

This is a published notice on the Find a Tender service: <https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Notice/003293-2025>

Tender

The Equa Mead Trust ~ Catering Tender

The Equa Mead Trust
Bellefield Primary and Nursery School
Lavington School
St Nicholas C of E Primary School
The John of Gaunt School

F02: Contract notice
Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-003293
Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-04da99
Published 31 January 2025, 2:05pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

The Equa Mead Trust

Lavington School, The Spring, Market Lavington

Devizes

SN10 4EB

Email

tenders@litmuspartnership.co.uk

Telephone

+44 1276673880

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKK1 - Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Bristol/Bath area

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.equamead.org/>

I.1) Name and addresses

Bellefield Primary and Nursery School

Windermere Road

Trowbridge

BA14 8TE

Email

tenders@litmuspartnership.co.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKK1 - Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Bristol/Bath area

Internet address(es)

Main address

www.bellefield.wilts.sch.uk

I.1) Name and addresses

Lavington School

The Spring, Market Lavington

Devizes

SN10 4EB

Email

tenders@litmuspartnership.co.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKK1 - Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Bristol/Bath area

Internet address(es)

Main address

www.lavington.wilts.sch.uk

I.1) Name and addresses

St Nicholas C of E Primary School

The Leaze, Bromham

Chippenham

SN15 2EY

Email

tenders@litmuspartnership.co.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKK1 - Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Bristol/Bath area

Internet address(es)

Main address

www.stnicholasbromham.co.uk

I.1) Name and addresses

The John of Gaunt School

Wingfield Road

Trowbridge

BA14 9EH

Email

tenders@litmuspartnership.co.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKK1 - Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Bristol/Bath area

Internet address(es)

Main address

www.johnofgauntschool.org

I.2) Information about joint procurement

The contract involves joint procurement

I.3) Communication

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

<https://litmustms.co.uk/respond/4W5PM65539>

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

Education

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

The Equa Mead Trust ~ Catering Tender

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 55524000 - School catering services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

EQUA Mead Learning Trust is a Multi Academy Trust based around the Trowbridge and Devizes areas in Wiltshire. The trust started in 2019 and has now increased in size to 19 Schools, consisting of 17 Primary and 2 Secondary schools. In addition, three more additional schools are currently in the process of joining and are likely to convert in September 2025, taking the to 22 schools.

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £3,033,060

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKK1 - Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Bristol/Bath area

Main site or place of performance

Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Bristol/Bath area

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

EQUA Mead Learning Trust is a Multi Academy Trust based around the Trowbridge and Devizes areas in Wiltshire. The trust started in 2019 and has now increased in size to 19 Schools, consisting of 17 Primary and 2 Secondary schools. In addition, three more additional schools are currently in the process of joining and are likely to convert in September 2025, taking the to 22 schools.

The tender project is seeking to appoint a Contractor whose initiative and innovation will be welcomed for the provision of service within the existing facilities, initially for the two secondary schools, Lavington and The John of Gaunt along with one primary school St Nicholas in Bromham who between them have will have approximately 2350 students and 275 teaching and support staff as at 1 September 2025, one further primary school will join in 2026 when their current contract ends and further joiners from the trust will likely follow.

A focus on exciting new food concepts to satisfy a wide range of student tastes and dietary requirements is important. The trust would wish the successful contractor to review the current range of services offered and make recommendations accordingly.

Initially the contract being tendered is for three years in duration from 1 September 2025 to 31 August 2028 and will operate as a Guaranteed Performance Contract, with the successful Contractor offering the school a guaranteed return/cost per annum for the provision of catering services. Sovereignty of the cash tariff is to remain with the trust for the duration of this contract.

The School year is based on a calendar of 195 days. Five days are to be used for staff professional development which means that School will be open to receive students for the legal minimum of 190 days.

The contract offered covers the scope for the provision of all catering services within the

School, which currently includes morning break, lunch, all hospitality and free issue requirements. Within the 195 days, the Trust will require hospitality for various networks, meetings and events that it hosts. We are also keen for the contractor to implement where required a breakfast and after school option. Free School meals and hospitality will be charged based on consumption and at net food cost.

Whilst the School prioritises value for money as a key objective of the Competitive Tender Process, the Trustees are not obliged to accept the lowest price.

The trust expects the successful contractor to enable the continued development of catering through the provision of an innovative, healthy food service, with fresh, seasonal, locally sourced ingredients being prepared on the trust sites. The School expects the successful tenderer to evidence, through their bid, how they shall support and complement its values and support the principles of Keeping Children Safe in Education.

The School believes that success should be celebrated and that pupils should enjoy their time at school; if lessons are stimulating and challenging then students will love learning. Much time therefore, is spent reviewing and planning schemes of work to ensure that they are differentiated to meet the needs of all students. As a result, the trust Schools are very enthusiastic regarding work experience and apprenticeship proposals and would welcome the input of the successful Contractor.

As a trust who are continually seeking ways to improve and develop the ethos and environment for students and staff, to give them the facilities they deserve and need to meet the challenges of the 21st Century, any consideration regarding inward capital investment as part of the Contractor's tender submission would be welcomed. The trust would wish for the Contractor to look at making this investment within the existing dining areas.

Please be advised that this contract will be let on a 3 + 2 years basis.

See SQ Document for more information.

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: £3,033,060

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

Start date

1 September 2025

End date

31 August 2030

This contract is subject to renewal

No

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

Envisaged minimum number: 5

Maximum number: 10

Objective criteria for choosing the limited number of candidates:

A minimum of 5 suppliers and a maximum of 10 suppliers will be taken forward to the tender stage of the process. Where less than 5 suppliers meet the minimum standards, only those that meet the minimum standards will be taken through to the tender stage. Where more than 5 suppliers meet the minimum standard, those suppliers with the highest scores will proceed to the tender stage.

II.2.10) Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: Yes

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: No

II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds

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

Section III. Legal, economic, financial and technical information

III.1) Conditions for participation

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

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

Date

7 March 2025

Local time

12:00pm

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

7 April 2025

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

English

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

The contracting authority considers that this contract may be suitable for economic operators that are small or medium enterprises (SMEs). However, any selection of tenderers will be based solely on the criteria set out for the procurement. It will be the supplier's responsibility to obtain any necessary documents in order to submit a response by the closing date and time.

The contracting authority reserves the right not to award any or part of the contract which is the subject of this contract notice and reserves the right to terminate the procurement process at any time.

The contracting authority will not be liable for any costs incurred by those expressing an interest in tendering for this contract opportunity.

The contracting authority will consider variant bids, evaluating them (so far as the variant or the evaluation of the variant is in the opinion of the contracting authority practicable) on the same basis as a conforming bid, but shall not be obliged to accept any such bid in preference to a conforming bid even if the variant bid scores more highly. No variant will be considered unless the bidder simultaneously submits a conforming bid.

For more information about this opportunity, please visit the Delta eSourcing portal at:

<https://litmustms.co.uk/tenders/UK-UK-Devizes:-School-catering-services./4W5PM65539>

To respond to this opportunity, please click here:

<https://litmustms.co.uk/respond/4W5PM65539>

GO Reference: GO-2025131-PRO-29275270

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

The Equa Mead Trust

Lavington School, The Spring, Market Lavington

Devizes

SN10 4EB

Email

tenders@litmuspartnership.co.uk

Telephone

+44 1276673880

Country

United Kingdom