

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What are the timescales for the delivery of both the programme and the individual projects?

A. The programme is expected to last until March 2014.

A number of early scoping studies are expected to be commissioned in the summer and autumn of 2009 and delivered by spring 2010. Following delivery of these studies, more substantive research and development projects are likely to be commissioned.

Q. What is the total budget for the programme?

A. RSSB has a total funding of £15 million over a five year period. It is anticipated that the majority of this will be invested in research and development activity. Individual projects will be funded from the overall £15 million budget and it is anticipated that there will be a wide range of project values appropriate to the size, complexity and nature of the project.

Q. What is RSSB's selection process for inviting suppliers to bid?

A. Assuming successful pre-qualification, the project steering group will select suitable suppliers to bid for each project using the following, as a minimum, to guide their decision:

- Nearest match to the capability and expertise required;
- Number of suppliers available for a given project/area;
- Potential innovation and 'value add' demonstrated on Document 2 (Spreadsheet);
- Capacity;

Please note: where there are a large number of suppliers interested in a piece of work, RSSB may choose to run a short-listing process.

Q. If suppliers are invited to tender for a project, how will RSSB select the successful bidder?

A. RSSB will always provide clear selection criteria for individual projects to those bidders that are invited to tender. These will vary from project to project.

Q. Will collaboration with a lead supplier exclude suppliers from tendering a separate bid of their own?

A. No, a supplier can submit an independent bid as well as one as part of a consortium. A general principle of the programme is to secure the best possible expertise avoiding the procurement mechanism being a constraint.

Q. Who can I contact if I have any more queries?

A. In all instances, please email any further queries to procurement@rssb.co.uk