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Tender

## **Books, e-books and associated services**

Southern Universities Purchasing Consortium (SUPC)

F02: Contract notice

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-000133

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-048897

Published 6 January 2025, 6:16am

### **Section I: Contracting authority**

#### **I.1) Name and addresses**

Southern Universities Purchasing Consortium (SUPC)

Reading Enterprise Centre, The University of Reading, Whiteknights Road, Earley Gate

Reading

RG6 6BU

#### **Contact**

Gavin Phillips

#### **Email**

[supc@sums.ac.uk](mailto:supc@sums.ac.uk)

#### **Telephone**

+44 1182284020

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

**Region code**

UK - United Kingdom

**National registration number**

111357

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<https://www.supc.ac.uk>

Buyer's address

<https://uk.eu-supply.com/ctm/Company/CompanyInformation/Index/86623>

**I.3) Communication**

The procurement documents are available for unrestricted and full direct access, free of charge, at

[https://uk.eu-supply.com/app/rfq/rwlenrance\\_s.asp?PID=87046&B=SUPC](https://uk.eu-supply.com/app/rfq/rwlenrance_s.asp?PID=87046&B=SUPC)

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted electronically via

[https://uk.eu-supply.com/app/rfq/rwlenrance\\_s.asp?PID=87046&B=SUPC](https://uk.eu-supply.com/app/rfq/rwlenrance_s.asp?PID=87046&B=SUPC)

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted to the above-mentioned address

**I.4) Type of the contracting authority**

Body governed by public law

**I.5) Main activity**

Education

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## **Section II: Object**

### **II.1) Scope of the procurement**

#### **II.1.1) Title**

Books, e-books and associated services

Reference number

LIB4061 SU

#### **II.1.2) Main CPV code**

- 22113000 - Library books

#### **II.1.3) Type of contract**

Supplies

#### **II.1.4) Short description**

Framework agreement for the supply of books, e-books and associated resources and services. This tender is split into 9 Lots. Participating consortia cover universities and other Public Sector members including (but not limited to) schools, colleges, Multi-Academy Trusts, government departments and research institutes across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The named consortia are SUPC, NEUPC, NWUPC, LUPC, HEPCW, Academic Libraries North, NEYAL, MUAL, and WHELF.

#### **II.1.5) Estimated total value**

Value excluding VAT: £450,000,000

#### **II.1.6) Information about lots**

This contract is divided into lots: Yes

Tenders may be submitted for maximum number of lots  
7

The contracting authority reserves the right to award contracts combining the following lots or groups of lots:

Bidders may bid for any combination of Lots with the following exceptions:

- Bidders must not bid for both Lot 1 and Lot 2.
- Bidders for Lot 8 must not bid for any of Lots 4, 5, 6, or 7.
- In the event that a Bidder submits Bids that do not comply with these exceptions, the Authority will raise a clarification to determine which Lot(s) will be evaluated and which will be discarded.

## **II.2) Description**

### **II.2.1) Title**

Print publications: standard suppliers for library stock

Lot No

1

### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 22100000 - Printed books, brochures and leaflets
- 22110000 - Printed books
- 22112000 - Textbooks
- 22114000 - Dictionaries, maps, music books and other books

### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

Main site or place of performance

Various locations around the UK

### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

Large-scale and library-focussed suppliers of printed publications and other hard copy materials including but not limited to maps, music scores, DVDs, CDs, Standing Orders and out-of-print materials. Suppliers will be capable of meeting operational requirements such as metadata provision, shelf-ready servicing, and interoperability with Library Management Systems. Suppliers may bid for either Lot 1 or Lot 2 but not both.

### **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

#### **II.2.6) Estimated value**

Value excluding VAT: £70,000,000

#### **II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system**

Duration in months

24

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

The initial term is to be 24 months with extension(s) possible for up to a further 24 months (maximum 48 months total).

#### **II.2.10) Information about variants**

Variants will be accepted: No

#### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: No

#### **II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds**

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: Yes

Identification of the project

There is potential for member framework spend to be financed by European Union funds. Therefore this opportunity will be advertised via both Find a Tender and the Official Journal of the European Union.

#### **II.2.14) Additional information**

It is intended that Lot 1 will be awarded to a maximum of 5 suppliers.

## **II.2) Description**

### **II.2.1) Title**

Print publications: specialist suppliers for library stock

Lot No

2

### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 22100000 - Printed books, brochures and leaflets
- 22110000 - Printed books
- 22112000 - Textbooks
- 22114000 - Dictionaries, maps, music books and other books

### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

Main site or place of performance

Various locations around the UK

### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

Specialist suppliers of printed publications and other hard copy materials such as maps, music scores, DVDs, CDs, Standing Orders. Suppliers will specialise according to factors such as language, region of publication, material type, subject, etc. Suppliers may bid for either Lot 1 or Lot 2 but not both.

### **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

### **II.2.6) Estimated value**

Value excluding VAT: £10,000,000

### **II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system**

Duration in months

24

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

The initial term is to be 24 months with extension(s) possible for up to a further 24 months (maximum 48 months total).

#### **II.2.10) Information about variants**

Variants will be accepted: No

#### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: No

#### **II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds**

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: Yes

Identification of the project

There is potential for member framework spend to be financed by European Union funds. Therefore this opportunity will be advertised via both Find a Tender and the Official Journal of the European Union.

#### **II.2.14) Additional information**

It is intended that Lot 2 will be awarded to a maximum of 12 suppliers.

### **II.2) Description**

#### **II.2.1) Title**

Print publications: supply to schools, Multi-Academy Trusts, academic departments (generally non-library)

Lot No

3

## **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 22100000 - Printed books, brochures and leaflets
- 22110000 - Printed books
- 22111000 - School books
- 22112000 - Textbooks
- 22113000 - Library books
- 22114000 - Dictionaries, maps, music books and other books

## **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

Main site or place of performance

Various locations around the UK

## **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

Supply of printed publications and other hard copy materials, generally for non-library purposes of academic departments, schools, Multi-Academy Trusts, and other public sector organisations. Associated goods relating to reading provision may be supplied under this Lot where a dedicated framework is not required.

## **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

## **II.2.6) Estimated value**

Value excluding VAT: £40,000,000

## **II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system**

Duration in months



This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

The initial term is to be 24 months with extension(s) possible for up to a further 24 months (maximum 48 months total).

#### **II.2.10) Information about variants**

Variants will be accepted: No

#### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: No

#### **II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds**

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: Yes

Identification of the project

There is potential for member framework spend to be financed by European Union funds. Therefore this opportunity will be advertised via both Find a Tender and the Official Journal of the European Union.

#### **II.2.14) Additional information**

It is intended that Lot 3 will be awarded to a maximum of 8 suppliers.

### **II.2) Description**

#### **II.2.1) Title**

E-book aggregator: title-by-title perpetual access purchase

Lot No

4

#### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 22113000 - Library books

### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

Main site or place of performance

Various locations around the UK

### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

Title-by-title purchasing of e-books via an aggregator platform for delivery via the aggregator's own platform. Packages may be offered, as may DDA and EBA programmes. Suppliers will offer perpetual access licences but may also offer alternatives (eg. 365 day licences) where perpetual licensing is not available.

### **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

### **II.2.6) Estimated value**

Value excluding VAT: £120,000,000

### **II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system**

Duration in months

24

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

The initial term is to be 24 months with extension(s) possible for up to a further 24 months (maximum 48 months total).

### **II.2.10) Information about variants**

Variants will be accepted: No

### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: No

### **II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds**

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: Yes

Identification of the project

There is potential for member framework spend to be financed by European Union funds. Therefore this opportunity will be advertised via both Find a Tender and the Official Journal of the European Union.

### **II.2.14) Additional information**

It is intended that Lot 4 will be awarded to a maximum of 5 suppliers.

## **II.2) Description**

### **II.2.1) Title**

E-book aggregator: title-by-title perpetual access purchase for third-party platform

Lot No

5

### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 22113000 - Library books

### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

Main site or place of performance

Various locations around the UK

### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

Title-by-title purchasing of e-books via an aggregator platform for delivery via a third party or publisher platform. Packages may be offered, as may DDA and EBA programmes. Suppliers will offer perpetual access licences but may also offer alternatives (eg. 365 day

licences) where perpetual licensing is not available.

#### **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

#### **II.2.6) Estimated value**

Value excluding VAT: £40,000,000

#### **II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system**

Duration in months

24

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

The initial term is to be 24 months with extension(s) possible for up to a further 24 months (maximum 48 months total).

#### **II.2.10) Information about variants**

Variants will be accepted: No

#### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: No

#### **II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds**

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: Yes

Identification of the project

There is potential for member framework spend to be financed by European Union funds. Therefore this opportunity will be advertised via both Find a Tender and the Official Journal of the European Union.

#### **II.2.14) Additional information**

It is intended that Lot 5 will be awarded to a maximum of 5 suppliers.

### **II.2) Description**

#### **II.2.1) Title**

E-book aggregator: subscription packages

Lot No

6

#### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 22113000 - Library books

#### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

Main site or place of performance

Various locations around the UK

#### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

Subscription e-book packages via aggregator's own platform. Packages may include wider digital content in addition to e-books. Package content will be pre-defined in nature and not bespoke selections of titles.

#### **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

#### **II.2.6) Estimated value**

Value excluding VAT: £20,000,000

#### **II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system**

Duration in months

24

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

The initial term is to be 24 months with extension(s) possible for up to a further 24 months (maximum 48 months total).

#### **II.2.10) Information about variants**

Variants will be accepted: No

#### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: No

#### **II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds**

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: Yes

Identification of the project

There is potential for member framework spend to be financed by European Union funds. Therefore this opportunity will be advertised via both Find a Tender and the Official Journal of the European Union.

#### **II.2.14) Additional information**

It is intended that Lot 6 will be awarded to a maximum of 5 suppliers.

### **II.2) Description**

#### **II.2.1) Title**

E-book aggregator: e-textbooks

Lot No

7

### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 22113000 - Library books

### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

Main site or place of performance

Various locations around the UK

### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

E-textbook access via an aggregator e-textbook platform. Title selections may be bespoke or pre-defined packages.

### **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

### **II.2.6) Estimated value**

Value excluding VAT: £120,000,000

### **II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system**

Duration in months

24

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

The initial term is to be 24 months with extension(s) possible for up to a further 24 months (maximum 48 months total).

### **II.2.10) Information about variants**

Variants will be accepted: No

### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: No

### **II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds**

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: Yes

Identification of the project

There is potential for member framework spend to be financed by European Union funds. Therefore this opportunity will be advertised via both Find a Tender and the Official Journal of the European Union.

### **II.2.14) Additional information**

It is intended that Lot 7 will be awarded to a maximum of 5 suppliers.

## **II.2) Description**

### **II.2.1) Title**

E-books: specialist and innovative solutions

Lot No

8

### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 22113000 - Library books

### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

Main site or place of performance

Various locations around the UK

### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

Specialised e-book solutions for delivery via Supplier's own platform. This Lot offers a



route to market for solutions that do not fit the specification of other e-book Lots (Lots 4, 5, 6, or 7). Solutions might include those that are not specifically designed for the HE market, that deliver specialist content, or that offer alternative business models that don't fit in another Lot. Suppliers bidding for this Lot may not bid for any other e-book Lot (Lots 4, 5, 6, or 7).

#### **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

#### **II.2.6) Estimated value**

Value excluding VAT: £20,000,000

#### **II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system**

Duration in months

24

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

The initial term is to be 24 months with extension(s) possible for up to a further 24 months (maximum 48 months total).

#### **II.2.10) Information about variants**

Variants will be accepted: No

#### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: No

#### **II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds**

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: Yes

Identification of the project

There is potential for member framework spend to be financed by European Union funds. Therefore this opportunity will be advertised via both Find a Tender and the Official Journal of the European Union.

#### **II.2.14) Additional information**

It is intended that Lot 8 will be awarded to a maximum of 12 suppliers.

### **II.2) Description**

#### **II.2.1) Title**

Sales to individual staff/students and bursary provision

Lot No

9

#### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 22100000 - Printed books, brochures and leaflets
- 22110000 - Printed books
- 22112000 - Textbooks
- 22114000 - Dictionaries, maps, music books and other books

#### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

Main site or place of performance

Various locations around the UK

#### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

Where a member wishes to set up an approved supplier for individual staff or students to purchase hard copy or digital materials. Bursary provision may also be facilitated where operated on a credit basis and the supplier meets individual member requirements. In these cases, bursaries may include a wider scope of goods that support learning.

#### **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

**II.2.6) Estimated value**

Value excluding VAT: £10,000,000

**II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system**

Duration in months

24

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

The initial term is to be 24 months with extension(s) possible for up to a further 24 months (maximum 48 months total).

**II.2.10) Information about variants**

Variants will be accepted: No

**II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: No

**II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds**

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: Yes

Identification of the project

There is potential for member framework spend to be financed by European Union funds. Therefore this opportunity will be advertised via both Find a Tender and the Official Journal of the European Union.

**II.2.14) Additional information**

It is intended that Lot 9 will be awarded to a maximum of 5 suppliers.

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## **Section III. Legal, economic, financial and technical information**

### **III.1) Conditions for participation**

#### **III.1.2) Economic and financial standing**

Selection criteria as stated in the procurement documents

#### **III.1.3) Technical and professional ability**

Selection criteria as stated in the procurement documents

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## **Section IV. Procedure**

### **IV.1) Description**

#### **IV.1.1) Type of procedure**

Open procedure

#### **IV.1.3) Information about a framework agreement or a dynamic purchasing system**

The procurement involves the establishment of a framework agreement

Framework agreement with several operators

Envisaged maximum number of participants to the framework agreement: 30

#### **IV.1.8) Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)**

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

### **IV.2) Administrative information**

#### **IV.2.1) Previous publication concerning this procedure**

Notice number: [2024/S 000-024901](#)

#### **IV.2.2) Time limit for receipt of tenders or requests to participate**

Date

21 February 2025

Local time

12:00pm

**IV.2.4) Languages in which tenders or requests to participate may be submitted**

English

**IV.2.7) Conditions for opening of tenders**

Date

21 February 2025

Local time

12:00pm

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## **Section VI. Complementary information**

### **VI.1) Information about recurrence**

This is a recurrent procurement: No

### **VI.2) Information about electronic workflows**

Electronic ordering will be used

Electronic invoicing will be accepted

Electronic payment will be used

### **VI.4) Procedures for review**

#### **VI.4.1) Review body**

Southern Universities Management Services

Reading Enterprise Centre, University of Reading, Earley Gate, Whiteknights Road

Reading

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