

UNDERGROUND UTILITIES INVESTIGATION TERM CONTRACTS

A AND B (2024–2026)

(CONTRACT NOS. 20230078 AND 20230079)

NOTICE OF PRE-QUALIFICATION OF TENDERERS

Pre-qualification of tenderers is hereby invited for the term contracts of underground utilities investigation associated with public housing developments. The scope of works mainly comprises:—

- (i) Underground utilities detection by non-destructive method;
- (ii) Underground features detection by non-destructive method;
- (iii) Trial pits and trenches;
- (iv) Closed circuit television survey to underground drains;
- (v) Manhole surveys; and
- (vi) Flow and pressure tests to existing street fire hydrant and water mains.

The contracts are expected to commence in the second quarter of 2024 with a contract period of approximately 24 months.

Only contractors satisfying the following criteria are eligible for the pre-qualification:—

- (a) They must not be subject to any regulatory action by Housing Authority (HA) for underground utilities investigation works being considered for admission to the pre-qualified tender list;
- (b) They must have been undertaking or have completed for HA or the HKSAR Government, or a private employer, counting from the due date of submission for pre-qualification as stipulated in the Gazette Notice:—
 - (i) at least FIVE underground utilities investigation contracts in the past five years; and
 - (ii) at least ONE underground utilities investigation contract in each of the past five years; and
 - (iii) at least TWO underground utilities investigation contracts as a Main Contractor in the past three years;
- (c) They must possess a financial capability meeting the capital requirement set out in ‘Notes for submission of financial information for financial evaluation’ collected separately from the office of Civil Engineering Section 2, 13th Floor, Pioneer Centre, 750 Nathan Road, Kowloon, Hong Kong from Friday, 15 September 2023;
- (d) They must have acquired ISO 9001 certificate with scope of certification covering underground utilities surveys/related field works on the due date of submission for pre-qualification as stipulated in the Gazette Notice;
- (e) They must have adopted ‘Safety’, ‘Health’ and ‘Environmental’ policies that meet the requirements of pertinent ISO standards or are developed with reference to publications of relevant local authorities, e.g. Labour Department and Environmental Protection Department on the due date of submission for pre-qualification as stipulated in the Gazette Notice;
- (f) They must have possessed the minimum number of self-owned^{Note 1} plant of less than 10-year plant age counting from the due date of submission for pre-qualification as stipulated in the Gazette Notice as follows:—
 - (i) three pipe and cable locators; and
 - (ii) one ground probing radar;
- (g) They must have directly employed^{Note 2} at least the minimum number of full-time staff working for underground utility investigation as stipulated in the Gazette Notice as follows:—
 - (i) three qualified team leaders^{Note 3}; and
 - (ii) nine qualified field technicians^{Note 4}; and

Contractors who are interested in the pre-qualification to tender for the above-mentioned contracts are requested to submit the following information with their application, in duplicate:—

- (I) Their company profiles including management structures;
- (II) Details of their contract(s) mentioned in item (b) of the pre-qualification criteria, including nature and scope of the contract(s), commencement and completion dates of the contract(s), sum of the contract(s), capacity undertaken in the contract(s), names and contract details of the employer(s);
- (III) Certified true copy of their ISO 9001 certification;
- (IV) Company policies on 'Safety', 'Health' and 'Environmental' meet the requirements of pertinent ISO standards or are developed with reference to publications of relevant local authorities, e.g. Labour Department and Environmental Protection Department;
- (V) Proof of ownership and details of at least three pipe and cable locators and one ground probing radars;
- (VI) Names, particulars, details of qualifications, employment records and previous experience of three qualified team leaders and nine qualified field technicians working for underground utility investigation under direct employment; and
- (VII) Schedules of information for financial evaluation. The set of schedules entitled 'Submission of Financial Information for Financial Evaluation' can be collected from the office of Civil Engineering Section 2, 13th floor, Pioneer Centre, 750 Nathan Road, Kowloon, Hong Kong from Friday, 15 September 2023. The completed schedules are to be enclosed in a separately sealed and confidential envelope addressed to 'Finance Sub-division, Risk Management Unit of the Hong Kong Housing Authority'.

Contractors must confirm:—

- (A) their compliance with the 'related company restriction' when accepting the pre-qualification invitation. For related companies with relationship falls within the meaning of 'related parties' as defined in the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (HKICPA)—Hong Kong Accounting Standard (HKAS 24) (Revised), only one of these companies is allowed to submit a tender for these Contracts;
- (B) their agreement to abide by this expression of interest to Pre-qualification of tenderers for the period of 12 months from the date fixed for receiving the same and it shall remain binding upon them and may be accepted at any time before the expiry of this period; and
- (C) in writing their acceptance of 'tender irregularity restriction' when accepting the pre-qualification invitation, as follows:—

'Without prejudice to the rights and remedies which we may have, should you fail to submit tender after you have committed to do so or withdraw your tender after submission, your participation in future pre-qualification/tendering exercise will be adversely affected, as such failure has reflected the poor attitude and sincerity of a tender in preparing and submitting a tender.'

Application in writing including completed schedules mentioned in Item (VII) above shall be labelled with the title of these Contracts and reference number: 20230078 and 20230079, addressed to the Chairman, Tender Opening Committee, Hong Kong Housing Authority, on or before 10.00 a.m. Friday, 29 September 2023 in one of the following ways:—

- (1) be deposited personally in the Hong Kong Housing Authority Tender Box situated at Ground Floor, Block 2, Housing Authority Headquarters, 33 Fat Kwong Street, Kowloon, Hong Kong, or
- (2) be sent by post or courier to:—

The Chairman, Tender Opening Committee,
c/o Receipt and Dispatch Unit,
The Hong Kong Housing Authority,
Basement 1, Block 2,
Housing Authority Headquarters,
33 Fat Kwong Street, Kowloon,
Hong Kong

Late submissions shall not be considered. Only those contractors who can satisfactorily demonstrate fulfillment to the pre-qualification criteria above will be allowed to tender. Inclusion in the list of tenderers will be at the entire discretion of the Hong Kong Housing Authority.

For enquiry, please contact Mr. YEUNG (Civil Engineer/3) at 3549 6109.

15 September 2023

Rosanna LAW *Director of Housing*

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- Note 1 'Self-owned' equipment shall mean equipment owned by the contractor or by the contractor's parent, sister or subsidiary company (as defined in Companies Ordinance Chapter 622) for the exclusive use of the contractor.
- Note 2 'Directly employed' shall mean staff employed by the Contractor or by the Contractor's parent or subsidiary company (as defined in Companies Ordinance Chapter 622) for the exclusive use of the Contractor.
- Note 3 The qualified team leader shall have a minimum of five years local experience in underground utilities survey by non-destructive method and with minimum three years relevant experience in the proposed surveying method.
- Note 4 The qualified field technician shall be a competent person registered under Electricity Supply Lines (Protection) Regulation and Gas Safety (Gas Supply) Regulation.