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Award

## **SHEDL eBook Collections - Springer Nature**

APUC Limited

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-004610

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04ddd9

Published 11 February 2025, 4:06pm

### **Section I: Contracting authority/entity**

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

APUC Limited

Unit 27, Stirling Business Centre, Wellgreen

Stirling

FK8 2DZ

#### **Contact**

Lorona Watts

#### **Email**

[lwatts@apuc-scot.ac.uk](mailto:lwatts@apuc-scot.ac.uk)

#### **Telephone**

+44 1314428950

**Country**

United Kingdom

**NUTS code**

UKM77 - Perth & Kinross and Stirling

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<http://www.apuc-scot.ac.uk>

Buyer's address

[https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/search/Search\\_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA10402](https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/search/Search_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA10402)

**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**

SHEDL eBook Collections - Springer Nature

Reference number

LIB1026 AP

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

- 80000000 - Education and training services

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

Services

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

APUC is seeking to enter into an agreement with Springer Nature to offer Scottish Higher Education Digital Library (SHEDL) members institutions access to Springer Nature online books, free of digital rights management (DRM), for up to 4 years.

APUC will not use the content but will facilitate the purchase on behalf of the HE institutions in Scotland and the National Library of Scotland. The Contract value is estimated based on potential participation by its members

#### **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: £2,500,000

### **II.2) Description**

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

- 800000000 - Education and training services
- 22113000 - Library books

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

NUTS codes

- UKM - Scotland

Main site or place of performance

Scotland

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

APUC is seeking to enter into an agreement with Springer Nature to offer Scottish Higher Education Digital Library (SHEDL) members institutions access to Springer Nature online books, free of digital rights management (DRM), for up to 4 years.

#### **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

#### **II.2.14) Additional information**

The contract value is an estimate based on the potential aggregated subscription values over the possible term of 48 months.

APUC will not use or make payments under this contract but will facilitate the agreement on behalf of the Scottish HE Institutions and the National Library of Scotland.

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## **Section IV. Procedure**

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

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

Negotiated without a prior call for competition

- The works, supplies or services can be provided only by a particular economic operator for the following reason:
  - procurement aiming at the creation or acquisition of a unique work of art or artistic performance

Explanation:

The publishing service is unique to the supplier and sector. The agreement falls within the derogation contained within Regulation 33(b)(i) of the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2015, permitting APUC to enter into the direct award.

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

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

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## **Section V. Award of contract/concession**

### **Contract No**

LIB1026 AP

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

### **V.2) Award of contract/concession**

#### **V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract**

11 February 2025

#### **V.2.2) Information about tenders**

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

#### **V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire**

Springer Nature

The Campus, 4 Crinan Street

London

N1 9XS

Telephone

+44 000000

Fax

+44 000000

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://www.springernature.com/>

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

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

Initial estimated total value of the contract/lot/concession: £2,500,000

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £2,500,000

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## **Section VI. Complementary information**

### **VI.3) Additional information**

The following documents should be submitted prior to award. This is for information only and will not be scored:-

Appendix B - Freedom of Information

Appendix D -Sustain Supply Chain Code of Conduct

Appendix I(a) - GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) Contractor Assessment Form

Appendix I(b) - GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) Assessment Form (AI)

Appendix J - SCM RP Section 1

Contract of Performance Condition

#### **SUBMISSION OF MANAGEMENT INFORMATION**

Prior to the commencement of the Contract, the Contractor will provide the Authority with contact details of the

Management Information contact who will be provided with a template spreadsheet/reporting schedule along with a username and password for the management information website <http://www.ucsp.ac.uk/>

The Contractors must provide the information on a quarterly basis, within 10 working days following the start of each quarter by logging into the website and uploading the template document. If there has been no spend for the quarter, then this will still require you to log in and record a nil spend return.

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=790188](https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/Search/Search_Switch.aspx?ID=790188).

(SC Ref:790188)

## **VI.4) Procedures for review**

### **VI.4.1) Review body**

Stirling Sheriff Court and Justice of the Peace Court Sheriff Court

Sheriff Court House, Viewfield Place Stirling Country

Stirling

FK8 1NH

Email

[stirling@scotcourts.gov.uk](mailto:stirling@scotcourts.gov.uk)

Telephone

+44 1786462191

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://www.scotcourts.gov.uk/the-courts/court-locations/stirling-sheriff-court-and-justice-of-the-peace-court>