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Tender

Supply of Ambient Meal solutions for First-Class offering

XC TRAINS LIMITED

F05: Contract notice – utilities

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-005415

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04e2cf

Published 17 February 2025, 2:58pm

Section I: Contracting entity

I.1) Name and addresses

XC TRAINS LIMITED

Admiral Way

SUNDERLAND

SR33XP

Contact

Hardeep Virdi

Email

ambientmealstender.admin@crosscountrytrains.co.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKC23 - Sunderland

Companies House

04402048

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.crosscountrytrains.co.uk>

I.3) Communication

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

<https://www.crosscountrytrains.co.uk>

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

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

I.6) Main activity

Railway services

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Supply of Ambient Meal solutions for First-Class offering

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 15894200 - Prepared meals

II.1.3) Type of contract

Supplies

II.1.4) Short description

The requirement is for the supply of a range of ambient ready meal /snack products in accordance with requirements and standards which will be set out in the tender documentation.

This will include the provision of packaging (which must list all mandatory food information), the packaging will be required for serving first-class customers on-board our train services, requirements are to be detailed in the tender documentation.

If the contract is extended the product offering will be reviewed to reflect market trends and customer needs.

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £18,000,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 15894200 - Prepared meals

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKC - North East (England)
- UKD - North West (England)
- UKG - West Midlands (England)
- UKK - South West (England)
- UKM - Scotland

Main site or place of performance

XC Trains are situated at the following locations

Birmingham, Bournemouth, Bristol, Cambridge, Derby, Edinburgh, Leeds, Leicester, Manchester, Newcastle, Plymouth, Reading.

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

XC Trains Limited (XC) will be conducting a competitive tender under the Utilities Contracts Regulations 2016 for the supply of Ambient Ready Meal/Snack solutions for our First-Class offering on-board CrossCountry trains.

The Supplier shall be responsible for the supply of a range of ambient ready meal/snack products to XC, including the supply of any bespoke meal requirements. This will be done in accordance with requirements and standards which will be set out in the tender documentation. XC are looking for a supplier of both ambient main meal and starter/or tapas snack solutions.

- An ambient snack in the style of a starter/tapas - the snack should not require refrigeration or heating before serving, with a minimum shelf life of 2 months or higher (once delivered to XC locations). Storage at ambient temperature in a self-contained packaging is required per each snack.
- An ambient meal in the style of a main course option. This type of meal will need to be microwaveable in the on-board commercial microwave, allowing for convenient delivery to our on-board customers. It should require minimal preparation (no decanting of products) and storage at ambient temperature in a self-contained packaging for each meal that can also be used to serve/present to First-Class customers. The shelf life should be a minimum of 2 months ambiently stored (once received at XC locations).
- A vegetarian option which is also suitable for vegan dietary requirements will be required for both meal solutions. This must also be ambiently stored in a self-contained packaging for each snack/meal with a minimum shelf life of 2 months or higher (once received at XC locations). It should require minimal preparation (no decanting of products).
- The Supplier shall also be responsible for the provision of all food packaging (with the capability to provide customised packaging) for both meal solutions. We will require the supplier to provide sustainable catering consumables for both meal solutions e.g. sustainable cutlery, printed napkins, recyclable items.

All food, food packaging (with all the mandatory food information) and food contact materials must comply with all relevant UK food laws.

Throughout the lifecycle of the agreement there may be a requirement to review the product specifications to allow the opportunity to include emerging market trends and customer needs in an updated meal range offering. Specific meal solutions for seasonal menu changes will be required (Spring/Summer and Autumn/Winter).

The Customer will have delivery requirements to a minimum of 5 UK-based railway station

locations, as follows: Birmingham New Street, Bristol Temple Meads, Edinburgh Waverley, Plymouth, Reading, Bristol. These locations will receive, store and handle food items.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

II.2.6) Estimated value

Value excluding VAT: £18,000,000

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

Duration in months

24

This contract is subject to renewal

No

II.2.9) Information about the limits on the number of candidates to be invited

Envisaged minimum number: 3

Maximum number: 4

II.2.10) Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: No

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: No

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Negotiated procedure with prior call for competition

IV.1.8) Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: No

IV.2) Administrative information

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

Date

19 March 2025

Local time

12:00pm

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

English

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.1) Information about recurrence

This is a recurrent procurement: No

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

XC trains LTD

18 The Priory Queensway

BIRMINGHAM

B4 6BS

Country

United Kingdom