

## **Filter criteria used by the Environment Agency which reflects organisation priorities over and above environmental impact**

### **Business Risk Assessment**

Determine if there are any obvious business risks present in this contract. Areas to think about include:

**1. Is this contract essential to the deliver of the Environment Agency's vision?**

(Consider if this contract specifically relate to core function work that contributes to the vision such as pollution control materials, instrumentation, flood defence systems etc, it is not items such as hotels, stationery, computers etc)

**2. Would recovery costs be high if the purchase failed?**

(Consider, what you would have to do if supplies didn't arrive on time, arrived and were faulty, or arrived were installed and then quickly failed. Would it cost the Environment Agency a lot of money to sort out the problem. Such as a pipe that has been delivered, looked OK was installed and buried and then failed, it would have to be dug up, dismantled, new pipe sought etc leading to high cost)

**3. Is there a limited number of suppliers?**

(Consider how many companies can meet your needs to the required standard. If this is limited, typically less than 3 you are dealing in a restricted market. This is often the case when materials are needed to integrate with existing equipment, or when a consultant has developed expertise on another project that is similar to the area you want to award. This could present problems in terms of being able to easily switch between one supplier and another if you encounter problems)

**4. Do we have difficulty in describing and measuring what we want?**

(Consider, your own and the Environment Agency's knowledge in general about this contract, do you actually know what you want, can you clearly describe it so that a supplier understands what you want and finally can you actually measure what has been delivered to ensure it meets what you wanted? Such areas where this can be a problem is on R&D contracts where we might not be the expert in the subject)

**5. Is there likelihood the Environment Agency will suffer negative press if supply fails?**

(Consider, if the contract specifically relates to public facing activities or is for a service that is publicly sensitive. Such as flood defence materials needed to construct a sea wall or pollution control materials needed for a clean up)