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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](mailto: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

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## **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).

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## **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

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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: 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

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## **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.. .