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Tender

## **National Reference Tests from 2025**

Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual)

F02: Contract notice

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-002162

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-034c5e

Published 24 January 2023, 2:04pm

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

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

Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual)

Earlsdon Park, 53-55 Butts Rd

Coventry

CV1 3BH

#### **Email**

[procurement@ofqual.gov.uk](mailto:procurement@ofqual.gov.uk)

#### **Telephone**

+44 2476716830

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

#### **NUTS code**

UKG33 - Coventry

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<http://ofqual.gov.uk>

Buyer's address

[https://www.mytenders.co.uk/search/Search\\_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA29088](https://www.mytenders.co.uk/search/Search_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA29088)

**I.3) Communication**

Access to the procurement documents is restricted. Further information can be obtained at

<http://www.mytenders.co.uk>

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted electronically via

<http://www.mytenders.co.uk>

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

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

**I.5) Main activity**

Education

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## **Section II: Object**

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

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

National Reference Tests from 2025

Reference number

OF923

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

- 80200000 - Secondary education services

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

Services

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

To provide the National Reference Tests (NRT) in England on behalf of Ofqual. The National Reference Tests provide evidence for Ofqual on changes in performance standards over time in GCSE English Language and Mathematics in England at the end of Key Stage 4.

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

Value excluding VAT: £14,000,000

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

This contract is divided into lots: No

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

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

- 80200000 - Secondary education services
- 73430000 - Test and evaluation
- 73300000 - Design and execution of research and development

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

NUTS codes

- UKG33 - Coventry

Main site or place of performance

Coventry

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

See II.1.4. For further information please refer to the attached Services Description document

#### **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: £14,000,000

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

Start date

1 August 2023

End date

31 August 2029

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

A maximum of 3 x 12 month optional extension periods, subject to Supplier agreement

#### **II.2.9) Information about the limits on the number of candidates to be invited**

Envisaged number of candidates: 5

Objective criteria for choosing the limited number of candidates:

Information obtained from response to published PIN 2022/S 000-017848.

**II.2.10) Information about variants**

Variants will be accepted: No

**II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: Yes

Description of options

Following the initial contract period, and subject to minimum notice being provided as per contract, the Buyer may choose to extend the contract by 3 x 12 month periods, reviewed annually and subject to Supplier agreement via the agreed change/variation process.

**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 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 stated in the Procurement documents.

#### **III.1.2) Economic and financial standing**

Selection criteria as stated in the procurement documents

#### **III.1.3) Technical and professional ability**

Selection criteria as stated in the procurement documents

### **III.2) Conditions related to the contract**

#### **III.2.2) Contract performance conditions**

To be included in the Invitation to Tender

#### **III.2.3) Information about staff responsible for the performance of the contract**

Obligation to indicate the names and professional qualifications of the staff assigned to performing the contract

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## **Section IV. Procedure**

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

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

Restricted 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: [2022/S 000-017848](#)

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

Date

24 February 2023

Local time

5:00pm

#### **IV.2.3) Estimated date of dispatch of invitations to tender or to participate to selected candidates**

8 March 2023

#### **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**

Duration in months: 6 (from the date stated for receipt of tender)

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## **Section VI. Complementary information**

### **VI.1) Information about recurrence**

This is a recurrent procurement: No

### **VI.2) Information about electronic workflows**

Electronic ordering will be used

Electronic invoicing will be accepted

Electronic payment will be used

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

This selection exercise is drafted on the basis of a Contract that will include ongoing strategic development and delivery of the National Reference Tests on an annual basis up to and including the Tests in 2029; the contract may be extended at Ofqual's discretion for any period up to a maximum of 3 years to include the delivery of the Tests in 2030, 2031 and 2032. Following discussions with the market and having carefully considered the risks to stability in test results of awarding elements of the service to different suppliers Ofqual would like to appoint a single supplier to provide all of the NRT services. Interested parties may cooperate with other organisations where this enables them to meet the requirement by sub-contractual or consortia arrangements. Further information is included in the attached Procurement Policy Note 8/16 Standard Selection Questionnaire template and guidance document.

NOTE: To register your interest in this notice and obtain any additional information please visit the myTenders Web Site at

[https://www.mytenders.co.uk/Search/Search\\_Switch.aspx?ID=227493](https://www.mytenders.co.uk/Search/Search_Switch.aspx?ID=227493).

The buyer has indicated that it will accept electronic responses to this notice via the Postbox facility. A user guide is available at

[https://www.mytenders.co.uk/sitehelp/help\\_guides.aspx](https://www.mytenders.co.uk/sitehelp/help_guides.aspx).

Suppliers are advised to allow adequate time for uploading documents and to dispatch the electronic response well in advance of the closing time to avoid any last minute problems.

(MT Ref:227493)

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

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



Public Procurement Review Service

Cabinet Office

London

Email

[publicprocurementreview@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:publicprocurementreview@cabinetoffice.gov.uk)

Telephone

+44 3450103503

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-procurement-review-service-scope-and-remit>