**Education Estates Older Buildings Research**

DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION

Published date: 17 June 2024

**Contract summary**

**Industry**

Research services - 73110000

**Location of contract**

England

**Value of contract**

£2,100,000\* (estimated)

\*Note: DfE will separately procure minor works to support fieldwork, with an estimated value of £2,700,000.

**Procurement reference**

Jaggaer Project\_9186

**Published date**

17 June 2024

**Approach to market date**

15 July 2024 (estimated)

**Contract start date**

27 September 2024 (estimated)

**Contract end date**

12 December 2025 (estimated)

**Contract is suitable for SMEs?**

Yes

**Contract is suitable for VCSEs?**

Yes

**Description**

The Department for Education (DfE) is looking to commission research to improve the department's understanding of future building safety risks and condition issues in the education estate, in particular in post-war buildings (constructed between 1945 and 1990).

The multi-disciplinary research will include:

* Desk-based analysis.
* Intrusive structural surveys\* and qualitative research in a representative sample of post-war buildings to reflect different construction type, material, age, and degrees of maintenance.
* Modelling to map the prevalence of future structural risks and condition issues across the post-war estate.
* Exploration of technology and innovations to understand structural risks including potential use of machine learning artificial intelligence modelling to process high volumes of data to identify and learn specific types of defects experienced in older buildings associated by age and typology with cross reference to condition data to predict the likely nature(s) of building deterioration.
* Key observable characteristics of structural risks.
* Policy recommendations on mitigating future risks.

\*DfE will separately procure works to facilitate intrusive surveys (including opening up locations to access the structural frame; safe handling and removal of asbestos where required; on and off-site testing of samples). A budget of approximately £2.65million is available to support these works. The lead supplier will be responsible for ensuring a full specification of the works required is designed and liaise with the DfE Older Buildings team, the ‘minor works’ contractor and participating schools once appointed. This follows feedback from the initial Older Buildings Research market engagement event held on 3 June 2024.

The DfE Older Buildings team will be hosting the online workshop on **1 July 2024 at 13:00 GMT** to provide more information on the scope and content of the research invitation to tender and the contract terms. This will be followed by opportunities to ask questions.

To attend this presentation, please register interest through the following link by 17:00 28 June 2024: <https://forms.office.com/e/wFWdRrTeFm>

Participants will receive a link to join the session via Microsoft Teams. If you are registering after this date, please also email [Olderbuildings.research@education.gov.uk](mailto:Olderbuildings.research@education.gov.uk) to ensure you receive joining instructions in time.  
  
We welcome consortia bids combining partner organisations across different sectors to ensure the full range of skills and experience. Required skills are likely to include:

* Skills in working with both quantitative and qualitative data
* Data modelling/sampling
* Predictive and risk assessment/modelling
* Project management
* Data analysis
* Types of construction - their make-up and functionality
* Policy analysis and development

We intend for the research project to be commissioned through the Crown Commercial Service (CCS) Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) - RM6126 Research and Insights.

Suppliers are able to apply to join the DPS at any time via the following link: <https://supplierregistration.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/dps?fh=1#research>

The registration process takes approximately 10 working days to complete. Bidders must be registered on DPS to submit a bid for this project. During their application to join the DPS, suppliers indicate which services they may be able to provide.

After the event, there will be a chance to share your details, should you wish to engage with other attendees to discuss forming a consortium. A contact form will be shared on the day for interested parties and will be bound by GDPR regulations.   
  
We will specify on the DPS the services required by the lead supplier. These will include:

* Subject area: Built environment; Engineering (chemical, electrical, mechanical, structural).
* Research methods: Risk modelling; Mixed method (qualitative and quantitative); Random/stratified random sample.

If you have any questions about the DPS and would like to contact a member of the CCS team, please use the links provided on the website above.

**How to apply**

Follow the instructions given in the description or the more information section.

**Additional information**

This is not a call for competition it is for an early engagement event.

The contract dates listed in this advert are indicative and subject to change. Potential bidders will be expected to show flexibility and contingency plans, should these dates change.

**About the buyer**

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