

This is a published notice on the Find a Tender service: <https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Notice/010890-2021>

Planning

## **Market Engagement Activity- suppliers and manufacturers of 'rekenrek style' abacuses**

Department for Education

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2021/S 000-010890

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-02b1fb

Published 17 May 2021, 10:55pm

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

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

Department for Education

Sanctuary Buildings, 20, Great Smith Street

London

SW1P 3BT

#### **Email**

[maths.programme@education.gov.uk](mailto:maths.programme@education.gov.uk)

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

#### **NUTS code**

UK - United Kingdom

## **Internet address(es)**

Main address

<https://education.app.iaggaer.com>

## **I.2) Information about joint procurement**

The contract is awarded by a central purchasing body

## **I.3) Communication**

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Electronic communication requires the use of tools and devices that are not generally available. Unrestricted and full direct access to these tools and devices is possible, free of charge, at

<https://education.app.iaggaer.com>

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

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

## **I.5) Main activity**

Education

---

## Section II: Object

### II.1) Scope of the procurement

#### II.1.1) Title

Market Engagement Activity- suppliers and manufacturers of 'rekenrek style' abacuses

#### II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 39162000 - Educational equipment

#### II.1.3) Type of contract

Supplies

#### II.1.4) Short description

The purpose of this PIN is to initiate market engagement. It is not being used as a call for competition. The PIN is intended as an information-gathering exercise. This PIN is intended to:

- Explore whether there are organisations who can manufacture and supply and/or distribute 'rekenrek' style abacuses that can also demonstrate a low carbon footprint, ethical resourcing and value for money.
- We are interested in suppliers/ manufacturers who could commit to and have the capacity to deliver up to 360,000 abacuses to up to 6,000 schools in England from September 2021.
- The Department is particularly interested in limiting environmental impact and will be looking for responses which also demonstrate a low carbon footprint.

Specification for the rekenrek style abacus:

- Size of the frame: Approx: 25-30cm wide
- Material: Wood or robust plastic with metal rod for the beads. Frame colour unimportant.
- Must have two rows, each consisting of five red and five white beads (it is important that red beads come before white beads)
- Beads must be 0.8-1.5cm wide. Ideally beads should be of the flat type rather than fully round as young children find these easier to move.

There must be 20 beads in total.

- **Function:** It should be easy to tip back and forth so that beads easily slide across when tipped.
- **Safety:** They must be suitable for a child of 4 years old and accredited with the EU safety CE marking and BSI Kite Mark.

Background:

As part of our efforts to support numeracy development in schools, we are exploring the potential use of a specific abacus.

The expected timeline for this would be for delivery of abacuses to commence in September 2021. To meet this limited delivery timeframe, we are asking for responses from manufacturers/ suppliers that confirm that they have the capability and the capacity to deliver by 17:00 GMT on Friday 21 May. We will then seek further information from those companies who contact us.

Manufacturers and suppliers who can respond positively to the criteria should contact the following email address by 17:00 GMT on Friday 21 May-  
[maths.programme@education.gov.uk](mailto:maths.programme@education.gov.uk).

This notice is a zero value PIN for early market engagement. It is for information only and is not a call for competition. The Department for Education reserves the right not to enter a formal procurement process and not proceed with contract award.

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

This contract is divided into lots: No

## **II.2) Description**

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

- 80000000 - Education and training services

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

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

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

This PIN is intended to:

Explore whether there are organisations who can manufacture and supply and/or distribute 'rekenrek' style abacuses that can also demonstrate a low carbon footprint, ethical resourcing practises and value for money.

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

Manufacturers and suppliers who can respond positively to the criteria should contact the following email address by 17:00 GMT on Friday 21 May-  
[maths.programme@education.gov.uk](mailto:maths.programme@education.gov.uk).

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

30 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: Yes