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Tender

Mandarin Excellence Programme

Department for Education

F02: Contract notice

Notice identifier: 2021/S 000-005361

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-029c62

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Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Department for Education

Sanctuary Buildings, 20, Great Smith Street

London

SW1P 3BT

Email

louise.holmes@education.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UK - UNITED KINGDOM

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education>

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://education.app.jaggaer.com/web/login.html>

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted electronically via

<https://education.app.jaggaer.com/web/login.html>

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted to the above-mentioned address

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

I.5) Main activity

Education

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Mandarin Excellence Programme

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 80000000 - Education and training services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

The purpose of this Notice is to notify the market of the opportunity to bid for the next Mandarin Excellence Programme (MEP) due to commence in September 2021.

In 2015 the Department announced its intention to provide funding for at least 5,000 pupils to be taught Mandarin in schools in England. The Department is now looking to build upon the success of this initial pioneering programme.

Our intention for the scope of the re-procured MEP would be to continue delivery of Mandarin fluency with a minimum recruitment and retention of 1,800 Year 7 pupils commencing and continuing study annually from September 2021 to August 2024, with the potential to extend until August 2025. It will also maintain up to 20 PGCE Mandarin teachers.

This procurement process will fall under the Light Touch Regime as defined by the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (Regulation 74 - 77). The Department is managing this Procurement based upon the 'Open' tendering procedure as defined by the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (Regulation 27).

Potential Providers are invited to attend a Microsoft Teams facilitated Tender Information Session at 11:00-12:30 GMT on Thursday 25 March. The event will provide the opportunity to hear about the service requirement, the tender process and for you to submit questions. To register your attendance and receive dial-in details, please use the messaging facility in the eTendering Portal by Midday GMT on Wednesday 24 March. Attendance at the webinar is not mandatory and for Potential Providers that are not able to attend, the slides and Q&A log will be circulated via the messaging facility on the eTendering Portal.

Applications will be made using the Department's E-Tendering procurement system using the link below:

<https://education.app.jaggaer.com>. Potential Providers should that they have registered on here as a supplier, and registered for the opportunity in order to submit your bid.

For any support with registering and finding this opportunity, please use the 'Contact Us' details to contact the E-Tendering team.

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £16,400,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 80000000 - Education and training services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - UNITED KINGDOM

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The Department is seeking a lead provider or consortia or similar entity to deliver the programme according to academic years, which will include, but is not limited to the following objectives:

- support the diverse geographical location of the schools (where necessary) to ensure the development of teaching and learning of Mandarin Chinese in schools across the country;
- ensure school-led development of the programme, translating centralised guidance and support into local practice;
- act as a grant administrator to manage and transfer up to £3,3 million per year of grant funding to schools on the programme
- provide a framework for the sustainability of Mandarin Chinese in England beyond the life of the programme;
- ensure experienced MEP schools act as hub leaders to implement successfully the step-up of teaching required within the life of the programme, and to be able to lead confidently additional new schools in following years.
- build upon the successes of work delivered to date by the current contract holders.

The contract period will be for up to 3 academic years (1st September 2021- 31st August 2024) subject to annual review and break clauses. From August 2024, there is an option to extend of up to 1 year, which will be exercised at the discretion of the Department and subject to contract performance and availability of funding.

Due to Government spending restrictions, the Department is required to seek funding approvals for proposed years 2 and 3 of the contract, as well as any potential extension year. Whilst this prevents us from having full approval for onward spend beyond 31st August 2022, it is our intention to seek this approval during year 1 of the contract. Before any subsequent year of continued delivery, the Department would aim to give the supplier at least 3 months' notice.

The Contract is valued at a total of up to £16,400,000 (excluding VAT) over the full 4 - year term. This value is based on the maximum budget available and includes both payments to schools and the extension year, should this be exercised. This value includes up to £13.1 million of payment to be allocated directly to schools as grant funding each year. The value for year 1 of the contract must not exceed £4,100,000 (excluding VAT) which must include grant funding to schools).

The Department reserves the right not to enter a formal procurement process and not proceed with contract award. Accordingly, the Department will not be liable for any bid cost, expenditure, work or effort incurred by any organisation in acting on the basis of this Notice.

Please be aware that the Department reserves the right to terminate, amend, or reduce the scope of, any agreement should funding be withdrawn, changed or there is a significant change in government policy relating to the delivery of the programme and outputs required as part of this contract, by giving at least 3 months' notice. In addition, this procurement exercise, the service scope and the award of the contract is subject to any change in Ministerial priorities and DfE policy (in accordance with the Regulations).

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Technical/ Quality / Weighting: 65

Quality criterion - Name: Social Value / Weighting: 10

Quality criterion - Name: Price / Weighting: 25

Price - Weighting: 25

II.2.6) Estimated value

Value excluding VAT: £16,400,000

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

Start date

1 September 2021

End date

31 August 2024

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

The contract period will be for up to 3 academic years (1st September- 31st August 2024) with a possible extension of up to 1 year, which will depend on availability of government funding and contract performance.

Due to Government spending restrictions, the Department is required to seek funding approvals for proposed years 2 and 3 of the contract, as well as any potential extension year.

II.2.10) Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: No

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

Section III. Legal, economic, financial and technical information

III.1) Conditions for participation

III.1.1) Suitability to pursue the professional activity, including requirements relating to enrolment on professional or trade registers

List and brief description of conditions

Tenderers must pass standard Mandatory and Discretionary Exclusion Criteria as set out in the Standard Selection Questionnaire and have sufficiently robust Financial Standing.

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

III.2) Conditions related to the contract

III.2.2) Contract performance conditions

There are a number of Key Performance Indicators and Service Levels that the Authority expects the Supplier to meet during the term of the contract. These are specified in detail in the Tender documentation.

III.2.3) Information about staff responsible for the performance of the contract

Obligation to indicate the names and professional qualifications of the staff assigned to performing the contract

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

16 April 2021

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

Tender must be valid until: 1 September 2021

IV.2.7) Conditions for opening of tenders

Date

19 April 2021

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

Interested economic operators (Potential Contractors) are required to register on the Authority's e-tendering portal. Applicants can access this system at <https://education.app.jaggaer.com> where the details of how to register and the terms of free registration are provided.

Potential Contractors are referred to the procurement documents accompanying this Contract Notice for additional information on this procurement and in relation to this Contract Notice. These can be found in the eTendering portal mentioned above.

The Authority reserves the right to withdraw from or discontinue the procurement process, which shall include the right to not award a Contracts or Contracts as a result of this call for competition.

Tenders and all supporting documentation for the contract must be in English and priced in sterling.

The Authority will not be liable for any bid costs, expenditure, work or effort incurred by a Potential Contractor in proceeding or participating in this procurement, including if the procurement process is terminated or amended by the Authority.

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Department for Education

London

Country

United Kingdom

VI.4.2) Body responsible for mediation procedures

Department for Education

London

Country

United Kingdom