most of the requirements will be met to a suitable standard. |
| Weak | 20 | Substantially addresses the requirements but not all and provides supporting information that is of limited or no relevance or a methodology containing significant weaknesses and therefore raises concerns for the Authority that the requirements may not all be met. |
| Unacceptable | 0 | No response or provides a response that gives the Authority no confidence that the requirement will be met. |

Technical evaluation is assessed using the evaluation topics and sub-criteria stated in the Evaluation Criteria section above.

Separate submissions for each technical question should be provided and will be evaluated in isolation. Tenderers should provide answers that meet the criteria of each technical question.

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| Methodology | Detailed Evaluation Criteria |
| Responses should not exceed 3 sides of A4, and use Arial font, size 11. | |
| Q1.1 Understanding of the specification (20% of technical score available): Explain your understanding of the background to the project, the required outcome, and the future uses of the products in the specification. | Your response should:  1) Demonstrate a clear understanding of the nature of the requirements. |
| Q1.2 Proposed methodology (30% of technical score available): Provide details of the methodology and approaches proposed to deliver the requirements of this project. | Your response should:  1) Be a clear, practical, achievable, and cost-effective methodology to deliver these requirements.  2) Have information in sufficient detail to allow a full appraisal of the suitability of the approach to deliver for the project. |

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| Key personnel, project management and quality assurance | Detailed Evaluation Criteria |
| Responses should not exceed 3 sides of A4, and use Arial font, size 11. | |
| Q2.1 Project team (20% of technical score available): Who will be working on this project and how well do their skills and recent experience meet the needs of the specification? | Your response should:  1) Provide your proposed project team, with proposed roles, and with brief biographies of relevant skills and experience.  2) Do not submit full CVs. |
| Q2.2 Project management and quality assurance (20% of technical score available): Provide details of how you will deliver the specification to quality, cost and time constraints. | Your response should:  1) Set out a basic Gantt chart for the project, with listed activities and named personnel allocated to each activity  2) outline the management structure for the project and management methods  3) Explain your quality assurance procedures as they will operate on this project.  4) Refer to any quality assurance standards your organisation complies with. |

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| Management of sustainability and social value | Detailed Evaluation Criteria |
| Responses should not exceed half a side of A4, and use Arial font, size 11. | |
| Q3.1 Delivering a sustainable project (10% of technical score available): What steps will you take to ensure this project has a positive impact on the environment and society? | Your response should:  1) Explain what measures you will take to ensure this project meets the Authority's sustainability ambitions, as set out in Section 3.  2) Refer to any sustainability standards your organisation complies with. |

Commercial (**30**%)

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

Suppliers are required to submit a total cost to provide the deliverables stated in the Specification of Requirements. In addition to this the Commercial Response template must be completed to provide a breakdown of the whole life costs against each activity/key personnel used in the delivery of this requirement.

Calculation Method

The method for calculating the weighted scores is as follows:

* Commercial Score = (Lowest Quotation Price / Supplier’s Quotation Price ) x 30% (Maximum available marks)
* Technical Score = (Bidder’s Total Technical Score / Highest Technical Score) x 70% (Maximum available marks)

The total score (weighted) (TWS) is then calculated by adding the total weighted commercial score (WC) to the total weighted technical score (WT): WC + WT = TWS.

6. Information to be returned

Please note, the following information requested must be provided. Incomplete tender submissions may be discounted.

Please complete and return the following information:

* completed Commercial Response template
* separate response submission for each technical question (in accordance with the response instructions)
* complete AI question [ ''Do you use Artificial Intelligence (AI) or machine learning tools, including large language models within your quote submission or service delivery processes.?''] response which will not be scored, is to be returned within technical response
* completed Mandatory Requirements (Annex 1)
* completed Acceptance of Terms and Conditions (Annex 2)

7. Award

Once the evaluation of the Response(s) is complete all suppliers will be notified of the outcome via email.

The successful supplier will be issued the contract, incorporating their Response, for signature. The Authority will then counter sign.

Annex 1 Mandatory Requirements

Part 1 Potential Supplier Information

Please answer the following self-declaration questions in full and include this Annex in your quotation response.

Part 1.1 Potential Supplier Information:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Question no. | Question | Response |
| 1.1(a) | Full name of the potential supplier submitting the information |  |
| 1.1(b) | Registered office address (if applicable) |  |
| 1.1(c) | Company registration number (if applicable) |  |
| 1.1(d) | Charity registration number (if applicable) |  |
| 1.1(e) | Head office DUNS number (if applicable) |  |
| 1.1(f) | Registered VAT number |  |
| 1.1(g) | Are you a Small, Medium or Micro Enterprise (SME)? | (Yes / No) |

Note: See EU definition of SME <https://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/business-friendly-environment/sme-definition_en>

Part 1.2 Contact details and declaration

By submitting a quotation to this RFQ I declare that to the best of my knowledge the answers submitted and information contained in this document are correct and accurate.

I declare that, upon request and without delay you will provide the certificates or documentary evidence referred to in this document.

I understand that the information will be used in the selection process to assess my organisation’s suitability to be invited to participate further in this procurement.

I understand that the authority may reject this submission in its entirety if there is a failure to answer all the relevant questions fully, or if false/misleading information or content is provided in any section.

I am aware of the consequences of serious misrepresentation.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Question no. | Question | Response |
| 1.2(a) | Contact name |  |
| 1.2(b) | Name of organisation |  |
| 1.2(c) | Role in organisation |  |
| 1.2(d) | Phone number |  |
| 1.2(e) | E-mail address |  |
| 1.2(f) | Postal address |  |
| 1.2(g) | Signature (electronic is acceptable) |  |
| 1.2(h) | Date |  |

Part 2 Exclusion Grounds

Part 2.1 Grounds for mandatory exclusion

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Question no. | Question | Response |
| 2.1(a) | Please indicate if, within the past five years you, your organisation or any other person who has powers of representation, decision or control in the organisation been convicted anywhere in the world of any of the offences within the summary below. | |
|  | Participation in a criminal organisation. | (Yes / No)  If yes please provide details at 2.1 (b) |
|  | Corruption. | ((Yes / No)  If yes please provide details at 2.1 (b) |
|  | Fraud. | (Yes / No)  If yes please provide details at 2.1 (b) |
|  | Terrorist offences or offences linked to terrorist activities | (Yes / No)  If yes please provide details at 2.1 (b) |
|  | Money laundering or terrorist financing | (Yes / No)  If yes please provide details at 2.1 (b) |
|  | Child labour and other forms of trafficking in human beings | (Yes / No)  If yes please provide details at 2.1 (b) |
| 2.1(b) | If you have answered yes to question 2.1(a), please provide further details.  Date of conviction, specify which of the grounds listed the conviction was for, and the reasons for conviction.  Identity of who has been convicted  If the relevant documentation is available electronically please provide the web address, issuing authority, precise reference of the documents. |  |
| 2.1 (c) | If you have answered Yes to any of the points above have measures been taken to demonstrate the reliability of the organisation despite the existence of a relevant ground for exclusion? (i.e. Self-Cleaning) | (Yes / No) |
| 2.1(d) | Has it been established, for your organisation by a judicial or administrative decision having final and binding effect in accordance with the legal provisions of any part of the United Kingdom or the legal provisions of the country in which the organisation is established (if outside the UK), that the organisation is in breach of obligations related to the payment of tax or social security contributions? | (Yes / No) |
| 2.1(e) | If you have answered yes to question 2.3(a), please provide further details. Please also confirm you have paid or have entered into a binding arrangement with a view to paying, the outstanding sum including where applicable any accrued interest and/or fines. |  |

Part 2.2 Grounds for discretionary exclusion

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Question no. | Question | Response |
| 2.2(a) | The detailed grounds for discretionary exclusion of an organisation are set out on this [webpage](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/551130/List_of_Mandatory_and_Discretionary_Exclusions.pdf), which should be referred to before completing these questions.  Please indicate if, within the past three years, anywhere in the world any of the following situations have applied to you, your organisation or any other person who has powers of representation, decision or control in the organisation | |
| 2.2(b) | Breach of environmental obligations? | (Yes / No)  If yes please provide details at 2.2 (f) |
| 2.2(c) | Breach of social obligations? | (Yes / No)  If yes please provide details at 2.2 (f) |
| 2.2(d) | Breach of labour law obligations? | (Yes / No)  If yes please provide details at 2.2 (f) |
| 2.2(e) | Shown significant or persistent deficiencies in the performance of a substantive requirement under a prior public contract, a prior contract with a contracting entity, or a prior concession contract, which led to early termination of that prior contract, damages or other comparable sanctions? | (Yes / No)  If yes please provide details at 2.2 (f) |
| 2.2 (f) | If you have answered Yes to any of the above, explain what measures been taken to demonstrate the reliability of the organisation despite the existence of a relevant ground for exclusion? (Self Cleaning) |  |

Annex 2 Acceptance of Terms and Conditions

I/We accept in full the terms and conditions appended to this Request for Quote document.

Company \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_