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Tender

Framework Agreement for Hire of Operated Plant & Vehicles for Roads Operations

The City of Edinburgh Council

F02: Contract notice

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-006183

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-03adab

Published 2 March 2023, 2:12pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

The City of Edinburgh Council

Waverley Court, 4 East Market Street

Edinburgh

EH8 8BG

Contact

Claudine Persaud

Email

claudine.persaud@edinburgh.gov.uk

Telephone

+44 1314693727

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKM75 - Edinburgh, City of

Internet address(es)

Main address

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk

Buyer's address

https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/search/Search_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA0029

I.3) Communication

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

www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted electronically via

www.publiccontractsscotland.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

Framework Agreement for Hire of Operated Plant & Vehicles for Roads Operations

Reference number

CT2904

II.1.2) Main CPV code

• 60182000 - Hire of industrial vehicles with driver

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

The City of Edinburgh Council (the Council) wish to procure the hire of a range of specialist operated plant & vehicles to support the delivery of its roads maintenance functions, by setting up a Framework Agreement. The Framework will be broken down into the following Lots:

Lot 1 - Road Planers;

Lot 2 - Road Sweepers;

Lot 3 - Non Insulated Road Lorries;

Lot 4 - Insulated Road Lorries;

Lot 5 - Non insulated Road Lorries with Clamshell Bucket;

Lot 6 - 7.5t Gritter Vehicles;

Lot 7 - 18t Gritter Vehicles;

Lot 8 - 26t Gritter Vehicles;

Lot 9 - Hi-Ab Cranes;

Lot 10 - Low Loaders;

Lot 11 - Road Finishers;

Lot 12 - Plane & Disposal of road construction materials.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: Yes

Tenders may be submitted for all lots

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Lot 3 - Non Insulated Road Lorries

Lot No

3

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

• 60182000 - Hire of industrial vehicles with driver

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

• UKM75 - Edinburgh, City of

Main site or place of performance

Edinburgh.

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Open tender to set up a 12 Lot Framework Agreement with a maximum 6 Suppliers per Lot.

Lot 3: Non Insulated Road Lorries - Hire of 32t Non Insulated Lorry with Operator.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Quality / Weighting: 40

Price - Weighting: 60

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

Duration in months

48

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

The Contract period will be 2 years with the option to extend for up to a further two 12-month periods, undertaken at the sole discretion of the Council.

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

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Lot 1 - Road Planers

Lot No

1

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 60182000 Hire of industrial vehicles with driver
- 43312100 Planers

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

• UKM75 - Edinburgh, City of

Main site or place of performance

Edinburgh.

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Open tender to set up a 12 Lot Framework Agreement with a maximum 6 Suppliers per Lot.

Lot 1: Road Planers - Hire of 1.0 Metre Road Planer with Operator.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Quality / Weighting: 40

Price - Weighting: 60

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

Duration in months

48

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

The Contract period will be 2 years with the option to extend for up to a further two 12-month periods, undertaken at the sole discretion of the Council.

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

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Lot 2 - Road Sweepers

Lot No

2

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 60182000 Hire of industrial vehicles with driver
- 34921100 Road sweepers

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

• UKM75 - Edinburgh, City of

Main site or place of performance

Edinburgh.

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Open tender to set up a 12 Lot Framework Agreement with a maximum 6 Suppliers per Lot.

Lot 2: Road Sweepers - Hire of 18,000kg Road Sweeper with Operator.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Quality / Weighting: 40

Price - Weighting: 60

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

Duration in months

48

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

The Contract period will be 2 years with the option to extend for up to a further two 12-month periods, undertaken at the sole discretion of the Council.

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

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Lot 6 - 7.5t Gritter Vehicles

Lot No

6

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 60182000 Hire of industrial vehicles with driver
- 34144440 Gritter vehicles

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

• UKM75 - Edinburgh, City of

Main site or place of performance

Edinburgh.

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Open tender to set up a 12 Lot Framework Agreement with a maximum 6 Suppliers per Lot.

Lot 6: 7.5t Gritter Vehicles - Hire of 7.5t Gritter Vehicles with Operator carrying capacity 3 cubic metres.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Quality / Weighting: 40

Price - Weighting: 60

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

Duration in months

48

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

The Contract period will be 2 years with the option to extend for up to a further two 12-month periods, undertaken at the sole discretion of the Council.

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

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Lot 4 - Insulated Road Lorries

Lot No

4

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

• 60182000 - Hire of industrial vehicles with driver

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

• UKM75 - Edinburgh, City of

Main site or place of performance

Edinburgh.

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Open tender to set up a 12 Lot Framework Agreement with a maximum 6 Suppliers per Lot.

Lot 4: Insulated Road Lorries - Hire of 32t Insulated Lorry with Operator.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Quality / Weighting: 40

Price - Weighting: 60

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

Duration in months

48

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

The Contract period will be 2 years with the option to extend for up to a further two 12-month periods, undertaken at the sole discretion of the Council.

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

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Lot 5 - Non insulated Road Lorries with Clamshell Bucket

Lot No

5

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

• 60182000 - Hire of industrial vehicles with driver

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

• UKM75 - Edinburgh, City of

Main site or place of performance

Edinburgh.

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Open tender to set up a 12 Lot Framework Agreement with a maximum 6 Suppliers per Lot.

Lot 5: Non insulated Road Lorries with Clamshell Bucket - Hire of 32t Non insulated Lorry with clamshell bucket with Operator.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Quality / Weighting: 40

Price - Weighting: 60

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

Duration in months

48

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

The Contract period will be 2 years with the option to extend for up to a further two 12-month periods, undertaken at the sole discretion of the Council.

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

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Lot 7 - 18t Gritter Vehicles

Lot No

7

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 60182000 Hire of industrial vehicles with driver
- 34144440 Gritter vehicles

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

• UKM75 - Edinburgh, City of

Main site or place of performance

Edinburgh.

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Open tender to set up a 12 Lot Framework Agreement with a maximum 6 Suppliers per Lot.

Lot 7: 18t Gritter Vehicles - Hire of 18t Gritter Vehicles with Operator carrying capacity 6 cubic metres.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Quality / Weighting: 40

Price - Weighting: 60

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

Duration in months

48

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

The Contract period will be 2 years with the option to extend for up to a further two 12-month periods, undertaken at the sole discretion of the Council.

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

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Lot 8 - 26t Gritter Vehicles

Lot No

8

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 60182000 Hire of industrial vehicles with driver
- 34144440 Gritter vehicles

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

• UKM75 - Edinburgh, City of

Main site or place of performance

Edinburgh.

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Open tender to set up a 12 Lot Framework Agreement with a maximum 6 Suppliers per Lot.

Lot 8: 26t Gritter Vehicles - Hire of 26t Gritter Vehicles with Operator carrying capacity 9 cubic metres.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Quality / Weighting: 40

Price - Weighting: 60

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

Duration in months

48

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

The Contract period will be 2 years with the option to extend for up to a further two 12-month periods, undertaken at the sole discretion of the Council.

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

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Lot 9 - Hi-Ab Cranes

Lot No

9

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 60182000 Hire of industrial vehicles with driver
- 42414100 Cranes

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

• UKM75 - Edinburgh, City of

Main site or place of performance

Edinburgh.

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Open tender to set up a 12 Lot Framework Agreement with a maximum 6 Suppliers per Lot.

Lot 9: Hi-Ab Cranes - Hire of A. Rigid Crane with Operator (26000kg) - flatbed with Operator & B. Artic Crane with Operator (32000kg) - flatbed with Operator.

Tenderers for this Lot are required to provide both items.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Quality / Weighting: 40

Price - Weighting: 60

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

Duration in months

48

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

The Contract period will be 2 years with the option to extend for up to a further two 12-month periods, undertaken at the sole discretion of the Council.

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

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Lot 10 - Low Loaders

Lot No

10

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

• 60182000 - Hire of industrial vehicles with driver

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

• UKM75 - Edinburgh, City of

Main site or place of performance

Edinburgh.

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Open tender to set up a 12 Lot Framework Agreement with a maximum 6 Suppliers per Lot.

Lot 10: Low Loaders - Hire of Low Loader with Operator.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Quality / Weighting: 40

Price - Weighting: 60

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

Duration in months

48

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

The Contract period will be 2 years with the option to extend for up to a further two 12-month periods, undertaken at the sole discretion of the Council.

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

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Lot 11 - Road Finishers

Lot No

11

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

• 60182000 - Hire of industrial vehicles with driver

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

• UKM75 - Edinburgh, City of

Main site or place of performance

Edinburgh.

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Open tender to set up a 12 Lot Framework Agreement with a maximum 6 Suppliers per Lot.

Lot 11: Road Finishers - Hire of A. 3.5m Paver with Operator & B. 5m Paver with Operator.

(tenderers for this Lot are required to provide both items)

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Quality / Weighting: 40

Price - Weighting: 60

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

Duration in months

48

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

The Contract period will be 2 years with the option to extend for up to a further two 12-month periods, undertaken at the sole discretion of the Council.

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

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Lot 12 - Plane & Disposal of Road Construction Materials

Lot No

12

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 60182000 Hire of industrial vehicles with driver
- 90522200 Disposal of contaminated soil

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

• UKM75 - Edinburgh, City of

Main site or place of performance

Edinburgh.

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Open tender to set up a 12 Lot Framework Agreement with a maximum 6 Suppliers per Lot.

Lot 12: Plane & Disposal of Road Construction Materials - Full Plane & Disposal Service Provision (including equipment hire, Operator(s) and disposal service).

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Quality / Weighting: 40

Price - Weighting: 60

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

Duration in months

48

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

The Contract period will be 2 years with the option to extend for up to a further two 12-month periods, undertaken at the sole discretion of the Council.

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.1.2) Economic and financial standing

List and brief description of selection criteria

SPD QUESTION 4B.1.1 - Tenderers are required to have a minimum "general" annual turnover of GBP 100,000 for the last two financial years.

SPD QUESTION 4B.5.1 & 4B.5.2 - Tenderers are required to demonstrate that they hold, or commit to obtaining prior to the commencement:

- a. Employers (Compulsory) Liability Insurance GBP 5 Million
- b. Public Liability Insurance GBP 10 Million
- c. Motor Vehicle Insurance with an appropriate limit of indemnity as deemed by the Supplier
- d. Plant And Equipment Insurance with an appropriate limit of indemnity as deemed by the Supplier

SPD QUESTION 4B.6 - Tenderers are required to provide their "Current Ratio" for the current Year and the prior Year. The formula for calculating a Tenderer's current ratio is current assets divided by current liabilities. The acceptable range for each years "Current Ratio" is greater than 1.10.

Minimum level(s) of standards possibly required

SPD QUESTION 4B.1.1 - Where a Tenderer does not have an annual turnover of GBP 100,000 for the last two financial years, the Council may exclude the Tenderer from the competition or may apply discretion seeking supporting evidence to determine the Tenderer's suitability to proceed in the competition.

SPD QUESTION 4B.5.1 & 4B.5.2 - Where a Tenderer does not hold or commit to obtaining the following types and levels of insurance, the Council may exclude the Tenderer from the competition:

- a. Employers (Compulsory) Liability Insurance GBP 5 Million
- b. Public Liability Insurance GBP 10 Million
- c. Motor Vehicle Insurance with an appropriate limit of indemnity as deemed by the

Supplier

d. Plant And Equipment Insurance with an appropriate limit of indemnity as deemed by the Supplier

SPD QUESTION 4B.6 - Where a Tenderer's current ratio is less than the acceptable value of 1.10, the Council may exclude the Tenderer from the competition or may apply discretion seeking supporting evidence to determine the Tenderer's suitability to proceed in the competition.

III.1.3) Technical and professional ability

List and brief description of selection criteria

SPD QUESTION 4C.1.2 - Tenderers are required to demonstrate that they have the expertise and capacity required to deliver the specified requirement i.e. provision of a range of specialist operated plant & vehicles for hire by providing 3 examples of the delivery of similar contracts.

SPD QUESTION 4D.1 - It is a mandatory requirement that Tenderers with more than 5 employees have in place a Health & Safety Policy which is approved at a senior level within the Organisation and is reviewed regularly.

Minimum level(s) of standards possibly required

SPD QUESTION 4C.1.2 - Where a Tenderer does not demonstrate that they have the expertise and capacity required to deliver the specified requirement to the Council's satisfaction, the Council may exclude the Tenderer from the competition.

SPD QUESTION 4D.1 - Where a Tenderer does not have a Health & Safety Policy which is approved at a senior level within the Organisation and is reviewed regularly, and is required to do so, the Council may exclude the Tenderer from the competition.

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Open procedure

IV.1.3) Information about a framework agreement or a dynamic purchasing system

The procurement involves the establishment of a framework agreement

Framework agreement with several operators

Envisaged maximum number of participants to the framework agreement: 72

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

11 April 2023

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

Duration in months: 4 (from the date stated for receipt of tender)

IV.2.7) Conditions for opening of tenders

Date

11 April 2023

Local time

12:30pm

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.1) Information about recurrence

This is a recurrent procurement: Yes

Estimated timing for further notices to be published: If the contract is not extended it is envisaged that the opportunity will be re-tendered in the last quarter of 2024/first quarter of 2025. Likewise if the opportunity is extended it is envisaged that the opportunity will be re-tendered in the last quarter of 2025/first quarter of 2026 or the last quarter of 2026/first quarter of 2027.

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

Equivalents/similar alternatives will be considered where brand names are specified. Acceptance of equivalents will be at the Council's discretion.

During the contract period the Council may, at its discretion, utilise this Framework Agreement to seek the supply of additional operated plant/vehicles for hire (beyond the items specified). If such a situation arises a mini competition amongst all framework Suppliers will be undertaken.

NOTE: To register your interest in this notice and obtain any additional information please visit the Public Contracts Scotland Web Site at <a href="https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search/Search

The buyer has indicated that it will accept electronic responses to this notice via the Postbox facility. A user guide is available at https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/sitehelp/help_guides.aspx.

Suppliers are advised to allow adequate time for uploading documents and to dispatch the electronic response well in advance of the closing time to avoid any last minute problems.

A sub-contract clause has been included in this contract. For more information see: http://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/info/InfoCentre.aspx?ID=2363

Community benefits are included in this requirement. For more information see: https://www.gov.scot/policies/public-sector-procurement/community-benefits-in-procurement/

A summary of the expected community benefits has been provided as follows:

The Council's Community Benefits methodology/points system will apply to this Framework, as outlined in the Community Benefits Guidance document.

Suppliers will be required to:

- pro-actively participate in the delivery of Community Benefits
- utilise the Council's monitoring system "Cenefits" to report on progress in delivering Community Benefits on an ongoing basis
- monitor Council spend through the Framework

(SC Ref:723401)

Download the ESPD document here:

https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/ESPD/ESPD_Download.aspx?id=723401

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Sheriff Court

Sheriff Court House, 27 Chambers Street,

Edinburgh

EH1 1LB

Country

United Kingdom

VI.4.3) Review procedure

Precise information on deadline(s) for review procedures

An economic operator that suffers or risks suffering loss or damage attributable to a breach of duty under Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2015 may bring proceedings in the Sheriff Court or Court of Session. . A claim for an ineffectiveness order must be made within 30 days of the Contract Award Notice being published in the Find a Tender Service /OJEU or within 30 days of the date those who expressed an interest in or otherwise bid for the contract were informed of the conclusion of the contract or in any other case within 6 months from the date on which the contract was entered into.