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Contract

Discretionary Assistance Fund Framework Agreement

Welsh Government

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-003132

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-03a207

Published 1 February 2023, 2:53pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Welsh Government

Corporate Procurement Services, Cathays Park

Cardiff

CF10 3NQ

Email

cpsprocurementadvice@gov.wales

Telephone

+44 3000257095

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKL - Wales

Internet address(es)

Main address

<http://gov.wales>

Buyer's address

https://www.sell2wales.gov.wales/search/Search_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA0007

I.2) Information about joint procurement

The contract is awarded by a central purchasing body

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

I.5) Main activity

General public services

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Discretionary Assistance Fund Framework Agreement

Reference number

C317/2021/2022

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 75110000 - General public services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

The UK Government's Welfare Reform Act 2012 abolished the discretionary Social Fund, which was administered by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and replaced parts of it (crisis loans and community care grants) with new locally based provision. From April 2013 funding for the Social Fund was devolved to the Welsh Government, the Scottish Government and to local authorities in England. The Discretionary Assistance Fund was established and has operated as the replacement scheme in Wales since 2013.

The fund comprises two distinct elements:

- Emergency Assistance Payments (EAP) – which provide assistance with an emergency or disaster situation when there is an immediate threat to health and well being; and

- Individual Assistance Payments (IAP) – which are in place to meet an urgent identified need necessary to enable or support independent living thereby preventing the need for institutional care. Eligibility for an IAP is based upon an applicant being entitled to and in receipt of income related benefits. All IAP applications are required to be supported by a Partner from an established Partner Network comprising support and advice organisations across Wales.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.1.7) Total value of the procurement (excluding VAT)

Value excluding VAT: £3,936,183.95

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 75112000 - Administrative services for business operations
- 79512000 - Call centre
- 72262000 - Software development services
- 72263000 - Software implementation services
- 75131000 - Government services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKL - Wales

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The key aim of the Discretionary Assistance Fund (DAF) is to offer payments or in kind support to enable or maintain independent living and to provide urgent assistance to people where there is an identified need to safeguard health and well being. These payments are made available to people who have no other means of meeting the immediate cost of living and are not intended to meet the cost of ongoing expenses. As such, payments from this fund are not repayable. The aim of this contract is to ensure the fund is delivered to the most financially vulnerable people in Wales. The successful Bidder will be responsible for all aspects of the management, implementation, administration and monitoring of the DAF grant scheme.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Quality / Weighting: 75

Cost criterion - Name: Cost / Weighting: 25

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of options

Additional call off contracts may be required during the Framework Agreement duration for contracts that may be required as a result of any change in Ministerial priorities in response to emerging policy changes, for example having to respond to possible unprecedented emergency situations, i.e Welsh Government response to flooding or other such emergencies.

II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

II.2.14) Additional information

The value is GBP6m to GBP15m for the initial 3 years. 6m reflects historical spend prior to the covid-19 pandemic and the cost of living crisis. Spend during 2018-2021 is GBP3.5m per annum the value may be less at circa GBP2m per annum. The 15m value reflects changes to Ministerial priorities in response to unknown priorities. The max value over the lifetime of the framework/ contract is GBP30m.

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

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 022-123067](#)

Section V. Award of contract

Contract No

C317/2021/2022

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

12 January 2023

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 1

Number of tenders received from SMEs: 0

Number of tenders received from tenderers from other EU Member States: 0

Number of tenders received from tenderers from non-EU Member States: 1

Number of tenders received by electronic means: 1

The contract has been awarded to a group of economic operators: No

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

NEC Software Solutions UK Limited

Suite 101, 1st Floor, iMex Centre, 575-599 Maxted Road

Hemel Hempstead

HP27DX

Telephone

+44 1442768445

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

The contractor is an SME

No

V.2.4) Information on value of contract/lot (excluding VAT)

Initial estimated total value of the contract/lot: £15,000,000

Total value of the contract/lot: £3,936,183.95

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

The Framework Agreement term is 3 years plus 1 year extension option (with the option to award a further 2 year contract in year 4 of the framework agreement).

The contract value included in section V.2.4 of the notice is per annum, and the maximum framework agreement value for the initial 3 year contract term is GBP 15m. Should the up to 3 year contract extension be utilised the maximum value will be up to GBP 15m.

(WA Ref:128702)

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

High Court

Royal Courts of Justice, The Strand

London

WC2A 2LL

Telephone

+44 2079477501

Country

United Kingdom