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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): ocds-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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.bellefield.wilts.sch.uk)

**I.1) Name and addresses**

Lavington School

The Spring, Market Lavington

Devizes

SN10 4EB

**Email**

[tenders@litmuspartnership.co.uk](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.stnicholasbromham.co.uk)

**I.1) Name and addresses**

The John of Gaunt School

Wingfield Road

Trowbridge

BA14 9EH

**Email**

[tenders@litmuspartnership.co.uk](mailto:tenders@litmuspartnership.co.uk)

**Country**

United Kingdom

**Region code**

UKK1 - Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Bristol/Bath area

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

[www.johnofgauntschool.org](http://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

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## **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

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### **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

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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.2.2) 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

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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**

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](mailto:tenders@litmuspartnership.co.uk)

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Country

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