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Contract

Provision of software development and associated activities

OPEN UNIVERSITY(THE)

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-005140

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-047332

Published 14 February 2025, 1:23pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

OPEN UNIVERSITY(THE)

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY

MILTON KEYNES

MK76AA

Contact

Procurement Team

Email

FBS-Procurement@open.ac.uk

Telephone

+44 1908655814

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKJ12 - Milton Keynes

Justification for not providing organisation identifier

Not on any register

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.open.ac.uk/>

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

Provision of software development and associated activities

Reference number

OUPA10627

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 72200000 - Software programming and consultancy services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

The Open University (OU) has appointed a supplier to provide software development and associated activities, to support the CORE OU project.

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: £450,000

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKJ12 - Milton Keynes
- EE - Estonia

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Service development capacity, in the form of software development and associated activities, to support the CORE project:

CORE hosts the world's largest collection of open access research outputs, which are used and referenced by people globally, including researchers, libraries, software developers, funders.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Price

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: No

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Award of a contract without prior publication of a call for competition in the cases listed below

- The services can be provided only by a particular economic operator for the following reason:
 - absence of competition for technical reasons

Explanation:

The Open University (OU) has awarded a one (1) year agreement to Qubit Labs to provide software development and associated activities, to support the CORE OU project.

The CORE code base contains more than 250k lines of code. Qubit personnel have the required training, expertise and specialist knowledge to operate and develop the CORE infrastructure. The cost and time to upskill another company to the level required precludes the award of the contract to a company other than Qubit.

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.2.1) Previous publication concerning this procedure

Notice number: [2024/S 000-019740](#)

Section V. Award of contract

Title

Provision of software development and associated activities

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

1 August 2024

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 1

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

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

Qubit Labs

Sepapaja tn

Tallinn

Country

Estonia

NUTS code

- EE - Estonia

Justification for not providing organisation identifier

Not on any register

The contractor is an SME

No

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

Total value of the contract/lot: £450,000

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

The Open University

Milton Keynes

Email

finance-tenders@open.ac.uk

Country

United Kingdom