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Planning

Networking & Communications - Market Update

Essex County Council

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2022/S 000-001720

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-030d51

Published 20 January 2022, 1:57pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Essex County Council

COUNTY HALL, MARKET ROAD

CHELMSFORD

CM11QH

Contact

Mark Glenister

Email

mark.glenister@essex.gov.uk

Telephone

+44 3330136379

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKH36 - Heart of Essex

Internet address(es)

Main address

www.essex.gov.uk

I.3) Communication

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Regional or local authority

I.5) Main activity

General public services

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Networking & Communications - Market Update

Reference number

CO0014

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 51300000 - Installation services of communications equipment

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

This notice seeks to provide an update to the market regarding Essex County Council's (ECC's) direction of travel for its future Networking and Voice solutions.

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £0.01

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 32400000 - Networks
- 32500000 - Telecommunications equipment and supplies

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKH3 - Essex

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

This notice seeks to provide an update to the market regarding Essex County Council's (ECC's) direction of travel for its future Networking and Voice solutions.

In July 2020, following publication of Prior Information Notice ref: 2020/S 121-298041, ECC undertook early market engagement with a broad range of Networking and Communications suppliers to explore innovation, horizon scanning and service delivery models across the market.

In March 2021, following publication of Prior Information Notice reference: 2021/S 000-001471, ECC undertook further market engagement with five Networking suppliers through workshop sessions to explore in more depth: Network technologies; Technology products; Circuit provision and; Deployment. The learning from these sessions has highlighted to ECC the importance of trialling network technologies at an early stage and, therefore, ECC has identified three vendors' SD-WAN technologies it wishes to pilot: Cisco, Palo Alto and Silver Peak. Identification of these solutions for pilot is based on best-fit considerations and existing technology investments, as identified through market engagement.

Pilots will be delivered in partnership with ECC's current managed service provider, DUCL (Daisy Updata Communications Limited) early in 2022. ECC anticipates that the SD-WAN pilots will lead to identification of a preferred product, which ECC would then implement as part of a network transformation project either through its managed service contract with the existing provider or following a competitive tender exercise.

Regarding Voice, ECC recently commissioned discovery work to inform its Contact Centre requirements. Final outputs are due end of January 2022, following which ECC anticipates that it will engage with the market. ECC continues to undertake in-house discovery work in respect its future Mobile requirements. Also, ECC has recently transitioned its Unified Comms solution from Skype for Business to Microsoft Teams, through its incumbent supplier.

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

1 April 2022

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