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Planning

## **External Audit Services - Soft Market Engagement**

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2022/S 000-001369

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-030bf2

Published 17 January 2022, 5:02pm

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

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

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON

HIGHFIELD CAMPUS,UNIVERSITY ROAD

SOUTHAMPTON

SO171BJ

#### **Contact**

Alice Mashford

#### **Email**

[a.mashford@soton.ac.uk](mailto:a.mashford@soton.ac.uk)

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

#### **NUTS code**

UKJ32 - Southampton

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

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

**I.3) Communication**

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

<https://in-tendhost.co.uk/universityofsouthampton.aspx/Home>

Additional information can be obtained from 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**

External Audit Services - Soft Market Engagement

Reference number

2021UoS-0241

**II.1.2) Main CPV code**

- 79212000 - Auditing services

**II.1.3) Type of contract**

## Services

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

The University is looking to tender, in the near future, its requirement for a supplier to provide external audit services and would like to engage with the marketplace by means of discussions via individual virtual meetings to help enable the University to understand the dynamics of the current marketplace and to enable the opportunity for potential suppliers to ask us any questions or raise any issues directly with the people that matter - the day-to-day end users and owners of the future contract.

This exercise is not a call for competition but engagement with the market to help inform our procurement approach in future.

The University envisages the scope of the contract to include the below:

- External audit of the annual consolidated financial statements of the University of Southampton;
- External audit of the annual financial statements of relevant subsidiary companies;
- External audit of the annual accounts for the University of Southampton Pension and Assurance Scheme (PASNAS);
- Audits relating to the National College for Teaching and Learning, and the Teachers' Pension Scheme contributions and the Federal Family Education Loan Program Compliance report;
- Supporting the University in complying with the reporting requirements of a Public Interest Entity and Financial Conduct Authority's Disclosure and Transparency Rules (DTR) in relation to the University's debt securities.

For a University of the complexity and size of Southampton, the external auditor would need access to specialist audit skills, be familiar with specific higher education issues and bring relevant knowledge of the large business units operating within the University (e.g. academic faculties, catering, estates, library services etc.). The auditor must be aware of developments within Higher Education particularly where these may have mandatory applications to institutions and/or potentially have significant financial effects.

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

Value excluding VAT: £800,000

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

This contract is divided into lots: No

## **II.2) Description**

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

- 79212300 - Statutory audit services

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

NUTS codes

- UKJ32 - Southampton

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

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- External audit of the annual financial statements of relevant subsidiary companies;
- External audit of the annual accounts for the University of Southampton Pension and Assurance Scheme (PASNAS);
- Audits relating to the National College for Teaching and Learning, and the Teachers' Pension Scheme contributions and the Federal Family Education Loan Program Compliance report;
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## **II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice**

1 June 2022

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## **Section IV. Procedure**

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

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

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## **Section VI. Complementary information**

### **VI.3) Additional information**

To access further information and instructions, and to participate in this soft market engagement exercise, you will need to register on the University's electronic tendering portal In-Tend <https://in-tendhost.co.uk/universityofsouthampton.aspx/Home>