

Wetland Biomass to Bio-Energy Competition

Early market Engagement

August 2012

1. Introduction

The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) is responsible for all aspects of UK energy policy, and for tackling global climate change on behalf of the UK.

The Spending Review of November 2010 announced funding of over £200 million for low-carbon technologies over the next four financial years from April 2011. This funding has been allocated across the energy sector, including support to Bio-energy projects.

2. Background

The recently published Bio-energy Strategy¹ emphasised the need for sustainably supplied feed-stocks to underpin any future bio-energy system. The strategy considers a number of factors that can affect the overall value of bio-energy, including:

- the impact of direct and indirect land use changes on carbon emissions
- potential land use competition with food production.

The UK undertakes a considerable amount of land management activities on private and public land, for example to maintain parkland or to conserve wildlife habitats. This land management results in the production of biomass arisings that in many cases are either burned or left to decompose.

DECC are considering running a competition in collaboration with UK wetland managers that will provide funding to projects that develop and demonstrate an efficient bio-energy system that optimises existing wetland management activities and utilises the biomass arisings.

3. Required outcomes of competition

DECC require the following outcomes from potential projects:

- Increased biomass harvests in line with wetland habitat conservation requirements and limitations
- Efficient production of bio-energy feed-stocks utilising the resultant biomass (likely to be reeds, rushes, grasses and fen) that comply with emission standards or equivalents when used to generate energy
- A cost effective and energy/carbon efficient bio-energy conversion process capable of utilising the specified biomass arisings.

4. Market Engagement Opportunity

DECC are inviting industry or academic parties to engage at an early stage to help shape this requirement to ensure a successful outcome.

¹ http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/meeting_energy/bioenergy/strategy/strategy.aspx

4.1 Information request by DECC:

DECC are requesting information that will indicate the extent of industry / academia interest in the prospective competition, details on the markets current capability to deliver the requirement, any additional capability that can be offered, and any further relevant feedback on the requirement that will ensure a successful outcome.

4.2 Format and Deadline:

Reponses should be made using the template at Annex A by 1200 on 20th September 2012.

Responses to this request may be used by DECC to inform the competition scope and specifications. *Please clearly mark responses to show any information that is commercial in confidence or bound by IPR that will not then be used in the competition scope/specification/documentation.*

Responses should be submitted to the following email address with the subject heading 'Wetland Biomass to Bio-energy Competition':

innovation@decc.gsi.gov.uk

Expressions of interest received by 20th September will generate an invite to a briefing event hosted by DECC later in the year. If you have an interest in the competition you are strongly encouraged to respond to this request for information.

Further Details

Any queries related to this request can be emailed to Megan Cooper:

megan.cooper@decc.gsi.gov.uk

This request for information does not commit DECC to proceeding with any competition.

Organisations submitting a response are under no obligation to apply in any eventual call, and can modify any aspect of the details provided as they see fit.

Annex A Template for Response

Name*		
Contact Details*	E:	T:
Business name (if applicable)		
Business description (if applicable) Maximum 50 words		
Current capability to deliver requirement Maximum 100 words		
Additional capability that may enhance the requirement Maximum 100 words		
Further comments on the requirement Maximum 100 words		

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