

This is a published notice on the Find a Tender service: <https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Notice/008391-2021>

Planning

## **Maritime Knowledge Hub – Design Advice, Interim Accelerator Provider and Knowledge Hub Operator**

Wirral Borough Council

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2021/S 000-008391

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-02a838

Published 20 April 2021, 5:01pm

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

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

Wirral Borough Council

Old Market House, 3rd Floor South Wing Hamilton Building

Birkenhead

CH41 5AL

#### **Contact**

Corporate Procurement

#### **Email**

[tenders@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:tenders@wirral.gov.uk)

#### **Telephone**

+44 1516662000

**Fax**

+44 1516663705

**Country**

United Kingdom

**NUTS code**

UK - United Kingdom

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/>

Buyer's address

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/>

**I.3) Communication**

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

**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**

Maritime Knowledge Hub – Design Advice, Interim Accelerator Provider and Knowledge Hub Operator

Reference number

DN538990

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

- 73100000 - Research and experimental development services

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

Services

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

The Council is leading the development of Maritime Knowledge Hub (MKH), a new facility within the Liverpool City Region designed in collaboration with the Combined Authority, Liverpool John Moores University, Mersey Maritime and the Peel Group.

The Council is hosting a market consultation exercise (pursuant to Regulation 40 Public Contracts Regulations 2015), via Microsoft Teams, on 2nd and 3rd June 2021 in order to inform the market of the project and three procurement processes it will be initiating for:

1. Accelerator Sprint Provider: a supplier to deliver a time limited, small scale competitive, cyclical, intensive accelerator programme;
2. Specialist Design Advice: advisory support to inform the specification of the building and optimum tenant mix for delivery of an effective innovation facility; and
3. Hub Operator: an operator for the completed development.

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

Value excluding VAT: £450,000

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

This contract is divided into lots: No

## **II.2) Description**

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

- 79000000 - Business services: law, marketing, consulting, recruitment, printing and security
- 80500000 - Training services

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

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

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

MKH will create a world class centre of excellence for maritime business growth, innovation, skills and sector development.

The Council is hosting a market consultation, via Microsoft Teams, on 2nd and 3rd June 2021 in order to discuss with interested market operators with a view to preparing for three procurements it will conduct after the exercise in respect of two projects – the Port City Innovation Hub Development Project and the MKH:

1. Port City - Accelerator Sprint Provider: a supplier to deliver a time limited and small scale competitive, cyclical, intensive accelerator programme;
2. MKH - Specialist Design Advice: advisory support to inform the specification of the building and optimum tenant mix for delivery of an effective innovation facility; and
3. MKH - Hub Operator: an operator for the completed development.

Procurement of a supplier to deliver an intensive accelerator programme will commence shortly after the market consultation, subject to confirmation of funding. This will be a time-limited test and trial project conducted in supplied premises located in Birkenhead, Wirral, in advance of the launch of MKH.

In respect of the specialist design advice, the Council expects to conduct a sub-threshold procurement for these consultancy services in Spring 2021 and notes that it is not seeking architectural services but rather advice on the specification of the building and optimum tenant mix to ensure that it is suitable for the intended purpose as an innovation hub facility which includes a bespoke accelerator programme for the maritime sector.

The operator procurement will be conducted separately and relates to the operation of the completed development from Summer 2023. The Council is interested in views from the market as to how the completed development is best operated and the varying models used for comparable facilities.

As detailed in section II.2.14 of this notice, interested organisations should register their interest on <https://procontract.due-north.com/> and book a one hour slot with the Council to discuss the project on Microsoft Teams. The portal also contains a simple questionnaire for interested organisations to complete and contains further details and background documents in respect of the project.

If more than 10 organisations express an interest in attending a slot with the Council, the Council reserves the right to host a group session attended by multiple interested organisations.

Please note the deadline to express an interest in the market consultation is 17:00 on Monday 24th May 2021.

Participating organisations will be able to discuss the MKH project in a format which will be consistent for each participating organisation. Prior to the Microsoft Teams sessions, the Council will circulate a uniform agenda to each participant. It is expected that participating organisations will receive a brief introduction from the Council in respect of the background to the MKH II project before discussing items listed on the agenda (following the same format and structure for each participating organisation).

Participation in the market consultation is not, in any event, a requirement for future progress in the procurement processes and details of the outcomes from the exercise will be made clear in procurement documents related to the opportunities, once these documents are published.

Please note, the estimate values included in sections II.1.5 and II.2.6 relate to the value of the first procurement exercise only and is in no way guaranteed or final. The procurement documents for each of the opportunities will contain more specific information. The individual values are expected to be as follows:

- 1) Accelerator Sprint Provider: £400,000;
- 2) Specialist Design Advice: £15,000; and
- 3) Hub Operator: To be determined.

Furthermore, the estimated duration in section II.2.7 relates to the first procurement exercise only. The procurement documents for each opportunity will specify the anticipated term for each opportunity.

## **II.2.6) Estimated value**

Value excluding VAT: £450,000

## **II.2.14) Additional information**

II.2.4) Description of the procurement (Maximum 4,000 characters):

MKH will create a world class centre of excellence for maritime business growth, innovation, skills and sector development.

The Council is hosting a market consultation, via Microsoft Teams, on 2nd and 3rd June 2021 in order to discuss with interested market operators with a view to preparing for three procurements it will conduct after the exercise in respect of two projects – the Port City Innovation Hub Development Project and the MKH:

1. Port City - Accelerator Sprint Provider: a supplier to deliver a time limited and small scale competitive, cyclical, intensive accelerator programme;
2. MKH - Specialist Design Advice: advisory support to inform the specification of the building and optimum tenant mix for delivery of an effective innovation facility; and
3. MKH - Hub Operator: an operator for the completed development.

Procurement of a supplier to deliver an intensive accelerator programme will commence shortly after the market consultation, subject to confirmation of funding. This will be a time-limited test and trial project conducted in supplied premises located in Birkenhead, Wirral, in advance of the launch of MKH.

In respect of the specialist design advice, the Council expects to conduct a sub-threshold procurement for these consultancy services in Spring 2021 and notes that it is not seeking architectural services but rather advice on the specification of the building and optimum tenant mix to ensure that it is suitable for the intended purpose as an innovation hub facility which includes a bespoke accelerator programme for the maritime sector.

The operator procurement will be conducted separately and relates to the operation of the completed development from Summer 2023. The Council is interested in views from the market as to how the completed development is best operated and the varying models used for comparable facilities.

As detailed in section II.2.14 of this notice, interested organisations should register their interest on <https://procontract.due-north.com/> and book a one hour slot with the Council to discuss the project on Microsoft Teams. The portal also contains a simple questionnaire for interested organisations to complete and contains further details and background

documents in respect of the project.

If more than 10 organisations express an interest in attending a slot with the Council, the Council reserves the right to host a group session attended by multiple interested organisations.

Please note the deadline to express an interest in the market consultation is 17:00 on Monday 24th May 2021.

Participating organisations will be able to discuss the MKH project in a format which will be consistent for each participating organisation. Prior to the Microsoft Teams sessions, the Council will circulate a uniform agenda to each participant. It is expected that participating organisations will receive a brief introduction from the Council in respect of the background to the MKH II project before discussing items listed on the agenda (following the same format and structure for each participating organisation).

Participation in the market consultation is not, in any event, a requirement for future progress in the procurement processes and details of the outcomes from the exercise will be made clear in procurement documents related to the opportunities, once these documents are published.

Please note, the estimate values included in sections II.1.5 and II.2.6 relate to the value of the first procurement exercise only and is in no way guaranteed or final. The procurement documents for each of the opportunities will contain more specific information. The individual values are expected to be as follows:

- 1) Accelerator Sprint Provider: £400,000;
- 2) Specialist Design Advice: £15,000; and
- 3) Hub Operator: To be determined.

Furthermore, the estimated duration in section II.2.7 relates to the first procurement exercise only. The procurement documents for each opportunity will specify the anticipated term for each opportunity.

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

21 June 2021

---

## 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

A market consultation document, with further background information, details about the process and a questionnaire for interested organisations to complete is available at <https://procontract.due-north.com/via> the messaging facility to request these documents on the chest

Please register your organisation's interest on e-tendering portal: <https://procontract.due-north.com/>. Instructions on how to register are located on the site.

The Accelerator Sprint Provider procurement will be part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund and Liverpool City Region Strategic Investment Fund.

In addition to the CPV codes specified in section II.1.2 and II.2.2, the following CPV codes are also relevant to this project:

73100000-3 Research and experimental development services.

73120000-9 Experimental development services.

73300000-5 Design and execution of research and development.

73420000-2 Pre-feasibility study & technological demonstration.

73430000-5 Test and Evaluation.

79411100-9 Business-development consultancy services.

79421000-1 Project-management services other than for construction work.

79421100-2 Project-supervision services other than for construction work.

79421200-3 Project-design services other than for construction work.



79990000-0 Miscellaneous business-related services.

79998000-6 Coaching services.

80510000-2 Specialist training services.

80521000-2 Training programme services.

80531000-5 Industrial and technical training services.