SGN will be conducting a procurement event for the appointment of a contractor who is a Gallagher Channel Partner, and will be responsible for the planned, preventative maintenance of the physical security assessments in the Scotland and Southern Gas Networks. There may also be a requirement during the contract period for Application Support (eg: software upgrades/refreshes), but not on the underpinning system.

The services are to cover offices & depots and gas sites across both Networks. The estimated spend has still to be determined however, an indicative figure, minus IT requirements, is £9m over a 5-year period.

The procurement event will commence with the issue of a Pre-Qualification Questionnaire via Achilles, using Silver + UVDB code **2.9.11** security equipment installation and maintenance.

This Notice is being issued to notify the market of the intention to procure these services.  Should your organisation wish to participate and are not registered on Achilles please note the following:

* Achilles Questionnaire must be completed which can take up to 2 weeks new suppliers.  It can be completed quicker depending on the organisations available resource.  The Achilles registration link is <https://my.achilles.com/join-community?communitycode=ANT&lang=en-GB&buyerid=00072927>.
* Once the Achilles questionnaire is received the normal validation process takes around 48 hours, dependant on the validators not flagging any issues.
* A fee will be applicable for joining Silver+ UVBD membership and the cost is relative to the number of codes selected:

Tier 1 £750 + Vat (up to 7 codes)

       Tier 2 £915 + Vat (8-14 codes)

       Tier 3 £1150 + Vat (15-21 codes)

       Tier 4 £1420 + Vat (21+ codes)

* Achilles are aware of this sourcing event and the need for prompt validation.  Should you have any questions or wish to make Achilles aware of a submission please contact Desta Wheeler, email Desta.Wheeler@achilles.com. Once validated suppliers would also be available to be included in other procurement opportunities not just with SGN but with all other companies that use Achilles to assist with supplier selection.

The intention is for the PQQ to be issued at the end of April which would allow interested contractors time to complete the Achilles process.  In order to participate new contractors must be fully published on Achilles Monday 22nd April.

Please note that it will be a mandatory requirement of the procurement that the Main Contractor/ Tendering party must hold a current Gallagher Channel Partner accreditation, therefore only contractors who hold this accreditation should consider this procurement opportunity.

**What is Achilles?**

* We are a global Supply Chain risk and performance management company that connect buyers and suppliers using our online sector specific networks.
* We help suppliers gain an industry recognised accreditation through the completion of a single pre-qualification questionnaire AND an Audit to increase their compliance, credibility and potentially win new business.
* We are a Procurement and Prequalification sourcing tool used by over 65 buyers in the Utilities industry in the UK.

**Why us?**

* With over 30 years’ experience, we specialize in collecting, verifying, and maintaining supply chain data for around 600 buyers and over 100 000 suppliers.
* We help mitigate the risk within the buying organisations supply chain by providing data driven insights.
* Buyers use our system to source and select suppliers because they know that those suppliers meet industry standards.
* We publish on find a tender service on behalf of our buyers to say that they are using our system to source and select suppliers for their pre-qualification purposes.

**Achilles UVDB**

* Achilles UVDB is the utility industry pre-qualification system used by the utilities sector in the UK to manage risk within the supply chain and comply with utility regulations.
* The process would be to complete initial registration, this will ask you to select your product/service codes which will then determine the tier level. The tier levels go up in increments of 7 codes. Ranging from up to 7 codes all the way to Tier 4 being unlimited codes. The more codes you select, the more exposure you have with buying organisations through the searches in which they can put through the system. Therefore, you could win new potential business by promoting your products and services to many buying organisations thus giving you a competitive edge over suppliers without UVDB.

**Your benefits**

* **Visibility** : Your company’s information will be visible Over 1,500 buyers from 68 organisations including Thames Water, SSE, and National grid.
* **Save Time** : Complete and maintain a single pre-qualification questionnaire and where applicable, an assessment, for key players in the utilities industry. Our research has found that Achilles customers take 1.5 person days or fewer to gather pre-qualification and tender information.
* **Competitive Edge** : For those suppliers that are on Achilles UVDB they have already completed one stage of a buyer’s selection process this can naturally give them a completive edge over suppliers that are not signed up.
* **Compliance** : For Suppliers, Achilles UVDB membership provides the opportunity to demonstrate compliance across a number of key areas of risk and helps to facilitates best practice.
* **Win New Business** : Promote your company’s products and services to buyers and access tender selection opportunities. Our research results show that 35% of Achilles suppliers rate joining an Achilles community as the most cost-effective source of new leads.