

Stage 1 Guidance Notes

Cadent's Mains Replacement and Associated Works - Local Delivery Partner – Qualifying Utilities Dynamic Market (QUDM)

About Cadent

Cadent is a gas distribution company that connects customers to the gas they use – whether its homes, factories, shops or businesses. Cadent is committed to operating gas pipelines in a safe and reliable way with minimum inconvenience to communities.

There are eight regional distribution networks, four of which are owned by Cadent. The four owned by Cadent are in the West Midlands, North West, East of England and North London. Gas is owned by your gas supplier and Cadent is responsible for this gas whilst it is being transported. Our UK distribution networks deliver gas to around 11 million consumers. <https://cadentgas.com>

How and why set up a QUDM

Cadent Gas Limited requires Local Delivery Partners (LDPs) to support the delivery of its Gas Mains Replacement Program (MRP) and Non-Mains Replacement Program (Non-MRP) activities as part of our next price control period – RIIO3.

Currently Cadent replace approximately 1700km of mains per year, in our next price control period it is our intention to let a number of packages of work tendered via the QUDM for MRP and Non-MRP activities within Cadent's networks.

The works will comprise of Gas Mains & Services activities on Cadent's Low Pressure (0-75mbar) and Medium Pressure (>75mbar - <=2 Bar) networks, delivery of Mains Replacement (MRP) and Non-Mains Replacement Programs (Non-MRP) and other related gas mains and services works, including but not limited to customer connections, reinforcements, built-over mains and services and all necessary job completion data and data required for Regulatory Reporting Standards.

Cadent requires appropriately qualified and experienced suppliers to carry out work on its networks, and to this end it is setting up a QUDM.

To gain work from Cadent's Mains Replacement LDP QUDM there are two stages to the process. This Guidance is for Stage 1 of the process (supplier qualification to the Dynamic Market). There is a separate guidance for Stage 2 of the process (Tendering for contracts within the Dynamic Market).

The QUDM will be run as completely electronic process and will be set up using a two-stage process in line with Procurement Act 2024 (PA23).

Joining the QUDM is an easy process and will provide a platform for suppliers to compete for LPD projects, including, but not limited to, MRP, Non-MRP works and other related gas mains and services works. The scope of these works may range from either one-off projects to full programmes of work. All call off projects will be issued via the Ariba sourcing platform.

Stage 1 of the process involves suppliers joining Cadent's Mains Replacement LDP QUDM.

Details of the relevant documentation and further information required to join the QUDM is available on Constructionline's website.

Suppliers are required to complete an online questionnaire which is based on based on Common Assessment Standard (CAS) which were commissioned by Government and developed by the British Standards Institute. The responses to the questionnaire will determine whether a supplier is successful or not in joining Cadent's Mains Replacement LDP QUDM.

Suppliers must ensure that details of their organisation including their status on the various aspects (e.g. insurance etc) is kept up to date to ensure that Cadent invites them to bid. Suppliers will not be able to bid for work if any information that has expired has not been updated. Constructionline will send out notification to suppliers whenever any of the information becomes invalid e.g. insurance recorded on Constructionline's system has lapsed.

If a Suppliers' registration expires during a tender event and the registration is not renewed, Cadent will not be able to award a contract to that supplier. Suppliers are not asked to submit any prices at Stage 1 of the process, prices will be sought at Stage 2, when the precise details of the work will be available to tenderers.

To be eligible to receive opportunities from Cadent suppliers will have to have gained a verified status for the category applicable to the work required at the time of bidding (Stage 2). There will be no limit on the number of suppliers that may join the QUDM.

To be eligible to be awarded work from Cadent suppliers have to ensure they are registered on the Central Digital Platform with a valid Public Procurement Organisation Number (PPON).

If successful suppliers are not already registered with Ariba they must register so that Cadent can contact relevant suppliers when there is work from Cadent within the remit of the QUDM.

Only suppliers that meet the above requirements will be eligible for Stage 2 of the process.

How and why set up a Qualifying Utilities Dynamic Market (QUDM)

Cadent has a regulatory obligation to ensure its customers have access to gas, including new connections which may require reinforcement work. In order to provide reinforcement work in an effective, efficient and economical manner to its customers Cadent requires appropriately qualified and experienced suppliers to carry out work on its network. Cadent has identified a need to be agile, and accessible to SMEs, and to this end it is setting up a QUDM. To gain work from Cadent for Minor Gas Works there are two stages to the process. This Guidance is for Stage 1 of the process; there is a separate guidance for Stage 2 of the process.

The QUDM will be run as completely electronic process and will be set up using a two-stage process in line with Procurement Act 2023 (PA23).

Joining the QUDM is an easy process, and it will provide a platform for suppliers to compete for minor gas works, including, but not limited to, Gas Construction projects, Reinforcement, Decommissioning. The scope of these works may be Design and Build or Build only and can range from either one-off projects to small programmes of work.

Stage 1 of the process involves suppliers joining Cadent's QUDM for Minor Gas Works – Pipe and Assets. The relevant documentation and further information to join the QUDM is available on Constructionline's website.

Suppliers are required to complete an online questionnaire which is based on the Common Assessment Standard (CAS) which were commissioned by Government and developed by the British Standards Institute. The responses to the questionnaire will determine whether a supplier is successful or not in joining Cadent's QUDM.

If suppliers fail the questionnaire they will be provided with feedback on their application. Suppliers can reapply at any time after the initial closing date.

Suppliers must ensure that details of their organisation including their status on the various aspects (e.g. insurance, registration with GIRS) is kept up to date to ensure that Cadent invites them to bid for work during the validity of the QUDM. Suppliers will not be able to bid for work if any information that has expired has not been updated. Constructionline will send out notification to suppliers and whenever any of the information becomes invalid e.g. insurance recorded on Constructionline's system has lapsed.

If a supplier's registration expires during a tender event and it is not renewed, Cadent will not be able to award to that supplier.

Suppliers are not asked to submit any prices at Stage 1 of the process. Prices will be sought at Stage 2, when the details of the work will be available to tenderers. To be eligible to receive opportunities from Cadent suppliers will have to have gained a verified status for the category applicable to the work required at the time of bidding (Stage 2).

There will be no limit on the number of suppliers that may join the QUDM. All new suppliers who have been successful in their application to join Cadent's QUDM will require setting up on Ariba. Ariba is Cadent's e-sourcing tool. Cadent will send out notification to suppliers informing them that they have been set up as a supplier. New suppliers will then be required to register with Ariba. It is free to register with Ariba. Suppliers who are already on the Ariba system will not require any action to be taken.

It is free to register with Constructionline and complete the online questionnaire.

To join Cadent's QUDM interested suppliers are required to:

- Ensure they are registered on the Central Digital Platform with a valid Public Procurement Organisation Number (PPON).
- Hold a valid Cyber Essentials Plus or equivalent e.g. ISO27001
- Be registered with Constructionline and complete the online questionnaire. The questionnaire can be found at [Cadent QUDM](#).
- Suppliers who pass the questionnaire will be admitted to Cadent's QUDM for Minor Gas Works – Pipeline and Assets
- Suppliers who do not pass the questionnaire, will be provided with feedback by Constructionline and can reapply any time after the initial closing date

- If successful suppliers are not already registered with Ariba they must register so that Cadent can contact relevant suppliers when there is work from Cadent within the remit of the QUDM.

Only suppliers that meet the above requirements will be eligible for Stage 2 of the process.