



The Coal  
Authority

**Open early engagement - This means that a procurement idea is currently active; it is in the early stage of development and judging interest from potential water treatment operation/service provision companies. This notice is not a call for competition.**

**Commissioning and operation contract for a minewater treatment scheme.**

#### WAMM Programme

The “Water and Abandoned Metal Mines” (WAMM) Programme is a partnership between Defra, the Coal Authority and the Environment Agency to clean up the 1,500 km of English rivers that are polluted by this historic legacy, and so deliver environmental and economic benefits to people and wildlife. Former mine operators cannot be held liable for remediating water pollution if the mines closed before 2000.

#### Treatment Scheme Description

Metal removal will be achieved by passing the mine water through ‘down-flow’ treatment ponds containing a reactive layer made up of woodchips, compost, limestone and straw. Bacteria within this reactive layer reduce sulphate that is naturally present in the mine water to sulphide. This dissolved sulphide binds with the metals and accumulates in the treatment ponds. Effluent leaves the base of the treatment ponds and passes through constructed wetlands before being discharging into the river.

#### **Nent Haggs treatment scheme:**

Nent Haggs treatment scheme is located in former metal mining areas in Cumbria, northern England with construction scheduled to complete in 2022. Haggs Adit, which was abandoned decades ago, discharges mine water containing elevated concentrations of zinc and cadmium which pollute the River Nent.

The Nent Haggs scheme will incorporate odour abatement measures (hydrogen peroxide dosing) to manage the production of excess hydrogen sulphide. It is imperative that the treatment system does not cause noticeable odour at the scheme boundary, and there is considerable interest in potential odours from the community and institutional stakeholders.

A maximum average flow of 10l/s of mine water is transported in a pipeline for about 2.5km from the original discharge location to the treatment ponds; operation of the pipeline and pumping infrastructure is included in the commissioning and operation scope.

## **We have appointed a contractor to build the Nent Hags treatment scheme with completion anticipated in spring 2022.**

Commissioning including installation of treatment media and commencement of mine water treatment in accordance with permits would then follow as part of this commissioning and operation contract.

We would also like to discuss future operational models for this and other similar sites.

Areas of interest of the Coal Authority include:

- Contract duration: anticipated 5 year term including 1 year commissioning with option to extend for a further 5 years.
- Duration of overlap between construction of treatment scheme and commissioning
- Contract option selection – starting point is NEC4 Term Service Contract
- KPI inclusion;
  - Odour mitigation control
  - Adherence to planning conditions around operation
  - Pollution removal efficacy
  - Regulatory stakeholder management
  - Local stakeholder management
  - Testing, monitoring and reporting

We would like to invite interested companies to undertake discussions with us (via initial conference call with a later site visit as COVID restrictions allow) during August 2020 to better understand our requirements and offer suggestions on how we might fulfil our objectives through a future tender process.

Once the Coal Authority has assessed interest, it will advise whether meetings are to be conducted on an individual basis or as a group with multiple companies present.

Please express your interest by contacting [peterkobryn@coal.gov.uk](mailto:peterkobryn@coal.gov.uk) no later than **31<sup>st</sup> July 2020**.

Participants should note that we reserve the right to use any information shared within this market engagement to develop a mature service specification for future procurement purposes.

**Any costs incurred by participating in this exercise must be borne by the participating organisations.**

**Following this exercise we shall determine if and how we will approach the market to secure the services.**

**Please note that any future procurement will be subject to a separate advertisement.**