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Planning

Printed Book Production/PME/PRO/2026

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY

UK2: Preliminary market engagement notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2026/S 000-007760

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-061152

Published 28 January 2026, 4:53pm

Scope

Reference

OUPA11626

Description

The Open University (OU) is preparing to initiate a future procurement activity for the provision of Printed Book Production Services to support the delivery of student course materials.

The intended procurement is likely to result in the appointment of two suppliers under a framework style arrangement.

This notice is issued to undertake Preliminary Market Engagement (PME) in order to:-

- Gauge market interest, and
- Gather information to inform the development of the future procurement strategy and tender documentation.

Participation in the PME is voluntary and non binding.

Indicative Scope (high level)

The OU produces printed learning materials in a range of standard book formats and specifications. These typically include:-

- Mono, two colour and four colour text
- A range of trim sizes
- A variety of binding formats
- A mix of new titles and reprints produced in varying volumes.

Further details are provided within the PME documentation.

The total contract value is in the region of £5million across the framework and will alter with potential scope changes. It is anticipated that the contracts will be for a period of up to four years.

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 October 2026 to 30 September 2030
- 4 years

Main procurement category

Goods

CPV classifications

- 22100000 - Printed books, brochures and leaflets

Contract locations

- UKJ12 - Milton Keynes

Engagement

Engagement deadline

12 February 2026

Engagement process description

The Open University is currently preparing to initiate a procurement activity for a dual supplier framework for its Printed Book Production requirements for student course module materials.

We wish to engage the market to establish the level of market interest and to gather information that will be beneficial in the tendering process.

Suppliers who wish to participate in the market engagement exercise should complete the preliminary market engagement questionnaire by no later than the 12th February 2026. Participation or non-participation in this pre-procurement market engagement shall not prevent any supplier from participating in a potential procurement process in the future.

Link to Preliminary Market Questionnaire, via the OU's procurement portal:-

<https://in-tendhost.co.uk/openuniversity>

Participation

Particular suitability

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

Submission

Publication date of tender notice (estimated)

3 March 2026

Contracting authority

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY

- Charity Commission (England and Wales): RC000391

Walton Hall

Milton Keynes

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United Kingdom

Email: finance-tenders@open.ac.uk

Region: UKJ12 - Milton Keynes

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government

