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PRIOR INFORMATION NOTICE

Type

- services

SECTION I: CONTRACTING AUTHORITY

I.1) NAME, ADDRESSES AND CONTACT POINT(S)

Official name: Defra		
Postal address: 17 Nobel House		
Town: London	Postal code: SW1P 3JR	Country: UK
Contact point(s): For the attention of: Nicola Whiteford	Telephone: +44 1904454512	
Email: nicola.whiteford@defra.gsi.gov.uk	Fax:	

Internet address(es) (if applicable)

Internet address(es) (if applicable)

General address of the contracting authority (URL):

Address of the buyer profile (URL):

Further information can be obtained at:

- As in above-mentioned contact point(s)

I.2) TYPE OF THE CONTRACTING AUTHORITY AND MAIN ACTIVITY OR ACTIVITIES

NATIONAL_AGENCY

- Ministry or any other national or federal authority, including their regional or local sub-divisions

Other (please specify):

Activity

- General public services
- Defence
- Public order and safety
- Environment
- Economic and financial affairs
- Health
- Housing and community amenities
- Social protection
- Recreation, culture and religion
- Education

Other (please specify)

The contracting authority is purchasing on behalf of other contracting authorities

- no

SECTION II.A: OBJECT OF THE CONTRACT

II.1) TITLE ATTRIBUTED TO THE CONTRACT BY THE CONTRACTING AUTHORITY

II.2) TYPE OF CONTRACT AND LOCATION OF WORKS

Main site or location of works:

NUTS code:

II.3) THIS NOTICE INVOLVES A FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

II.4) SHORT DESCRIPTION OF NATURE AND SCOPE OF WORKS

If known, estimated cost of works excluding VAT (give figures only):

OR Range: between

and

Currency:

Division into lots (for information about lots, use Annex B as many times as there are lots)

II.5) COMMON PROCUREMENT VOCABULARY (CPV)

	Main vocabulary	Supplementary vocabulary (if applicable)
Main object		

II.6) SCHEDULED DATE FOR START OF AWARD PROCEDURES AND DURATION OF THE CONTRACT

Scheduled date for (if known)

Duration in months:

or days:

OR Scheduled date for (if known)

start of works

completion of works

II.7) CONTRACT COVERED BY THE GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT AGREEMENT (GPA)

II.8) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Section Title

SECTION II.B: OBJECT OF THE CONTRACT (SUPPLIES OR SERVICES)

II.1) TITLE ATTRIBUTED TO THE CONTRACT BY THE CONTRACTING AUTHORITY

FERA - Market Sounding Exercise

II.2) TYPE OF CONTRACT AND PLACE OF DELIVERY OR OF PERFORMANCE (Choose one category only - supplies or services - which corresponds most to the specific object of your contract or purchase(s))

■ Services

Service category: No

■ 27: Other services

(for service categories 1-27, please see Annex II of Directive 2004/18/EC)

Main place of performance or of delivery:

The Food and Environment Research Agency, Sand Hutton, York, YO41 1LZ, United Kingdom

NUTS code

UK

II.3) SHORT DESCRIPTION OF NATURE AND QUANTITY OR VALUE OF SUPPLIES OR SERVICES (in each of the service categories)

DEFRA intends to conduct a market sounding exercise and discuss with potential partners options for the strategic long term direction of the Fera (the Food and Environment Research Agency) Executive Agency which is a wholly owned part of DEFRA. The main purpose of Fera is to support and develop a sustainable food chain and a healthy natural environment, as well as protecting the global community from biological and chemical risks.

Fera provides scientific evidence and services to support Defra in its policy making and operational responsibilities including emergency response capabilities in relation to food and the environment. It also serves other public and private sector customers, including the Food Standards Agency and Home Office. Fera may be restructured such that it will have a total adjusted annual turnover of around £40m and employ some circa 500 staff based on 2012 figures.

Fera's income is a combination of government revenue, other public sector funding (e.g. EU projects) and growing commercial income. Reductions in future government budgets suggest that a new operational model including formal partnerships with one or more entity outside of government, may be necessary to maintain sufficient funding for the organisation. This will look to increase the growth in its commercial (non-governmental) income in order to protect the viability of the scientific capabilities in Fera.

Defra believes that the skills and capabilities in Fera offer a genuine commercial opportunity for a partner, with the potential to grow the non-government income while ensuring that it continues to meet the core requirements of its government customers. Defra is keen to understand how a partner would approach a potential procurement and understand how they would expect to drive innovation in scientific research.

It is strategically important that Government departments continue to have access to the services that Fera provides (including emergency response capabilities) at an acceptable quality and price; and that the nationally important science capabilities, which underpin this, are safeguarded.

Defra is keen to engage organisations who are interested in participating in a new model for the strategic direction and structure of Fera. This market engagement will form part of the process to develop a proposition to achieve Defra’s key objectives while being sustainable and attractive to potential market partners.

This notice is not a call for competition, though parties with the capability of being a potential partner are invited to respond to this notice with a view to participating in exploratory discussions with DEFRA. Further information on how to respond to this notice is set out at Section 2.8, Additional Information

If known, estimated cost excluding VAT (give figures only):

OR Range: between

and

Currency:

Division into lots (for information about lots, use Annex B as many times as there are lots)

no

II.4) COMMON PROCUREMENT VOCABULARY (CPV)

	Main vocabulary	Supplementary vocabulary (if applicable)
Main object	73111000	
Additional objects	75110000	
	73200000	
	79000000	
	75131000	
	73110000	
	73120000	
	73220000	
	75000000	
	77000000	

II.5) SCHEDULED DATE FOR START OF AWARD PROCEDURES (if known)

30/04/2014

II.6) CONTRACT COVERED BY THE GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT AGREEMENT (GPA)

■ no

II.7) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (if applicable)

Next Steps

Interested parties are to register their interest at the following web portal no later than 17:00 GMT on 19 November 2013: <https://defra.prep.bravosolution.co.uk/web/login.shtml>

Any problems with registering please contact BRAVO direct on 0800 368 4850 or email help@bravosolution.co.uk.

Once registered in the BRAVO system Interested Parties must email the following information to the contact point in Section I.1.

Organisation's name as registered on Bravo.

Name and job title of contact.

Access will then be given to a Brochure and Participation Pack.

Interested parties will be asked to agree terms and conditions for this market sounding exercise and then be asked to submit responses to a questionnaire. Any questionnaire submissions are to be sent to Defra no later than 12pm on 26 November 2013. Following this Defra will invite organisations to participate in bilateral discussion. It is intended that these discussions will be held in London during the first two weeks of December.

DEFRA anticipates commencing the procurement opportunity with the publication of an OJEU contract notice in March/April 2014.

DEFRA reserves the right to cancel or postpone the market engagement process at any stage.

DEFRA will not, under any circumstances, reimburse any expense incurred by Interested Parties in participating in the Market Engagement Process.

DEFRA shall not be responsible for any costs, charges or expenses incurred by Interested Parties and accepts no liability for any costs, charges or expenses, irrespective of the outcome of the market testing, or if the market testing is cancelled or postponed.

All dates and time periods specified in this notice are only provisional and the contracting authority reserves the right to change these.

Interested Parties are advised that the contracting authority is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act). If an Interested Party considers that any of the information supplied as part of this market engagement procedure should not be disclosed because of its commercial sensitivity, confidentiality or otherwise, they

must, when providing this information, clearly identify the specific information they do not wish to be disclosed and clearly specify the reasons for its sensitivity. The contracting authority shall take such statements into consideration in the event that it receives a request pursuant to the Act which relates to the information provided by the interested party. Please note, it is not sufficient to include a statement of confidentiality encompassing all the information provided in the response.

SECTION III: LEGAL, ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION

III.1) CONDITIONS RELATING TO THE CONTRACT

III.1.1) Main financing conditions and payment arrangements and/or reference to the relevant provisions regulating them

III.2) CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION

III.2.1) Reserved contracts (if applicable)

no

The contract is restricted to sheltered workshops

The execution of the contract is restricted to the framework of sheltered employment programmes

SECTION VI: COMPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

VI.1) CONTRACT RELATED TO A PROJECT AND/OR PROGRAMME FINANCED BY COMMUNITY FUNDS

no

If yes, reference to project(s) and/or programme(s):

VI.2) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any procurement will be carried out in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 (as amended) and will be compatible with EU Law.

VI.3) INFORMATION ON GENERAL REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Relevant governmental Internet sites where information can be obtained

Tax legislation:

Environmental protection legislation:

Employment protection and working conditions:

For additional details about relevant governmental services where information can be obtained on taxes, environmental protection, employment protection and working conditions, please fill Annex A.II-IV

VI.4) DATE OF DISPATCH OF THIS NOTICE:

08/11/2013

ANNEX A

ADDITIONAL ADDRESSES AND CONTACT POINTS

I) ADDRESSES AND CONTACT POINTS FROM WHICH FURTHER INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED

II) ADDRESS, CONTACT POINTS AND INTERNET SITE OF THE RELEVANT GOVERNMENT SERVICE FROM WHICH INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED ABOUT TAXES

Official name:		
Postal address:		
Town:	Postal code:	Country:
Contact point(s): For the attention of:	Telephone:	
Email:	Fax:	
Internet address (URL):		

III) ADDRESS, CONTACT POINT AND INTERNET SITE OF THE RELEVANT GOVERNMENT SERVICE FROM WHICH INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Official name:
Postal address:

Town:	Postal code:	Country:
Contact point(s): For the attention of:	Telephone:	
Email:	Fax:	
Internet address (URL):		

IV) ADDRESS, CONTACT POINTS AND INTERNET SITE OF THE RELEVANT GOVERNMENT SERVICE FROM WHICH INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED ABOUT EMPLOYMENT PROTECTION AND WORKING CONDITIONS

Official name:		
Postal address:		
Town:	Postal code:	Country:
Contact point(s): For the attention of:	Telephone:	
Email:	Fax:	
Internet address (URL):		