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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

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

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