Request for Quotation:

Provision of outsourced Market Research Services

Introduction

The National Biodiversity Data Centre was established as a company limited by guarantee in December 2022, following a decision of Government to put the initiative on a more secure footing, to empower and better resource the Centre to support Ireland's collective national effort to reverse biodiversity loss and contribute to nature restoration. The primary role of the Centre is to contribute to building the knowledge base on biodiversity and track how it is changing in Ireland. It works to ensure that data and information on Ireland's biodiversity is more freely available and accessible for use in research, conservation management and decision-making. The National Biodiversity Data Centre is a predominantly publicly funded entity, rather than a public sector body. The Centre formally became a registered charity in November 2025.

The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan

The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (AIPP) is a framework bringing together different sectors across the island of Ireland to create a landscape where pollinators can survive and thrive. Its implementation is coordinated by the National Biodiversity Data Centre.

Irish pollinators are in decline. The problem is serious, and in order to ensure the sustainability of our food production; to avoid additional economic impact on the agricultural sector; and to protect the health of the environment, it requires immediate attention. The AIPP is a shared plan of action. At its core, it is about providing food and shelter across all types of land so that our pollinators can survive and thrive. The AIPP is a voluntary Plan, it relies on the enthusiasm and goodwill of those organisations and individuals participating, who do so at their own expense.

Building on the success of the first two phases (2015-2020 and 2021-2025), the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2026-2030 is more ambitious. It will focus on landscape level change for all pollinators, by encouraging many more evidence-based actions and connecting these with each other across the island. The third phase of the AIPP is supported through funding from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, National Parks and Wildlife Service, the Government of Ireland's Shared Island Fund, and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency.

Encouraging businesses to protect pollinators

'Encouraging businesses to protect pollinators' is one of ten work packages developed to support the delivery of AIPP 2026-2030. This work package aims to create a wide network of businesses who support the AIPP and incorporate evidence-based pollinator actions into their governance, communication, and sponsorship activities. Across the AIPP, significant progress has been made within the business sector. Currently, there are approximately 400 companies across the island - representing multiple sectors and range from large multinationals to small local companies - who are members of the AIPP Business Supporters Framework. As business supporters, businesses agree to take evidence-based actions and report on these activities annually. Those who don't report are removed from the framework but are welcome to reengage at any point. A guide, *Businesses: actions to help pollinators*, was published in 2018, and updated in 2023, which includes detailed guidance on pollinator-friendly actions, including on-site actions as well as governance and communication actions throughout the value chain. The framework can assist businesses with reporting under CSRD (Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive), including the VSME (Voluntary Sustainability Reporting Standard for SMEs), as well as generally helping companies to begin to develop more 'Nature Positive' business models.

Good progress has been made by the AIPP in developing a robust framework, with transparent mandatory reporting. However, the total number of companies within the framework has remained static, and more could be done to highlight exemplars and better facilitate knowledge exchange across the business community. This market research project will help us understand how businesses currently engage with the AIPP and wider biodiversity actions, identify barriers to participation, and improve our engagement with the sector to support a pollinator-friendly landscape across the island.

The contract will be awarded from tenders evaluated based on the most economically advantageous tender consistent with the following award criteria:

Criteria	Max. Marks Available	Min Mark
Overall cost of service	400	N/A
Experience of recent and similar work in the provision of outsourced market research.	300	250
Relevant qualifications and skillset to provide outsourced market research.	300	150

GENERAL TERMS

Information Supplied

The National Biodiversity Data Centre reserves the right to seek clarification or verification of any information supplied.

Confidentiality

The National Biodiversity Data Centre undertakes to use its best endeavours to hold confidential any information provided in quotations submitted, subject to the National Biodiversity Data Centre's obligations under law, including the Freedom of Information Act 2014. Should any of the information supplied in the tender not be disclosed because of its sensitivity, then this should be stated, with the reasons for its sensitivity. The National Biodiversity Data Centre will then consult with the Proposer about sensitive information before deciding on any Freedom of Information request received.

All information provided by the National Biodiversity Data Centre within this document, or in the course of preparing tenders, or subsequent to a successful tender being adopted, is provided in the strictest confidence, and must not be passed to third parties, except bona-fide partners of the proposer to enable the preparation of the tender requested. If there is any doubt, prior permission should be obtained from the National Biodiversity Data Centre.

Conflict of Interest

Any conflicts of interest involving a contractor must be fully disclosed.

Tax Clearance

It will be a condition of any Goods/Service Contract pursuant to this Competition that the successful supplier shall, for the term of such contract(s), comply with all EU and domestic tax laws. Prior to the award of any Goods/Service Contract arising out of this Competition, the successful Tenderer shall be required to provide evidence of tax compliance

Insurance

The successful tenderer will be obliged to satisfy to the National Biodiversity Data Centre that they have adequate public and employer's liability insurance in place. The successful suppliers will be required to provide copies of all relevant Insurance Policy documents.

Payment

Payment for all services covered by this Request for Quotations will be on foot of appropriate invoices. Invoicing arrangements will be agreed with the successful supplier following the award of contract.

Under the Finance Act 1987, withholding tax must be deducted from payments for professional services.

The National Biodiversity Data Centre reserves the right to withhold payment where a contractor has failed to meet contractual obligations in relation to the provision of goods or services to an acceptable level of quality.

Submissions

Submissions should be marked "RFQ for Provision of market research services" and sent via e-mail to:

slarragy@biodiversityireland.ie

Submissions should be received no later than 5.00 p.m. on Friday 30th of October 2026.

Late Submissions will not be considered.

The Request for Quotations contains no contractual offer of any kind. Any quotation will be regarded as an offer by the contractor and not as an acceptance by the applicant of an offer made by the National Biodiversity Data Centre. No contractual relationship will exist except pursuant to a written agreement signed by a representative of the National Biodiversity Data Centre and any successful contractor for the specified services.

Please note that the National Biodiversity Data Centre is subject to the Freedom of Information Act.