

UK Shared Business Services

PS21025 Expertise to inform research priority: securing sustainable georesources to meet the needs of a resource efficient economy Quotation Request

UK Shared Business Services (UK SBS) on behalf of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) invites you to submit a quotation for the services as outlined below.

Requirement

Please see below full details of our requirement:

UKRI-NERC is seeking expert input on current knowledge, gaps and research priorities for sustainably securing Georesources to meet future UK need, in a 'catalyst' role. The catalyst will identify defined opportunities for short- and longer-term environmental science and interdisciplinary research and innovation advances.

Catalyst Scope

In June 2019, Parliament passed legislation requiring the government to reduce the UK's net emissions of greenhouse gases by 100% (relative to 1990 levels) by 2050¹, which will make the UK a 'net zero' emitter. As sectors such as transport, infrastructure, and energy generation, switch towards cleaner energy technologies² there is an expected increase in demand for a greater volume and diversity of the critical georesources that are required to deliver these technologies. For example, production of some materials such as Lithium and Cobalt is predicted to need to increase by nearly 500% by 2050.³ Thus geological resources will be critical to underpin this transition to Net Zero.

Securing a future sustainable supply of the critical materials required for these resource intensive technologies will require a resource efficient economy with approaches ranging from effective exploration of new frontiers to circular economy, while reducing the impact of existing and future resource production. An interdisciplinary lens and the incorporation of a wide range of inputs, for example from across geo-, materials, social, bio- and environmental sciences, economics and policy will be needed to sustainably secure these resources and deliver evidence to support UK decision making and capability.

This is a short-term, immediate opportunity to contribute robust information that will inform NERC about current knowledge and research gaps. This will help create a roadmap of the research challenges and we will use this knowledge to identify research priorities that will provide the evidence required to enable a transformative approach to securing Georesources.

¹ The Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019 is available at www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2019/1056/contents/made

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/energy-white-paper-powering-our-net-zero-future>

³ <http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/961711588875536384/Minerals-for-Climate-Action-The-Mineral-Intensity-of-the-Clean-Energy-Transition.pdf>

Provision of service

Requirements

With appropriate expertise in environmental science and/or related interdisciplinary research for the above scope, you will describe and provide evidence for the following areas:

1. Capture the current UK Georesources research and innovation landscape, setting out the context and current activity, including beyond NERC and UKRI.
2. Identify the key research and innovation requirements, focusing on areas where multi- and inter-disciplinary research is needed and could provide a solution, and the relative importance/potential to be transformative. Questions to address include:
 - What recent advances might future funding in this area build upon?
 - What are the significant gaps in existing knowledge?
 - What unique capabilities does the UK have (e.g. national capability investments)/what contribution can the UK make in the international context?
 - What areas require priority attention, are particularly timely or urgent, and have the potential to lead to rapid and/or transformational change in practice?
3. Develop and articulate new and defined research and innovation challenges, which build on the advances and thinking that have emerged from UKRI funded research, linkages to UK-wide government priorities and other research/policy related activities outside of UKRI. This should include:
 - a) Identifying the wider economic importance of sustainably securing critical georesources as outlined in the scope, considering both monetary and non-monetary values.
 - b) Identifying alignment of the challenges to key strategic goals of the UK and devolved governments including (but not restricted to): Net zero carbon, Clean growth, place/levelling up agenda.
 - c) Incorporating the research needs and evidence gaps gathered from key stakeholders.
 - d) Identifying the multidisciplinary needs and current capability, which must include disciplines beyond environmental science as outlined in the catalyst scope.
 - e) Identify new thinking, tools, data and capabilities that can deliver the vision
4. Explore and articulate how the outcomes of any new research activity will sustainably secure Georesources to meet future UK need, and will enable joined up research and policy making across stakeholders and scales.

An early concept has been developed with a range of partners and will be shared with the catalyst, as well as facilitated discussions with interested partners, and this thinking should be built into the Catalysts response. The Catalyst will have access to relevant Subject Matter Experts (SME's) across UKRI, who will be able to provide information on previously funded research and alignment to UKRI-strategy.

Outputs

- Flash reports via email to NERC of any progress and directions taken
- Regular (at least fortnightly) verbal update to NERC (email update sufficient if schedules do not allow for verbal update) to identify progress and challenges
- Interim report detailing the objectives above (to be submitted by latest end-July 2021)
- Final report detailing the objectives above (to be submitted by latest mid-September 2021).

Timeline

- This agreement shall run from the period 28 June 2021 to 28 September 2021
- A start-up video conference meeting is scheduled for late-June 2021
- Delivery of an interim revised case will be due by 20 August 2021
- Delivery of the final revised case is to be provided by the 28 September 2021

Timescales

The contract timescales of this requirement are:

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Start date: | Monday 28 th June 2021 |
| End date: | Tuesday 28 th September 2021 |

Budget

The maximum budget available for these services is £10,000.00 excluding VAT.

Terms and Conditions

The Terms and Conditions that will apply to this Contract are attached and shall be accepted unmodified in their entirety to be considered for this contract award. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in your quotation being rejected by the Contracting Authority.

GDPR / Cyber Essentials

Due to the nature of this requirement, it is required that your organisation is UK GDPR compliant for the Contracting Authority to be able to contract with you. Within your response you will be required to confirm that your organisation is UK GDPR Compliant and that you are in agreement to processing data provided by the Contracting Authority in alignment with Annex A.

Quotation Request closing date/time

Please ensure that you submit your quotation to professional.services@uksbs.co.uk marked For the Attention of Becky Eldridge by Friday 4th June 2021 – 11am Failure to meet the stated Quotation Request closing date and time will result in the Contracting Authority Rejecting your quotation.

Clarifications

Any questions or correspondence regarding this Quotation Request should be formally directed to Becky Eldridge professional.services@uksbs.co.uk only, please note that any and all information sought and secured outside of contact shall have no legal standing or worth and should not be relied upon when submitting your quotation.

The latest clarification questions shall be received is Tuesday 18th May 2021 at 14:00h.

Answers to all clarification questions will be published on Contract Finder by Friday 21st May 2021.

The winning bidder will be notified of the outcome within two weeks of the closing date (21/06/2021). Interviews will not be conducted. UKRI will monitor application and award data from an EDI (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion) perspective to ensure equity of process. Feedback will not be provided unless specifically requested.

Supplier Response

[Supplier to confirm]

Supplier Details

| | |
|--|--|
| Supplier Name: | |
| Person submitting quotation response (name): | |
| Contact Email: | |
| Contact Phone: | |
| Date: | |
| Quotation validity period (60 days min): | |

Requirement

We confirm that we are able to provide the requirement as specified in the Quotation Request form and we have provided full details of our proposed solution as an attachment to this quotation response.

[Supplier to confirm] (Please delete as appropriate)

Yes – Pass

No Fail

The proposal is to be limited to 3 sides of A4, any additional content provided beyond this will not be considered.

This is an open competition and the successful candidate will be selected by UKRI based on the strength of your written quotation. Bids will be reviewed considering the following criteria:

[Supplier to provide within quotation]

Assessment criteria

Proposed approach

- (i) Are suggested approaches clearly defined and appropriate?
- (ii) Does the proposed approach show innovation in thought?
- (iii) Are suggested approaches able to be completed in the timeframe?
- (iv) Is the community engagement plan, if present, realistic?
- (v) How does the suggested approach promote Equality, Diversity and Inclusion?

Track record

- (vi) Is the level of contribution to knowledge of a high standard?
- (vii) Is contribution to the wider research community sufficiently great?
- (viii) Does the applicant demonstrate a high contribution to broader society?

Timescales

We confirm that we can deliver the requirement by the timescales detailed above.

[Supplier to confirm] (Please delete as appropriate)

Yes – Pass

No Fail

Price

Our Firm and Fixed price for this requirement is:

Please ensure that all prices are provided exclusive of VAT

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Firm and Fixed Price: | £ GBP [Supplier to confirm] |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|

| Detail of pricing Breakdown | Price (EX VAT) |
|---|----------------|
| [Supplier to confirm] (Please complete) | £ |
| | |

Terms and Conditions

We confirm our acceptance of the Terms and Conditions provided:

[Supplier to confirm] (Please delete as appropriate)

Yes – Pass

No Fail

Please note: The Contracting Authority will only accept Quotations from organisations that confirm they are UK GDPR compliant. A response of No in this section will mean that your quotation will be rejected.

Supplier Signature

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Supplier Name: | |
| Signature | |