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Award

TD2248 - Forensic Water Investigation Services

DERBY CITY COUNCIL

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-005914

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-04e430

Published 19 February 2025, 3:27pm

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

DERBY CITY COUNCIL

The Council House, Corporation Street

Derby

DE12FS

Email

procurement@derby.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKF11 - Derby

Justification for not providing organisation identifier

Not on any register

Internet address(es)

Main address

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

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Regional or local authority

I.5) Main activity

General public services

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

TD2248 - Forensic Water Investigation Services

Reference number

TD2248

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 79720000 - Investigation services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

Derby City Council requires a contract for forensic water investigation services. Derby City Council intends to engage with Cadantis Forensics Associates Ltd for a new contract to replace its existing agreement for the provision of water forensic services.

The council has published this VEAT notice and intends to award a contract to Cadantis Forensics Associates Ltd following a 10 day standstill period from this notice and also subject to our budget approval process.

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: £317,000

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKF11 - Derby

Main site or place of performance

Derby City

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Derby City Council currently has a contract for Forensic water investigation services.

The council is proposing to contract with Cadantis Forensics Associates Ltd who offer water forensic investigation services. This service is conducted by water surveyors and analysts who's primary service is to challenge water wholesalers and retailers over the way they have historically charged and are currently charging customers. Incorrect billing is an ongoing issue that Derby City Council want to tackle.

It is proposed to directly award a contract to Cadantis Forensics Associates Ltd without prior publication of a call for competition in the official journal of the European Union. In taking this route to market the Council hereby issue this VEAT notice. The contract term will be three years with two optional one year extensions if required.

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of options

The initial term will be three years duration with two options to extend by twelve months if required to ensure any potential change can be effectively managed without high risk to business continuity.

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 procurement falls outside the scope of application of the regulations

Explanation:

Award of a contract without prior publication of a call for competition in OJEU, as the

procurement falls outside the scope of application of the directive. The council is proposing to contract with Cadantis Forensics Associates Ltd for Forensic water investigation services as this is the only contractor that can provide this level of service.

The council requires forensic water investigation services. Cadantis Forensics Associates Ltd can offer a high level of service and have developed an understanding of the property portfolio. To change supplier now would impact ongoing appeals.

The service offered exceeds other suppliers, entering the largest amount of technical water claims in the UK market. They are different to other competitors as they challenge on three fronts - technical, policy and legal. This includes the following:

- Cadantis provide a full forensic service and do not just focus on bill validation works.
- Using specialist knowledge of the Water (Scotland) Act 1980, Water Industry (Scotland) Act 2002, Water Industry Act 1991 (and prior Acts), sewers for adoption, sewerage and drainage law, water company charging policy and schemes of charges to achieve the largest refunds for clients.
- They have informal precedents set with Severn Trent Water which means they can in most cases force them to refund outside of their standard policy. An example includes the water company attempting to limit the refund to one year as per their internal policy but Cadantis Forensics Associates Ltd would challenge for full restitution.
- Cadantis Forensics has a 98% record of success when they go to appeal.
- All accounts managers are ex water company employees and therefore have a wealth of water industry knowledge.

It is proposed to directly award a contract to Cadantis Forensics without prior publication of a call for competition in the official journal of the European Union. In taking this route to market the Council hereby issue this VEAT notice. The contract term will be three years with two optional one year extensions if required. The Council will observe a 10 day standstill period.

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

Section V. Award of contract/concession

Contract No

TD2248

Title

TD2248 - Forensic Water Investigation Services

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract/concession

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

19 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

Cadantis Forensics Associates Ltd

4 Oak Tree Park, Burnt Meadow Road

Redditch

B98 9NW

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKG12 - Worcestershire

Companies House

10701910

Internet address

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

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

Yes

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

Initial estimated total value of the contract/lot/concession: £317,000

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £317,000

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Derby City Council

The Council House, Corporation Street

Derby

DE1 2FS

Email

procurement@derby.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

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

VI.4.2) Body responsible for mediation procedures

Derby City Council

The Council House, Corporation Street

Derby

DE1 2FS

Email

procurement@derby.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

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

VI.4.3) Review procedure

Precise information on deadline(s) for review procedures

The Council will observe a 10 day standstill period and also subject to our budget approval

VI.4.4) Service from which information about the review procedure may be obtained

Derby City Council

The Council House, Corporation Street

Derby

DE1 2FS

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