

## **Tender Invitation - Consultancy Support for Quality Assurance of Enduring Solution Project Stage 3**

The Northern Ireland electricity retail market systems are managed by Northern Ireland Electricity (NIE) who have license obligations to provide services to electricity suppliers. The completion of the Further Electricity Market Opening programme in November 2007 (often referred to as FEMO 07) facilitated retail market competition for domestic, commercial and industrial customers. The FEMO 07 systems still use joint legacy systems shared with NIE Energy Supply (NIEES), the supply business and has restrictions on change of supplier transfer rates and overall second tier supplier capacity.

During 2008 a strategic study took place and a report was produced that made recommendations to the Utility Regulator (UR) about replacing the legacy systems and how this would also improve the retail market systems to support higher levels of competition in Electricity Supply.

The key regulatory drivers include:

- Full compliance with the EU Directive 2003 54 EC;
- Replacement of moribund legacy systems;
- The full business and systems separation of NIE from NIEEES;
- To provide efficient electricity retail market systems to support, and thereby encourage, full competition in electricity supply;
- Harmonisation of the retail market systems with adjacent markets; and
- To enable smart metering infrastructures to be supported at some time in the future.

In January 2009 the UR authorised NIE and NIEES to develop the requirements for suitable requests for proposals and implement a competitive tendering process with the intention of contracting with a Software Integrator to develop an 'Enduring Solution' to meet the regulatory objectives. The 'Enduring Solution' Project tender process is expected to be completed by March 2010 and a development contract signed by April 2010. The period between May 2010 and May 2012 "go live" will be the detailed design and implementation phase of the overall Enduring Solution project.

The UR is seeking to procure the services of a suitably experienced consultant to provide the necessary independent assurance activities during this final design and implementation phase.

This consultancy assignment is scheduled to commence on Monday 3rd May 2010 and is expected to last for a period of 24 months. Tender documents can be obtained from Nicola Sweeney, Utility Regulator, Queens House, 14, Queen Street, Belfast, BT1 6ED, telephone: 02890 316622 or email: [nicola.sweeney@niaur.gov.uk](mailto:nicola.sweeney@niaur.gov.uk)

The closing date for the return of tenders is no later than 3.00pm on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2010. Tenderers should include one original hard copy and two photocopies of the tender to be delivered to the address above before 3.00pm on the closing date. The envelope containing tender documents shall be clearly marked 'TENDER SUBMISSION – Contract Number **CON/33/09**'. Tenders will not be accepted by fax or e-mail.