

Responses to Questions from Prospective Bidders

1. Question: Do the Contractors who will complete the DMAs fall under the costs and auspices of BWA or does this fall under the Consultant?

Answer: The BWA believes that there are at least three (3) separate phases;

- the setting up of the DMAs and verification of network,
- the Hydraulic Network Modelling and the Development of the NRW Strategy, &
- the implementation of the NRW Strategy.

However, the BWA is open to suggestions which may be based on your experience.

2. Question: What is the penalty if the Contractor does not deliver all the DMA based work in the contract period?

Answer: The BWA cannot say what the penalties would be at this stage but as in most contracts there will be some penalties that would be agreed upon when the contract is being formulated.

3. Question: Does the Consultant have to provide any products in this bid or just time and expertise?

Answer: At this stage it would be difficult for the Consultant to provide any products. The BWA will be looking at how the project will be approached and the type of time and expertise you will need.

4. Question: There is mention of update and calibrate the hydraulic model. Does this fall under the Contractors or the Consultant?

Answer: This would more fall under the Consultant.

5. Question: If we are to use and calibrate the hydraulic model, can you advise on the software used?

Answer: The software used was WaterGems.

6. Does the Consultant provide the information in this project only and then the Contractor deliver the objectives?

Answer: The Consultant would be expected to guide the Contractor.

7. Question: Is this a phased project which will end in a bigger project to deliver?

Answer: The BWA is expecting that the Consultant/Contractor will describe in their proposal how they would approach this project.

8. Question: If this is a phased approach, will entering into this 1st phase prevent us from tendering for the next phase due to conflict of interest?

Answer: The BWA cannot answer this question at this time.

9. Question: Will there be a pre-bid meeting?

Answer: No meetings are planned at this stage.

10. Question: Are we able to visit you in person to ask many of these questions face to face?

Answer: The BWA prefers that you present your questions in this forum and the response will be provided and shared with all bidders.

11. Question: The contract states that all existing DMAs will be completed by the Contractor including excavation, valve installation, meter installation and chamber – it will be practically impossible to enter a price without these specified in detail.

- a. Number of locations and the surface that will need to be excavated along with pipe type, diameter and depth.

Answer: The BWA currently estimates that there are 130 meters to be installed based on the desktop studies we have started but this is subject to variation once all DMAs have been reviewed.

The pipe types in the distribution network include CI, DI, PVC and HDPE and vary in size from 3" to 20". During the installation of the DMA meters, the pipes in that vicinity would be upgraded to PVC. The BWA is currently procuring 4" and some 6" meters to be installed in by-pass arrangements where possible. The depth at which the meters are to be installed is dependent on the depth of the main to which the connection is made. BWA standard specifications require that new mains from 4" to 20" are laid at depths from 3'-6" to 5 feet. However, the depths of the existing mains vary.

- b. Question: Type of surface i.e. tarmac, grass, road, footpath.

Answer: Every effort should be made to ensure that meters are not installed in the roadway. The aim is to install meters in the footpath or off road e.g. grassy areas.

- c. Question: Meter and valve installation specification.

Answer: I'm not sure if this is what you're referring to however, the BWA Specification Document speaks to the installation of gate valves. The document states that "**Control and Safety Valves 'valve weight' should not be borne by PVC pipe. Heavy valves should be supported by concrete cradles or concrete blocks with anchors. Light weight valves (for example, 4 and 6-inch, 100 and 150mm) may be supported by properly compacted backfill material. Valves should connect directly with PVC pipe using elastomeric gaskets supplied by the valve manufacturers. Control valves in pressurized systems may require anchorage, or thrust blocking to prevent movement from thrust when the valve is closed.**"

The DMA meters we have been using are the Honeywell evoQ4 and these are connected at a GPRS logger.

- d. Question: Chamber specification including lid type.

Answer: The BWA is currently constructing meter chambers with typical dimensions 5ft x 5ft with the depth varying depending on the depth of the main. The proposed chamber cover is a double leaf opening locked in place.