

This is a published notice on the Find a Tender service: <https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Notice/007427-2023>

Planning

## **GSS23209 - No Limits Investor Readiness Programme**

United Kingdom Research and Innovation

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-007427

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-03b2c2

Published 14 March 2023, 3:07pm

### **Section I: Contracting authority**

#### **I.1) Name and addresses**

United Kingdom Research and Innovation

Polaris House, North Star Avenue

Swindon

SN2 1FF

#### **Contact**

Liz Vincent

#### **Email**

[coreservices@uksbs.co.uk](mailto:coreservices@uksbs.co.uk)

#### **Telephone**

+44 1793867000

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

**Region code**

UKK - South West (England)

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<https://www.ukri.org>

**I.2) Information about joint procurement**

The contract is awarded by a central purchasing body

**I.3) Communication**

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

**I.4) Type of the contracting authority**

Body governed by public law

**I.5) Main activity**

Other activity

Research

---

## **Section II: Object**

### **II.1) Scope of the procurement**

#### **II.1.1) Title**

GSS23209 - No Limits Investor Readiness Programme

Reference number

GSS23209

#### **II.1.2) Main CPV code**

- 73000000 - Research and development services and related consultancy services

#### **II.1.3) Type of contract**

Services

#### **II.1.4) Short description**

UKRI seeks to establish a tailored investor readiness programme that educates and prepares under-represented and overlooked founders/co-founders or key decision makers in raising and securing equity investment.

The central objective of the investment readiness programme is to help businesses understand and prepare for raising equity investment. The purpose of the programme is to level the playing field for diverse innovators, equipping them with the knowledge and understanding of what it takes to secure private investment. The programme will help companies to:

- Understand what private investment is and whether it is the best route for them.
- Understand what it takes and the process to navigate and secure private investment.
- Be equipped with the tools to sustainably navigate funding rounds
- Understand how their business will be perceived by external audiences and be equipped to negotiate with potential investors

There is extensive and growing evidence that underrepresented innovators/founders experience inequalities and barriers to be successful innovators and successfully grow their businesses, barriers include access to private investment. Some of these barriers and challenges can be specific to certain communities or groups.

### **II.1.5) Estimated total value**

Value excluding VAT: £1,000,000

### **II.1.6) Information about lots**

This contract is divided into lots: No

## **II.2) Description**

### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 71620000 - Analysis services
- 72224000 - Project management consultancy services
- 73200000 - Research and development consultancy services
- 79410000 - Business and management consultancy services

### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

Given that there are barriers and equity imbalance for underrepresented innovators, many have experienced numerous setbacks, rejections and have been overlooked, when securing private investment.

With Knows No Limits Investor Partnership Programme, UKRI want to increase the diversity of founders/co-founders and senior-decision effectively accessing capital where suitable to enable the businesses to grow, thrive and scale. Extensive research and evidence highlights the disparity diverse teams face, and the imperative need to decrease the gap prevalent in the investment landscape. For example, on average only 5% of pitchdecks reaching VCs are from all-female teams and 20% from mixed gender teams. The remaining 75% of pitchdecks are from founding teams with no women (British Business Bank Report).

The investment readiness programme aims to provide the help, resource and environment to bridge the gap for diverse founders needing private investment. The programme will provide a unique and tailored experience to get entrepreneurs investment ready. As a result the programme will help to create better outcomes for diverse founders ultimately helping to build their knowledge, capability and having the tools to prepare for

the private investment journey.

The Investment Readiness Programme aims to create better outcomes for underrepresented innovators ultimately helping to build their knowledge and access the tools to secure private investment.

The Programme should be designed to address the common barriers to investment faced by underrepresented innovators including:

- Lack of education and awareness of different funding routes, and understanding of suitability for private investment
- Lack of understanding of market products and services that focus
- Lack of an inclusive and equitable environment e.g. disabled innovators reasonable adjustment needs
- Need to spend more time, energy and effort on overcoming additional challenges to fundraising, taking them away from other key challenges facing their companies.
- Lack of access to networks, and warm introductions.

This Prior Information Notice is being issued in order to undertake a market consultation exercise with regards to the current view of requirements detailed above. If you believe that this will be of interest to you and your organisation, please register your interest by sending an email to the following email address: [coreservices@uksbs.co.uk](mailto:coreservices@uksbs.co.uk)

By registering and attending you will be engaging in non-competitive dialogue which will enable UKRI to develop and assess the market's appetite, concerns, and views on formulation of its requirements. Please register by 22nd March 2023.

The estimated value excluding VAT is £500,000 - £1,000,000

We anticipate the new provision being a 12 month agreement with the option to extend for a further 7 months.

The supplier engagement days will be held online via Zoom on 28th March 2023, time to be confirmed.

The format of the Supplier Day will be confirmed in advance and an agenda of the day will be provided.

About the contracting Authority - UK Research and Innovation

Operating across the whole of the UK and with a combined budget of more than £6 billion, UK Research and Innovation represents the largest reform of the research and innovation funding landscape in the last 50 years.

As an independent non-departmental public body UK Research and Innovation brings together the seven Research Councils (AHRC, BBSRC, EPSRC, ESRC, MRC, NERC, STFC) plus Innovate UK and a new organisation, Research England.

UK Research and Innovation ensures the UK maintains its world-leading position in research and innovation. This is done by creating the best environment for research and innovation to flourish.

For more information, please visit: [www.ukri.org](http://www.ukri.org)

### **II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice**

17 April 2023

---

## **Section IV. Procedure**

### **IV.1) Description**

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: No

---

## Section VI. Complementary information

### VI.3) Additional information

This Prior Information Notice is being issued in order to undertake a market consultation exercise with regards to the current view of requirements detailed above. If you believe that this will be of interest to you and your organisation, please register your interest by sending an email to the following email address: [coreservices@uksbs.co.uk](mailto:coreservices@uksbs.co.uk)

By registering and attending you will be engaging in non-competitive dialogue which will enable UKRI to develop and assess the market's appetite, concerns, and views on formulation of its requirements. Please register by 22nd March 2023.

The estimated value excluding VAT is £500,000 - £1,000,000

We anticipate the new provision being a 12 month agreement with the option to extend for a further 7 months.

The supplier engagement days will be held online via Zoom on 28th March 2023, time to be confirmed.

The format of the Supplier Day will be confirmed in advance and an agenda of the day will be provided.

About the contracting Authority - UK Research and Innovation

Operating across the whole of the UK and with a combined budget of more than £6 billion, UK Research and Innovation represents the largest reform of the research and innovation funding landscape in the last 50 years.

As an independent non-departmental public body UK Research and Innovation brings together the seven Research Councils (AHRC, BBSRC, EPSRC, ESRC, MRC, NERC, STFC) plus Innovate UK and a new organisation, Research England.

UK Research and Innovation ensures the UK maintains its world-leading position in research and innovation. This is done by creating the best environment for research and innovation to flourish.

For more information, please visit: [www.ukri.org](http://www.ukri.org)