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Tender

Provision of Outsourced Catering Service

St Christopher's Multi Academy Trust

UK4: Tender notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2026/S 000-009240

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-0614e0

Published 3 February 2026, 8:51am

Scope

Reference

STC01.40

Description

This tender opportunity has been issued by St Christopher's Multi Academy Trust ("the Trust") and Tenderers are invited to tender for the provision of an Outsourced Catering Service (the Service"). The Contractor shall:

- a. work in partnership with the Trust, offering a service that is aligned to the vision, values and ethos of the Trust.
- b. operate a standard approach across schools, delivering an exemplary quality of service with a continuous drive in relation to uptake and participation, which ensures UIFSM and FSM reaches and stays >95%, offering innovative solutions and ideas.
- c. have appropriate processes and procedures in place for individuals with food allergens, medical and dietary requirements, religious cultural and SEND dietary requirements
- d. demonstrate a centralised contract management approach, including a robust complaints management policy that offers transparency and visibility of management information, KPI and financial performance.
- e. operate the contract in line with School Food Standards, British, International and EU standards & legislation, working with the Trust in compiling a nutritious and healthy menu offer.
- f. promote environmental and social sustainability in all aspects of the school meals

provision. g. provide signage and marketing for the service. h. implement a robust mobilisation plan for the contract that will demonstrate partnership working, is seamless and demonstrates due regard for risk with appropriate mitigation measures, including the responsibility for TUPE of existing staff.

Total value (estimated)

- £2,000,000 excluding VAT
- £2,400,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 September 2026 to 31 August 2029
- Possible extension to 31 August 2031
- 5 years

Description of possible extension:

2 further one year extensions

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 55524000 - School catering services

Contract locations

- IE053 - South-West

Participation

Legal and financial capacity conditions of participation

A financial appraisal will be based upon a credit check. Insurances a. Employer's (Compulsory) Liability Insurance* = [£10m] b. Public Liability Insurance = [£10m] c. Professional Indemnity Insurance = [£1m] d. Product Liability Insurance = [£1m]

Technical ability conditions of participation

Provide 3 relevant previous contract examples To constitute a pass, the contract examples provided shall be relevant to the requirement, with a sufficient level of detail that provides confidence in the Tenderer's established past experience in similar and relevant projects/contracts. The contracts must be within the education sector and similar complexity and working on more than one site within the contract.

Particular suitability

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

Submission

Enquiry deadline

30 March 2026, 12:00am

Tender submission deadline

30 March 2026, 12:00pm

Submission address and any special instructions

https://uk.eu-supply.com/app/rfq/rwlentrance_s.asp?PID=102112&TID100107334&B=

Tenders may be submitted electronically

Yes

Languages that may be used for submission

English

Award decision date (estimated)

26 May 2026

Recurring procurement

Publication date of next tender notice (estimated): 6 January 2031

Award criteria

Name	Type	Weighting
Guaranteed Position Approach Quality Assessment	Quality	20%
Guaranteed Position Assessment	Cost	20%
Proposed Service Model	Quality	12.5%
Menu Planning & Development	Quality	10%
Food Offering	Quality	7.5%
Allergy Management	Quality	7.5%
Service Model Case Study	Quality	5%
Contractor Staff	Quality	5%
Contract Management	Quality	5%
Account Management	Quality	2.5%
Contract Mobilisation & Risk Management	Quality	2.5%
Sustainability	Quality	2.5%

Other information

Payment terms

The Contractor shall operate the service efficiently and provide a commercial solution that offers best value to the Trust, proactively assessing where efficiencies can be made and discussing these and their cost benefits with the Trust. The Contractor shall submit invoices and associated documentation by email to the Trust finance team. Invoicing will be monthly, in arrears from the end of the previous month based on number of meals taken, agreed with the kitchen and school office on a daily basis. Where, during a monthly period, it has been identified, and agreed, that adjustments are required (in respect of service credits, additional works, errors or omissions), these will be taken account of within the invoice for the following month.

Description of risks to contract performance

Financial Inflation and Rising Costs: Food price inflation, energy bills, and wage increases. Caterers locked into long-term contracts may struggle to remain profitable, risking service quality or contract withdrawal. Staffing Challenges Recruitment Difficulties:

Shortages of skilled catering staff, especially in rural or low-income areas. Difficulty attracting and retaining staff due to limited pay and benefits. Training Gaps: Inadequate training in food safety, allergens, and safeguarding can lead to compliance issues. Reputational and Compliance Risks Non-compliance with School Food Standards can result in reputational damage and regulatory scrutiny. Non-compliance with the tender specification or compliance requirement

Applicable trade agreements

- Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Open procedure

Justification for not publishing a preliminary market engagement notice

The justification is that the requirements are not complex, or niche and the Contracting Authority already has an understanding of what they want the service to deliver and the market is known.

Contracting authority

St Christopher's Multi Academy Trust

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PVZV-9156-DNTY

St Leonards Road

Exeter

EX2 4NQ

United Kingdom

Contact name: Julia Croughton

Email: julia.croughton@stcmat.org

Region: UKK43 - Devon CC

Organisation type: Public authority - central government

Other organisation

These organisations are carrying out the procurement, or part of it, on behalf of the contracting authorities.

PHP Law LLP

Summary of their role in this procurement: Tender Process Support

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PPRM-9434-VNYQ

Unit 3 The Brutus Centre Station Road Totnes

Totnes

TQ9 5RW

United Kingdom

Contact name: James Medforth

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Region: UKK43 - Devon CC

Contact organisation

Contact PHP Law LLP for any enquiries.