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Tender

Towards A National Collection – Digitisation Capability Pilot for N-RICH Prototype

Historic Environment Scotland

F02: Contract notice

Notice identifier: 2026/S 000-004095

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-060817

Published 16 January 2026, 5:39pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Historic Environment Scotland

Longmore House, Salisbury Place

Edinburgh

EH9 1SH

Email

procurement@hes.scot

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKM75 - Edinburgh, City of

Internet address(es)

Main address

<http://historicenvironment.scot>

Buyer's address

https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/search/Search_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA00164

I.2) Information about joint procurement

The contract is awarded by a central purchasing body

I.3) Communication

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

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

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted electronically via

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

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

National or federal Agency/Office

I.5) Main activity

Other activity

Heritage, Tourism, Conservation, Built Environment

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Towards A National Collection – Digitisation Capability Pilot for N-RICH Prototype

Reference number

HES/C/4336

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 73000000 - Research and development services and related consultancy services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

Towards A National Collection – Digitisation Capability Pilot for N-RICH Prototype

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £225,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKM75 - Edinburgh, City of

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The Digitisation Capability Pilot is one of the two core work packages delivered through the N-RICH Prototype, alongside the Digital Research Infrastructure Prototype. Its role is to address the supply-side constraints that currently limit the use of cultural heritage collections in computational and data-driven research.

While digitisation activity across the UK GLAM sector has expanded access to collections, it has not consistently produced data that is structured, documented and interoperable enough to support large-scale analysis, AI-enabled methods or cross-collection research.

The Pilot responds to this gap by focusing on the creation of computation-ready digital collections data, providing a foundation for subsequent infrastructure development and research use.

The objectives of the Digitisation Capability Pilot are to:

- Define a shared, open and scalable digitisation standard for priority GLAM collection types, specifying baseline, enhanced and aspirational levels of practice;
- Ensure the standard is oriented towards interoperability, computational access and reuse, embedding FAIR and CARE principles;
- Support data creation, augmentation and computational readiness, including standards for rapid, rich and non-destructive digitisation appropriate to different collection types and research purposes;
- Design the standard to be modular and incrementally adoptable by institutions of differing scale, capacity and resource;
- Test and refine the standard through limited application with partner GLAM institutions;
- Generate evidence on cost, skills and organisational implications to inform future investment decisions;
- Publish the standard openly and propose an appropriate model for its future stewardship and evolution.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Technical / Weighting: 60

Quality criterion - Name: Interview / Weighting: 30

Price - Weighting: 10

II.2.6) Estimated value

Value excluding VAT: £225,000

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

Start date

11 May 2026

End date

27 November 2026

This contract is subject to renewal

No

II.2.10) Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: No

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of options

Historic Environment Scotland reserves the right to request additional deliveries by the Successful Tenderer, either intended as partial replacement of services or as extensions of existing services. Historic Environment Scotland may at its sole discretion exercise this option.

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

List and brief description of selection criteria

HES use Scotbis, an independent provider of business credit reports, to assess the financial standing of tenderers. The overall aim of this assessment is to ensure, as far as possible, that any potential Supplier will not have financial difficulties that endanger their ability to perform the Contract. If financial information cannot be gained from that source Historic Environment Scotland will request that you provide full audited accounts for the last full financial year. If Suppliers cannot provide any of the assurances as detailed above, and it is determined by HES that your financial strength is not adequate, then your company may not pass the financial evaluation. If you can provide the assurances as detailed above, HES may explore these options with you before determining whether your company can be taken forward in this procurement exercise. Bank details may also be sought to support the above.

Minimum level(s) of standards possibly required

Minimum level(s) of standards required:

Employers Liability Insurance - 5 million GBP

Public Liability Insurance - 10 million GBP

Professional Indemnity Insurance - 1 million GBP

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Open 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

27 February 2026

Local time

12:00pm

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: 5 (from the date stated for receipt of tender)

IV.2.7) Conditions for opening of tenders

Date

27 February 2026

Local time

12:00pm

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

HES cannot sign up to suppliers terms and conditions. We will not negotiate at point of award or post contract award.

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

https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/Search/Search_Switch.aspx?ID=820927.

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.publiccontractsscotland.gov.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.

(SC Ref:820927)

Download the ESPD document here:

https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/ESPD/ESPD_Download.aspx?id=820927

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Edinburgh Sheriff Court and Justic of the Peace Court

Edinburgh

Country

United Kingdom