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Tender

DfE - Article 127 Audit of Operations

The Department for the Economy

F02: Contract notice

Notice identifier: 2022/S 000-001745

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-030d6a

Published 20 January 2022, 4:35pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

The Department for the Economy

Adelaide House, 39-49 Adelaide St

BELFAST

BT2 8FD

Email

SSDAdmin.cpd@finance-ni.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://etendersni.gov.uk/epps>

Buyer's address

<https://etendersni.gov.uk/epps>

I.3) Communication

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

<https://etendersni.gov.uk/epps>

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

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

General public services

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

DfE - Article 127 Audit of Operations

Reference number

4010699

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 79212000 - Auditing services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

The Department for Economy (DfE) Audit Authority in Northern Ireland is seeking to establish a Framework Agreement of appropriately skilled Service Providers through the Open Competition process, to assist in the completion of Article 127 audits of operations on projects part funded by: the 2014-2020 European Structural Investment Funds (ESI Funds) ie the European Social Fund (ESF) and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £500,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 79210000 - Accounting and auditing services
- 79200000 - Accounting, auditing and fiscal services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKN0 - Northern Ireland

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The Department for Economy (DfE) Audit Authority in Northern Ireland is seeking to establish a Framework Agreement of appropriately skilled Service Providers through the Open Competition process, to assist in the completion of Article 127 audits of operations on projects part funded by: the 2014-2020 European Structural Investment Funds (ESI Funds) ie the European Social Fund (ESF) and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

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: £500,000

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

Duration in months

24

This contract is subject to renewal

No

II.2.10) Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: No

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of options

It is anticipated that this Framework Agreement will commence on 1 April 2022. The Framework Agreement will be valid for 2 years with an option to extend up to 24 months. It should be noted that while contracts awarded under the scope of the Framework

Agreement must be awarded before the end of the term of the Framework Agreement, the duration of the individual

contracts do not need to coincide with the duration of the Framework Agreement (i.e. individual contracts can extend beyond the life of

the Framework or may expire before the end of the Framework Agreement).

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

2014-2020 European Structural Investment Funds (ESI Funds) ie the European Social Fund (ESF) and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

Section III. Legal, economic, financial and technical information

III.1) Conditions for participation

III.1.1) Suitability to pursue the professional activity, including requirements relating to enrolment on professional or trade registers

List and brief description of conditions

as per Tender documentation

III.1.2) Economic and financial standing

List and brief description of selection criteria

as per Tender documentation

III.1.3) Technical and professional ability

List and brief description of selection criteria

as per Tender documentation

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: 3

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

Date

23 February 2022

Local time

3:00pm

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

English

IV.2.6) Minimum time frame during which the tenderer must maintain the tender

Tender must be valid until: 24 May 2022

IV.2.7) Conditions for opening of tenders

Date

23 February 2022

Local time

3:30pm

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.1) Information about recurrence

This is a recurrent procurement: No

VI.3) Additional information

Neither CPD nor the Authority can provide any guarantee as to the level of business under this Framework Agreement. The successful contractor's performance of contractors on the Framework Agreement will be regularly monitored. Contractors not delivering on contract requirements. is a serious matter. It means the public purse is not getting what it is paying for. If a contractor fails to reach satisfactory levels of contract / framework agreement performance they will be given a specified time to improve. If, after the specified time, they still fail to reach satisfactory levels of contract. performance, the matter will be escalated to senior management in CPD for further action. If this occurs and their performance still does. not improve to satisfactory levels within the specified period, it may be regarded as an act of grave professional misconduct and they. may be issued with a Notice of Unsatisfactory Performance and the their place on the framework agreement / the contract may be terminated. The issue of a Notice of unsatisfactory Performance will result in the contractor being excluded from all procurement competitions being undertaken by Centres of Procurement Expertise on behalf of bodies covered by the Northern Ireland. Procurement Policy for a period of twelve months from the date of issue of. the Notice.

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

The UK does not have any such bodies with responsibility for appeal/mediation procedures. Instead; any challenges are dealt with by the High Court, Commercial Division, to which proceedings may be issued regarding alleged breaches of the PCR 2015 as amended.

N/A

Country

United Kingdom

VI.4.3) Review procedure

Precise information on deadline(s) for review procedures

CPD will comply with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as amended) and, where appropriate, will incorporate a standstill period (i.e. a minimum of 10 calendar days) at the point information on the award of contract is communicated to tenderers. That notification will provide full information on the award decision. This provides time for the unsuccessful tenderers to challenge the award decision before the contract is entered into.. .