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Tender

## **ID4435678 UREGNI - Legal Services Framework 2023**

The Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation

F21: Social and other specific services – public contracts

Contract notice

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-003396

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-03a2b6

Published 3 February 2023, 11:56am

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

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

The Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation

Queens House, 14 Queen Street

BELFAST

BT1 6ED

#### **Email**

[SSDAdmin.CPD@finance-ni.gov.uk](mailto:SSDAdmin.CPD@finance-ni.gov.uk)

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

#### **Region code**

UK - United Kingdom

## **Internet address(es)**

Main address

<https://www.uregni.gov.uk/>

Buyer's address

<https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/topics/procurement>

## **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**

ID4435678 UREGNI - Legal Services Framework 2023

Reference number

ID4435678

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

- 79100000 - Legal services

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

Services

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

The Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation (Utility Regulator, also referred to as UR) is seeking to put in place a framework for legal advice to support the in-house team. The framework will comprise of two lots. • Lot 1 (UK wide): Energy/Water/Utilities Specialist Legal Expertise. General utilities law expertise (covers covering major utilities law specialisms – covering finance/regulatory law, European law, public law, and competition law as key examples) • Lot 2 (Northern Ireland): Northern Ireland specific related areas of law to include but not limited to property law, employment law, litigation (to include pre action protocol matters). Tenderers may bid for admission to one or both of the lots depending on their own specialism. It is currently the intention that a maximum of three Contractors will be appointed under each lot on a ranked basis. Tenderers should refer to the document titled “ID 4435678 Specification” for more details on the services required.

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

Value excluding VAT: £300,000

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

This contract is divided into lots: Yes

Tenders may be submitted for maximum number of lots

2

## **II.2) Description**

### **II.2.1) Title**

Lot 1 - UK Wide

Lot No

1

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

- 79110000 - Legal advisory and representation services
- 79112000 - Legal representation services
- 79140000 - Legal advisory and information services

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

NUTS codes

- UKN - Northern Ireland

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

The Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation (Utility Regulator, also referred to as UR) is seeking to put in place a framework for legal advice to support the in-house team. The framework will comprise of two lots. • Lot 1 (UK wide): Energy/Water/Utilities Specialist Legal Expertise. General utilities law expertise (covers covering major utilities law specialisms – covering finance/regulatory law, European law, public law, and competition law as key examples) • Lot 2 (Northern Ireland): Northern Ireland specific related areas of law to include but not limited to property law, employment law, litigation (to include pre action protocol matters). Tenderers may bid for admission to one or both of the lots depending on their own specialism. It is currently the intention that a maximum of three Contractors will be appointed under each lot on a ranked basis. Tenderers should refer to the document titled “ID 4435678 Specification” for more details on the services required.

### **II.2.6) Estimated value**

Value excluding VAT: £2,400,000

## **II.2.7) Duration of the contract or the framework agreement**

Duration in months

36

## **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) Description**

### **II.2.1) Title**

Lot 2 - Northern Ireland

Lot No

2

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

- 79110000 - Legal advisory and representation services
- 79112000 - Legal representation services
- 79140000 - Legal advisory and information services

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

NUTS codes

- UKN - Northern Ireland

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

The Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation (Utility Regulator, also referred to as UR) is seeking to put in place a framework for legal advice to support the in-house team. The framework will comprise of two lots. • Lot 1 (UK wide): Energy/Water/Utilities Specialist Legal Expertise. General utilities law expertise (covers covering major utilities law specialisms – covering finance/regulatory law, European law, public law, and competition law as key examples) • Lot 2 (Northern Ireland): Northern Ireland specific related areas of law to include but not limited to property law, employment law, litigation (to include pre

action protocol matters). Tenderers may bid for admission to one or both of the lots depending on their own specialism. It is currently the intention that a maximum of three Contractors will be appointed under each lot on a ranked basis. Tenderers should refer to the document titled “ID 4435678 Specification” for more details on the services required.

### **II.2.6) Estimated value**

Value excluding VAT: £600,000

### **II.2.7) Duration of the contract or the framework agreement**

Duration in months

36

### **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 IV. Procedure**

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

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

Open procedure

#### **IV.1.3) Information about a framework agreement**

The procurement involves the establishment of a framework agreement

### **IV.2) Administrative information**

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

Date

7 March 2023

Local time

3:00pm

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

English

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## **Section VI. Complementary information**

### **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**

Contract monitoring: the successful contractor's performance on the contract 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 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 construction and procurement delivery (CPD) for further action. If this occurs and their performance still does not improve to satisfactory levels within the specified period, this may be considered grounds for termination of the contract at your expense as provided for in the Conditions of Contract. In lieu of termination, CPD may issue a Notice of Written Warning or a Notice of Unsatisfactory Performance. A supplier in receipt of multiple Notices of Written Warning or a Notice of Unsatisfactory Performance may, in accordance with The Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as amended), be excluded from future public procurement competitions for a period of up to three years..

## **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).

Belfast

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 framework agreement 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 framework agreement is entered into.