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Statement of Requirements

Ref CPD/004/119/231

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) is looking for a contractor to conduct a fire safety test in line with British Standard 8414 methodology on a specimen of Class-B (combustible) High Pressure Laminate (HPL) cladding with non-combustible (Class A1) insulation.
- 1.2 The contractor will be expected to design and manage the test including sourcing a specimen of HPL and non-combustible (Class A1) insulation for testing; constructing a test rig; arranging for the test to be carried out at a suitable testing facility; and delivering a full report of the test.

2 Background

- 2.1 Following the Grenfell Tower fire on 14 June 2017, the government appointed an Independent Expert Advisory Panel to advise the Secretary of State on building safety measures: <u>https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/building-safety-independent-</u> <u>expert-advisory-panel</u>
- 2.2 The Government previously commissioned a series of tests intended to establish how different types of Aluminium Composite Material (ACM) panels in combination with different types of insulation behave in a fire: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fire-test-report-dclg-bs-8414-test-no1
- 2.3 The Independent Expert Advisory Panel has advised the Secretary of State to carry out a fire safety test (BS 8414) on a specimen of Class-B (to BS EN 13501-1) HPL cladding with non-combustible (Class A1) insulation. The Government has committed publicly to commission this test.
- 2.4 Following a consultation, which ran from 18 June to 14 August 2018 , the Government has already banned combustible materials on high-rise homes: <u>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-bans-combustible-materials-on-high-rise-homes</u>.
- 2.5 The Government now seeks to test HPL cladding to help demonstrate how the cladding performs in a BS 8414 test.
- 3 Objectives
- 3.1 To deliver BS 8414 test results on a sample of Class-B HPL cladding with noncombustible (Class A1) insulation.
- 3.2 The objective to be delivered with the following KPIs:
 - Test cladding system designed
 - Test cladding materials procured
 - Test facility booked
 - Test cladding system installed
 - Test completed
 - Test results shared within agreed timeframe and budget
 - · Weekly project plan updates submitted to the MHCLG project manager

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4 Scope

4.1 The scope is to deliver a robust test of Class-B HPL cladding with non-combustible insulation (Class A1) to BS 8414-1 methodology. This tender does not require any tests of alternate materials or alternate systems. Neither does the tender require testing to any alternate methodologies.

5 Deliverables/Outputs and Performance Measures

- 5.1 Test results must show whether or not the system tested to BS 8414 meets the classification criteria set out in <u>BR 135</u> (Fire performance of external thermal insulation for walls of multistorey buildings) as recommended in building regulations guidance Approved Document B.
- 5.2 The materials to be tested are Class-B (combustible) HPL cladding as part of a wall system including Class A1 (non-combustible) rock fibre insulation. The test must be configured in line with industry standard practice as per previous tests commissioned by the Government, an example of which can be found here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fire-test-report-dclg-bs-8414-test-no1
- 5.3 The contractor will be responsible for the design of the cladding; it should be representative of common cladding systems on buildings in England, including but not limited to, typical panel thickness, fixing methods, cavity barrier arrangements, gap and cavity sizes.
- 5.4 The BS 8414 test and classification to BR135 must be carried out at a suitable UKAS accredited test facility.
- 5.5 Test results should be presented to MHCLG in Office document compatible format. MHCLG will own the test results and they will be made publicly available on the Department's website.
- 5.6 Performance will be assessed on the contractor's delivery of acceptable outputs as described in the project KPIs to acceptable timescales.

6 Approach

- 6.1 The British Standard 8414 test requires that a wall with a complete cladding system including panels and insulation fixed to it, is then subject to a fire that replicates a severe fire in a flat breaking out of a window and whether it then spreads up the outside wall.
- 6.2 The successful contractor will operate independently and will be responsible for ensuring any staff, or sub-contractors, engaged in the work have the required skills and/or qualifications. The contractor must ensure that the test is consistent with BS 8414 and delivers results against BR135.

7 Key Dates

- 7.1 The Government considers it a priority for this test to be carried out and anticipates work to commence on, or before, Monday 16 April 2019. However, the start date for this work is dependent on bids received and timescales for agreeing a contract.
- 7.2 We recognise that the contractor will need to work under constraints that may be out of its direct control, such as availability of suitable test facilities. On this basis, we seek the views of prospective suppliers on practicable timescales for delivery of the work outlined

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in this specification.

- 7.3 Duration of the work can also be flexible dependant on the chosen contractor's estimate of resource requirements, and lead times for sourcing sample material and securing a test facility. However, the Department anticipates all work associated with this tender, including delivery of a final report on the test results to be completed by no later than 31 May 2019.
- 7.4 There is scope for a limited extension to the expected completion date should the contractor provide evidence of compelling reasons to extend the timeframe beyond that point e.g. due to lead times for sourcing a specimen for testing or to secure a slot at a test facility.

8 Contract Management Arrangements

8.1 The contractor will liaise with an MHCLG project manager in the Department's Building Safety Programme. Governance is through an MHCLG project board and the contractor is expected to provide written weekly project plan updates on progress against milestones to deliver contract KPIs (section 3 above). The contractor should alert the project manager to any issues affecting delivery milestones and should also be prepared to be available in person or by conference / video call for weekly progress updates.

9 Security

9.1 The contractor is expected to work remotely. However, there is scope for working alongside an existing MHCLG policy team located at 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF for face to face meetings. Travel/expenses to 2 Marsham Street cannot be reimbursed by MHCLG. Please make it clear if any members of your team are able to visit 2 Marsham Street and, if so, their level of security clearance.

10 End of contract

- 10.1 All materials / outputs derived from the contract shall be the property of MHCLG.
- 10.2 Any GDPR requirements will be discussed and agreed with the chosen contractor at the appropriate time.

11 Budget

11.1 The budget for this project is £50,000 (inclusive of all expenses and exclusive of VAT).