

This is a published notice on the Find a Tender service: <https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Notice/010177-2024>

Award

## **Electronic Marking System**

Scottish Qualifications Authority

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-010177

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-044dec

Published 28 March 2024, 9:19am

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

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

Scottish Qualifications Authority

Lowden, 24 Wester Shawfair, Dalkeith

Midlothian

EH22 1FD

#### **Email**

[procurement@sqa.org.uk](mailto:procurement@sqa.org.uk)

#### **Telephone**

+44 03452136720

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

#### **NUTS code**

UKM73 - East Lothian and Midlothian

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<http://www.sqa.org.uk>

Buyer's address

[https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/search/Search\\_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA00386](https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/search/Search_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA00386)

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

Other type

NDPB

**I.5) Main activity**

Education

---

**Section II: Object**

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

**II.1.1) Title**

Electronic Marking System

Reference number

SQA2092

**II.1.2) Main CPV code**

- 48000000 - Software package and information systems

**II.1.3) Type of contract**

Supplies

**II.1.4) Short description**

Extension to current Electronic Marking System

#### **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: £4,200,000

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

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

- 48000000 - Software package and information systems

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

NUTS codes

- UKM73 - East Lothian and Midlothian

Main site or place of performance

Scottish Qualifications Authority

The Optima Building, 58 Robertson Street, Glasgow G2 8DQ &

Lowden, 24 Wester Shawfair. Dalkeith, Midlothian EH22 1FD

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

Extension to SQA's current Electronic Marking System contract, required to their regulated duties as an awarding body

#### **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

---

## Section IV. Procedure

### IV.1) Description

#### IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Award of a contract without prior publication of a call for competition in the cases listed below

- The procurement falls outside the scope of application of the regulations

Explanation:

In June 2021 it was announced that that SQA was to be replaced and the subsequent announcement of the Independent Review of Qualifications and Assessment (Hayward Review) has meant that SQA's focus has been on maintaining risk free service delivery during the last 3 years of uncertainty, given multiple changes to our delivery model in that time.

The outcomes of the Independent Review of Qualifications and Assessment (Hayward Review) could potentially have a significant impact on both the nature and volume of marking. Continued uncertainty on the outcomes from Hayward have hindered our ability to futureproof any contractual requirement at the key point at which we should have been redefining the marking model to inform a full tender exercise.

With SQA being replaced, and the date for the new body not yet confirmed, late 2025 is the estimated timeline for the new body, SQA is required to consider the most appropriate approach to ensuring a continuity of functionality and a smooth continuation of the delivery of the National Qualifications diet. SQA is proposing to extend its current contract for an EMarking System for a further period of 2 years. The current contract is due to expire on the 28th February 2025. This 2-year extension will take the contract to the 28th February 2027 and allow for a period of discovery and planning for a future direction of e-marking, aligning well with the ongoing work related to the wider Education Reform programme (to which SQA has already committed) to review both the portfolio of qualifications and the methods of assessment.

SQA will during 2024 issue a Prior Information Notice to engage with market place on SQA's direction of travel with this service. This will happen once the outcomes of Hayward and the Education reform programme become clearer.

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

## **IV.2) Administrative information**

### **IV.2.1) Previous publication concerning this procedure**

Notice number: [2017/S 250-520742](#)

---

## **Section V. Award of contract/concession**

### **Contract No**

SQA2092

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

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

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

29 November 2018

#### **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**

RM Education Ltd

140 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park

Abingdon

OX14 4SB

Telephone

+44 8450700300

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

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

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £4,200,000

---

## **Section VI. Complementary information**

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

SQA will during 2024, issue a Prior Information Notice to engage with the market place on SQA's direction of travel with this service. This will happen once the outcomes of Hayward and the Education reform programme become clearer.

(SC Ref:757449)

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

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

Glasgow Sheriif Court

Glasgow

Country

United Kingdom