



National Highways

Technical Surveys and Testing Professional Services Short Contract for SWAD 2023 Tree Condition Surveys – M4 Junction 22 (New Severn Bridge) to Junction 15 (East Swindon), excluding SMART Motorway

Instructions for Tenderers

**Deadline for Tender submission is
12TH May 2023 @ 12 noon**

INSTRUCTIONS FOR TENDERERS

CONTENTS AMENDMENT SHEET

Amend. No.	Revision No.	Amendments	Initials	Date
0	0	Issued with Tender		

List of Contents

1	THE TENDER PERIOD PROCESS	4
1.1	General	4
1.2	Tender Presentation.....	7
1.3	Inspections.....	7
1.4	Form of Contract	7
2	SUBMISSION OF TENDERS	8
2.1	General	8
3	TENDER ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE	9
3.1	Method.....	9
3.2	Financial Evaluation	9
4	TENDER AWARD	11
	ANNEX A - TENDER DOCUMENTS	13
	ANNEX B - INDICATIVE TENDER PERIOD TIMETABLE.....	15
	ANNEX C - PROPOSALS FOR PROVIDING THE SERVICES.....	16
	ANNEX D - ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSALS FOR PROVIDING THE SERVICES	18
	ANNEX E – NATIONAL HIGHWAYS FAIR PAYMENT CHARTER AND ANTI BRIBERY & ANTI FRAUD CODES OF CONDUCT	20

[

1 THE TENDER PERIOD PROCESS

1.1 General

- 1.1.1 National Highways is seeking to appoint a Contractor to deliver the following project:

<u>Summary of project</u>	
Project title	SWAD 2023 Tree Condition Surveys - M4 Junction 22 (New Severn Bridge) to Junction 15 (East Swindon), excluding SMART motorway
Pin	TBC
Location	M4 Junction 22 (New Severn Bridge) to Junction 15 (East Swindon), excluding the SMART motorway zone.
Type of service	Arboriculture
Description of the service	Tree Condition Surveys - This project is to fulfil the requirements of GS801 Asset Delivery Asset Inspection Requirements, and assist National Highways in its legal obligations and to discharge duty of care as land owner under the Highways Act 1980 Section 41 and the Occupiers Liability Act 1984. This inspection will look specifically the risk posed by trees, to identify 'safety critical defects' and 'reactive defects' in the interest of maintaining a safe network.
Estimated starting date	19 TH June 2023
Estimated completion date	30th November 2023 for final report and deliverables 31st January 2024 Confirmation of issue of third party letters

- 1.1.2 Full details on the requirements can be found within the Scope.
- 1.1.3 These Instructions for Tenderers have been issued to those firms that have passed the Registration Questionnaire which evidences their compliance with National Highways' acceptability criteria for the submission of a tender for the above type of survey.
- 1.1.4 If you have not passed the Registration Questionnaire then you will need to submit a Registration Questionnaire in addition to the requirements contained in this document. Or if you are interested in providing similar technical surveys and testing to the requirements of this tender, and would like to register your interest to receive notifications of future work, please email nationaltst@highwaysengland.co.uk and they will be able to explain our registration process and requirements.
- 1.1.5 This tender process seeks to determine the most economically advantageous tender. Please refer to section 3 for the assessment process.

- 1.1.6 Any queries or request for clarification relating to this tender must be made via the e-sourcing portal by the deadline stated in Annex B.
- 1.1.7 The contents of these Instructions and of any other documentation sent to Tenderers in respect of this tender process are provided on the basis that they remain the property of National Highways. Tenderers must not release information concerning the tender documents for publication in the press or on radio, television, screen or any other medium. Tenderers must not disclose the fact that they are tendering or release details of the tender documents, other than on an "in confidence" basis to those who have a legitimate need to know or whom they need to consult for the purpose of preparing their tender response. Tenderers are required to conduct themselves in good faith in all dealings in relation to this tender process.
- 1.1.8 Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (as amended) ("the Act"), the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 ("EIR") and the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 as amended, National Highways may be obliged (subject to the application of any relevant exemptions and, where applicable, the public interest test) to disclose information relating to the tender process including any tenders received.
- 1.1.9 Under the Cabinet Office Efficiency Reform Group's Guidance Note dated December 2010 entitled "Transparency – Publication of New Central Government Contracts", or any later revision, National Highways is obliged to publish any contract resulting from this competition, excluding only information which is exempt from disclosure pursuant to the Act along with the EIR and PCR. The decision as to which materials are excluded from publication rests with National Highways in its sole discretion. National Highways' initial view is that the only materials likely to be excluded from publication on this basis are as follows:
- build-ups of the prices in the Price List (but not the total prices)
 - EIR information
- 1.1.10 Tenderers should be aware that National Highways could receive requests for any information relating to this contract or tender. While National Highways reserves its discretion in responding to any such information request, Tenderers are invited to request that certain information is not disclosed or published if to do so would prejudice their commercial interests or is otherwise exempt from disclosure under the Act. Requests for nondisclosure under the Act must accompany the tender and include clear and substantive justification and a time limit when any confidential information could be disclosed. The terms of any confidentiality agreement would, if requested, be available for disclosure. Any request by the Tenderer under this paragraph is for information only and will not be taken into

account in the tender assessment process, nor will it form part of any contract between National Highways and the Tenderer.

- 1.1.11 Tenderers must immediately advise National Highways and seek approval of such change if
- (a) their ownership or the ownership of any member of their tendering consortium (or their parent company) changes, or
 - (b) any organisation involved in the preparation of this contract is acquired by them or by any member of their consortium (or an associated company).
- 1.1.12 If National Highways considers that a change in ownership has created a potential conflict or approval is not obtained, National Highways may exclude the Tenderer from the tender assessment and withdraw its Registration Certificate. If excluded, the Tenderer will be notified by the Procurement Officer.
- 1.1.13 If, at any time after the Registration Questionnaire stage or during the tender process and/or any subsequent contract, there is any change in circumstances which means that information submitted by the Tenderer is no longer correct or the Tenderer's ability to perform the contract materially deteriorates, the Tenderer must immediately inform National Highways in writing. National Highways may undertake any investigation it considers necessary and reserves the right to reconsider the Tenderer's ability to perform the contract and where necessary, disqualify a Tenderer who has previously passed the Registration Questionnaire stage of this procurement process.
- 1.1.14 National Highways reserves the right to disqualify any Tenderer that fails to inform or advise National Highways in accordance with paragraphs 1.1.11 and 1.1.12.
- 1.1.15 These Instructions are made in good faith. No warranty is given as to the accuracy or completeness of the information contained in it. Any liability or inaccuracy or incompleteness is expressly disclaimed by National Highways and its advisers. Tenderers are advised to satisfy themselves that they understand all of the requirements of the contract before submitting their tender.
- 1.1.16 National Highways reserves the right not to accept the lowest or any offer it receives and can cancel, amend or vary the tender process at any point and is not liable for any costs incurred by any tenderer.
- 1.1.17 Tenderers are deemed to understand fully the processes that National Highways is required to follow under relevant European and UK legislation, particularly in relation to the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 as amended.

- 1.1.18 All Central Government Departments and 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.
- 1.1.19 For these purposes, National Highways 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, such as specific bid information) submitted by the Tenderer to National Highways during this tender process. The information will not be disclosed outside Government. Tenderers taking part in this competition consent to these terms as part of the tender process.

1.2 Tender Presentation - Not used

1.3 Inspections

- 1.3.1 Route is open to the public.
- 1.3.2 Tenderer's must adopt their own Risk Assessments and visit at own expense.
- 1.3.3 Vehicle must be parked in safe locations available to the public, such as laybys and side roads, not maintenance hard standings.
- 1.3.4 Any other site visit would require temporary traffic management and necessitate additional health and safety requirements.
- 1.3.5 Liability for any damage or disturbance caused to such land or property rests with the Tenderer.

1.4 Form of Contract

- 1.4.1 The agreement for the project is based on the NEC3 professional services short contract April 2013 with additional conditions of contract listed in the Contract Data. National Highways is bound by the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and will not enter into any post tender negotiations on the conditions of contract. Any tenderer who is unwilling to accept the terms of the contract will be disqualified from the process.

2 SUBMISSION OF TENDERS

2.1 General

- 2.1.1 All tenders must be written in English and priced in Pounds Sterling.
- 2.1.2 Tenders must be submitted via Bravo and in accordance with these instructions and any tender amendments. The Tenderer must sign the Form of Tender and offers must remain open for acceptance for **[90]** calendar days from the tender return date.
- 2.1.3 Documents are to be returned in Microsoft Office 2010 or PDF compatible format. When uploading tender submissions into National Highways' e-Sourcing portal. No file is to be larger than 20MB.
- 2.1.4 Tenderers must return all information set out in Annex A.

3 TENDER ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE

3.1 Method

- 3.1.1 National Highways' assessment of tenders will be carried out in two stages. In the first stage there will be a check for tender compliance to assess if the required documentation has been submitted.
- 3.1.2 In the second stage the Assessment Panel ("the Panel") will assess the proposals and take account of the assessment criteria set out in Annex D and the financial aspect of the tenders.
- 3.1.3 The Panel will not have access to the financial information until after it has completed the assessment of the Proposals (please refer to Annex C).
- 3.1.4 During the evaluation period, National Highways reserves the right to seek clarification from any or all of the Tenderers solely to assist it in its consideration of their tender but shall be under no obligation to do so.
- 3.1.5 A tender that:
- (a) is not submitted in accordance with these Instructions and the tender documents including any tender amendments,
 - (b) is qualified or accompanied by statements or a covering letter that might be construed as rendering the tender equivocal or
 - (c) includes unauthorised alterations or additions made to any component of the tender documents,
- may result in the tender being rejected. National Highways' decision will be final.

3.2 Financial Evaluation

- 3.2.1 The Panel will determine a price score for each compliant Tender with acceptable proposals on the following basis:
- (a) the total of the Prices in the Price List and
 - (b) if applicable, an allowance for the cost of TM associated with the Tenderer's proposed method of working

- 3.2.2 If applicable, the allowance for the cost of the TM will be added to the Tenderer's total of the Prices and the Tenderer with the lowest overall total and acceptable proposal will be awarded the maximum score of 100%. The score of other Tenderers with acceptable proposals will be awarded on a pro-rata basis in the ratio of the lowest total divided by the actual total. For example, if the lowest total was £22,500 and your total was £25,000 you would be awarded a score of 90%. Table 1 below gives an example of how this would affect the prices.

Table 1 - Worked Example				
Description	Tenderer			
	Tenderer 1	Tenderer 2	Tenderer 3	Tenderer 4
Total of the Prices	£25,000.00	£33,400.00	£22,000.00	£45,000.00
Allowance for provision of TM	£10,000.00	£12,000.00	£20,000.00	£5,000.00
	Total Cost	£35,000.00	£45,400.00	£42,000.00
	Rank	1	3	2
	Percentage Score	100%	77%	83%

4 TENDER AWARD

4.1.1 National Highways will consider awarding the contract to the Tenderer with the highest score.

4.1.2 National Highways will inform the successful and unsuccessful Tenderers of its decision including feedback on their tender.

ANNEXES

ANNEX A - TENDER DOCUMENTS

1 List of Documents included with Invitation to Tender

1.1 The following documents are provided to Tenderers:

<i>Document Title</i>	
1.	Instructions for Tenderers
2.	Contract Data including the <i>Consultant's Offer</i>
3.	Price List
4.	Scope
5.	Site Information

2 List of Documents to be returned with the Tender.

2.2 Tenderers are to note that all documents below must be completed and returned for their submission to be assessed as compliant. Failure to do so may result in the tender being rejected.

<i>Documents to be returned by Tenderer</i>
Signed and dated Form of Tender
Proposals for Providing the Services - Please refer to Annex C this should include as a minimum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme • Health & Safety submission including a Risk Register
Completed <i>Consultant's Offer</i>
A completed priced Price List – See guidance notes below
Any request for non-disclosure relating to Freedom of Information requests
Summary of Insurance policies required for the contract or confirmation that the required Insurances will be provided ¹

3 Price List Guidance

3.3 Tenderers are to provide a priced Price List.

3.4 The *Consultant* is paid in accordance with Clause 50 & 51. The rates and prices entered in the Price List shall be deemed to be the full inclusive value of the work covered by the items.

3.5 Tenderers must price:

¹ A relevant statement is included in the Form of Tender

- (a) all items and rates in the Price List,
 - (b) all items and rates to two decimal places and
 - (c) all items and rates separately.
- 3.6 Tenderers should avoid pricing any item as £0.00 (zero) or use terms such as included. Where the Tenderer wishes to price an item in this manner they should provide an explanation in their submitted tender. Where no explanation is provided, National Highways may contact the Tenderer for clarification.
- 3.7 Tenderers are not permitted to:
 - (d) cross subsidise any item or rate within any other item or activity in the Price List,
 - (e) make any assumptions regarding the use or relevance of any item or rate in the Price List or
 - (f) Add or amend any item in the Price List.
- 3.8 Tenderers who price on any other basis and/or make any such assumptions will be rejected.

ANNEX B - INDICATIVE TENDER PERIOD TIMETABLE

Item	Activity	Date	Week
1	Commence Tender process	04/04/23	
2	Tender Presentation	<i>Not Used</i>	
3	Last Date for Tender Queries	25/04/23	
4	Tender Return	12/05/23	
5	Tender Assessment	w/c 15/05/23	
6	Award Contract & Feedback	02/06/23	

ANNEX C - PROPOSALS FOR PROVIDING THE SERVICES**1 General**

- 1.1 Tenderers are required to submit their proposals to demonstrate how the Tenderer will Provide the Services and provide assurance to National Highways that they are competent of undertaking the project and capable of managing the risks involved in the project.
- 1.2 The Proposals are to include:
- a programme which meets with the requirements set out in the Scope
 - A Health & Safety submission which shall cover all requirements set out in Table D1
- 1.3 The proposals should be no greater than the stated word limit and the page limits are [10] sheets of A4 paper ([20] sides). This page limit includes title pages, drawings, diagrams, flow charts and annexes. All Documents shall be in PDF or in a format compatible with MS Office.
- 1.4 Tenderers may use A3 paper in lieu of A4, but each A3 sheet will be counted as two A4 sheets. Text must be presented in a font no smaller than 11 point.

Table D1- Health and Safety Submission Requirements

<p>The Health and Safety Submission shall set out how the Tenderer will fulfil the requirements of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 and how they will work with others as appropriate (including CDM Regulations 2015 duty holders) and the requirements of BS OHSAS 18001.</p> <p>Tenderers attention is drawn to Annex 1 of the supplementary constraints of the Scope which sets out specific requirements in relation to Health & Safety.</p> <p>The proposed management arrangements are to include an organogram detailing how the Duty Holders interface under the CDM regulations – addressing both external and internal facing contacts</p> <p>Evidence shall be provided of the required skills knowledge and experience provided to fulfil these duty holder roles and to demonstrate that the Tenderer is able to deal with the key health and safety issues of the services to be undertaken.</p> <p>The submission shall include details of all of <i>Consultant's</i> proposed resources including any subcontractors (if known at point of Tender).</p> <p>As part of this submission a Risk Register which identifies the key hazards and health and safety risks relevant to the services and set out the proposed mitigations and measures that will implemented by the duty holders to manage those risks shall be included.</p> <p>The Risk Register shall also cover any of the wider risks the Tenderer identifies as being associated with the project eg inclement weather, global pandemics.</p>
<p>Evidence of having managed the key health and safety issues previously in high risk environments such as the highways environment, including local council work, or Network Rail environment (Max 500 words)</p>
<p>Explanation of how shortfalls in experience or risks associated with the services that have not been managed before, or have been managed but in a low risk environment, will be addressed (if none, state 'none') (Max 500 words)</p>

ANNEX D - ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSALS FOR PROVIDING THE SERVICES

1 Marking of the Proposals for Providing the Services

1.1 The Assessment Panel will determine the acceptability of the Tenderer's proposals using the following criteria:

- Does the programme illustrate that the Tenderer can provide the Services using the contract *access date*, *completion date* and any *key dates*?
- Does the programme cover the tasks/activities required for the project?
- Has the risk register correctly identified and assessed the main risks to achieving National Highways' requirements for the contract, produced appropriate mitigating actions, and have the programme included appropriate allowances for the risks?
- Are the proposed resources adequate for successful delivery of the project?
- Does the Health and Safety submission align with Table D1? Have the key health and safety risks been identified, with suitable mitigation measures detailed to manage the risks? Does the evidence provided give confidence in the tenderers ability to manage the key health and safety risks in a high risk environment? Where there are shortfalls in previous experience, or identified risks which have not been managed before in a high risk environment, does the explanation provided give confidence that the risks will be adequately managed by the tenderer during delivery of the services?
- Does the summary method statement submitted by the Tenderer clearly demonstrate that the way the Tenderer intends to Provide the Works complies with National Highways specified requirements, or otherwise are any variations to the original scope and specification in the 'Supply Chain Brief' acceptable?
- Does the Tenderer demonstrate their understanding of when traffic management would be required to undertake these surveys?
- Does the Tenderer demonstrate that their surveyors have knowledge and understanding of potential bat habitat?

1.2 The proposals must satisfy all the criteria listed in-order to be deemed acceptable.

ANNEX E – NATIONAL HIGHWAYS FAIR PAYMENT CHARTER AND ANTI BRIBERY & ANTI FRAUD CODES OF CONDUCT

National Highways, working with its suppliers in good faith and in a spirit of mutual trust and respect, is committed to meeting the principles of fair payment, meeting the principles of anti-bribery (as enacted in the Bribery Act 2010 and Ministry of Justice guidance) and working fairly, honestly and with integrity and transparency.

As a supplier to National Highways you are therefore expected to strive to meet the commitments set out in National Highways' Fair Payment Charter and Anti Bribery & Anti Fraud Codes of Conduct which can be located once you log into Bravo File Share:

<https://highways.bravosolution.co.uk/web/login.shtml>

- 1) Go to File Sharing> Files> Directories
- 2) Click on Directory titled 'TST Supplier Area'

Note: Tenderers are not required to return signed copies.