

This is a published notice on the Find a Tender service: <https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Notice/008672-2024>

Award

## **Provision of a Research Management System**

University of Leeds

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-008672

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-0449ef

Published 18 March 2024, 2:05pm

### **Section I: Contracting authority/entity**

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

University of Leeds

Purchasing Office, Woodhouse Lane

Leeds

LS2 9JT

#### **Email**

[CentralPurchasing@adm.leeds.ac.uk](mailto:CentralPurchasing@adm.leeds.ac.uk)

#### **Telephone**

+44 1133436987

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

#### **Region code**

UKE42 - Leeds

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<https://www.leeds.ac.uk/>

Buyer's address

<http://purchasing.leeds.ac.uk/>

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

Other type

University

**I.5) Main activity**

Education

---

## **Section II: Object**

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

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

Provision of a Research Management System

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

- 48100000 - Industry specific software package

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

Supplies

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

The proposed contract is for the supply and implementation of a commercial off the shelf SaaS Research Management System. The University's externally funded research grant portfolio is currently managed using an in-house developed, highly bespoke SAP application called KRISTAL, which reports via a bespoke SQL database using QlikView. The proposed contract hopes to modernise and simplify the pre and post-award IT applications landscape with a move to a cloud based solution removing legacy complex bespoke systems.

#### **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: £533,454

### **II.2) Description**

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

NUTS codes

- UKE42 - Leeds

Main site or place of performance

Leeds

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

The University's externally funded research grant portfolio is currently managed using an in-house developed, highly bespoke SAP application called KRISTAL, which reports via a bespoke SQL database using QlikView. The proposed contract hopes to modernise and simplify the pre and post-award IT applications landscape with a move to a cloud based solution removing complex bespoke legacy systems. Through the proposed SaaS system the University's Research and Innovation will implement improvements to the research administration systems and processes currently in place at the University of Leeds. Improving efficiency and sustainability by being able to better track the entire research life cycle and ensure that as much of the cost of research is recovered as possible.

## **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.2.14) Additional information**

The proposed contract is for the University to enter a contract with the selected Research Management System for 4 years.

---

## **Section IV. Procedure**

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

#### **IV.1.1) Type of procedure**

Negotiated without a prior call for competition

- The works, supplies or services can be provided only by a particular economic operator for the following reason:
  - absence of competition for technical reasons

Explanation:

Under Clause 32(b) (ii) of Public Contract Regulations 2015: Award of a contract without prior publication of a call for competition: (2) The negotiated procedure without prior

publication may be used for works contract, public supply contracts and public service contracts in any of the following cases: - (b) where the works, suppliers or services can be supplied only by a particular economic operator for any of the following reasons: - (ii) competition is absent for technical reasons Justification: A substantial options appraisal exercise has been carried out. This included investigation and soft market testing of thirteen potential solutions available in the market. Following the options appraisal, a number of reference site demos and knowledge sharing events were organised to learn from peer-group approach; this included Universities of Cambridge, Exeter, York, Edinburgh and UCL. Through this approach there is an evolving consensus that a Software as a Service (SaaS) solution will offer the best fit for the University of Leeds. The result of the market research and reference site demonstrations concluded Worktribe As the only option to emerge from the appraisal that can meet the University's requirements on a single SaaS solution, Worktribe's Research Management System is a fully integrated, end-to-end research management solution, currently used by 50 UK universities (including Russell Group Universities). We have identified the Pre-Award and Post-Award products of the research lifecycle to meet our needs. These will increase organisational efficiency and compliance through providing aligned and auditable workflows, which in turn provides a single source of truth for research grant data, which can be used across the organisation. Worktribe can securely share its information with other interdependent systems. The workflow and data management system will enable easy collaboration both between academic and professional service colleagues and within the academic and professional service areas.

#### **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**

### **Title**

Provision of a Research Management System

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

### **V.2) Award of contract/concession**

#### **V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract**

15 March 2024

#### **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**

WorkTribe Ltd

Engineers House, The Promenade, Clifton Down

Bristol

BS8 3NB

Email

[CentralPurchasing@adm.leeds.ac.uk](mailto:CentralPurchasing@adm.leeds.ac.uk)

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKE42 - Leeds

National registration number

04576074

Internet address

[www.Leeds.ac.uk](http://www.Leeds.ac.uk)

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

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

Initial estimated total value of the contract/lot/concession: £533,454

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £533,454

---

## **Section VI. Complementary information**

### **VI.3) Additional information**

To view this notice, please click here:

<https://neupc.delta-esourcing.com/delta/viewNotice.html?noticeId=843680835>

GO Reference: GO-2024318-PRO-25525551

### **VI.4) Procedures for review**

#### **VI.4.1) Review body**

University of Leeds

Woodhouse

Leeds

LS2 9JT

Email

[CentralPurchasing@adm.leeds.ac.uk](mailto:CentralPurchasing@adm.leeds.ac.uk)

Telephone

+44 1132431751

Country

United Kingdom

#### **VI.4.2) Body responsible for mediation procedures**

University of Leeds

Woodhouse

Leeds

LS2 9JT

Email

[CentralPurchasing@adm.leeds.ac.uk](mailto:CentralPurchasing@adm.leeds.ac.uk)

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

<http://www.leeds.ac.uk>

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

University of Leeds

Woodhouse

Leeds

LS2 9JT

Email

[CentralPurchasing@adm.leeds.ac.uk](mailto:CentralPurchasing@adm.leeds.ac.uk)

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

<http://www.leeds.ac.uk>