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Contract

## **Journal Subscription Services**

Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2021/S 000-000234

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-028830

Published 6 January 2021, 11:08pm

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

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

Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office

King Charles Street

London

SW1A 2AH

#### **Email**

[michelle.dilkes@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:michelle.dilkes@fcdo.gov.uk)

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

#### **NUTS code**

UK - UNITED KINGDOM

#### **Internet address(es)**

Main address

[www.gov.uk/fcdo](http://www.gov.uk/fcdo)

## **I.2) Information about joint procurement**

The contract is awarded by a central purchasing body

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

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

## **I.5) Main activity**

General public services

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## **Section II: Object**

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

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

Journal Subscription Services

Reference number

ITT 3928

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

- 64111000 - Postal services related to newspapers and periodicals

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

Services

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

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office requires a journals subscription agent to service multiple subscriptions to online and print journals. This is required to replace an existing contract set to expire in November 2020. Journal licenses are required both for corporate access by staff across the whole office department, but also for use by departments, teams or individuals. Access licenses should be primarily online, but using print where appropriate. Billing mechanisms will be both to a central point and also by separate departmental customers where appropriate. The service is expected to deliver

efficiencies by dealing with a single point of delivery as opposed to multiple publishers.

FCDO envisages the contract will run for two years, with an option to extend the contract for two further periods of 12 months.

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

This contract is divided into lots: No

#### **II.1.7) Total value of the procurement (excluding VAT)**

Value excluding VAT: £680,000

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

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

NUTS codes

- UK - UNITED KINGDOM

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

FCDO requires access to an online platform for subscription account management and management information as an integral part of the service. The Supplier is required to accurately process subscription orders quickly and where necessary in response to deadlines agreed with FCDO. The Supplier will also need to have a flexible approach, managing a variety of license terms and subscription periods and dates, especially whilst FCDO continues its transition to a unified department over the term of the contract. Access should be to the full text of journals. FCDO is currently considering its position on open access and therefore subscription requirements may change over time. FCDO places a premium on added value to the service through access to a dedicated account management team, who will be capable of advising FCDO on the best license models for a given title, securing value for money and offering current awareness of new publications, including setting up trial subscriptions. The Supplier is expected to work collaboratively with FCDO in building an effective relationship built on a strong understanding of the FCDO's business. The account management team will be responsive to our service requests, capable of quickly resolving problems and act proactively as our agent to deliver the most appropriate and cost-effective subscription models in accordance with our stated needs.

FCDO currently uses IP Authentication for corporate access to journals, although this may be subject to change over the life of the contract. FCDO will look to engage with the Supplier to identify other methods of online access to corporate subscriptions, and the Supplier will be expected to engage in a flexible and collaborative way to ensure

successful outcomes.

FCDO staff work in mobile and flexible ways, frequently on the move and in remote locations using mobile technology. The FCDO works as "One HMG Abroad" and works in close cooperation with other UK government departments including through joint operational units. The service will need to be supplied to staff with an FCDO email address both in the UK and overseas.

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

Quality criterion - Name: Technical / Weighting: 70

Cost criterion - Name: Price / Weighting: 30

#### **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: No

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## **Section IV. Procedure**

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

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

Open procedure

#### **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: [2020/S 162-395355](#)

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## **Section V. Award of contract**

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

### **V.2) Award of contract**

#### **V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract**

30 November 2020

#### **V.2.2) Information about tenders**

Number of tenders received: 2

The contract has been awarded to a group of economic operators: No

#### **V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor**

EBSCO International

6th Floor civic centre

Enfield

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - UNITED KINGDOM

The contractor is an SME

Yes

#### **V.2.4) Information on value of contract/lot (excluding VAT)**

Total value of the contract/lot: £680,000

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## **Section VI. Complementary information**

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

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

The Foreign , Commonwealth and Development Office

London

SW1A 2AH

Country

United Kingdom