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Planning

Glow Blogs Hosting and Support Services

Education Scotland

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-011392

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04508d

Published 9 April 2024, 10:03am

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Education Scotland

Denholm House, Almondvale Business Park

Livingston

EH54 6GA

Email

EdSProcurement@educationscotland.gov.scot

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKM - Scotland

Internet address(es)

Main address

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/>

Buyer's address

https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/search/Search_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA11402

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

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.5) Main activity

Education

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Glow Blogs Hosting and Support Services

Reference number

EDUC#670

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 72000000 - IT services: consulting, software development, Internet and support

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

Provision of Glow Blogs Hosting and Support Services to Education Scotland

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 72000000 - IT services: consulting, software development, Internet and support

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKM - Scotland

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Education Scotland has a requirement to place a contract with an external Service Provider for ongoing support and development of the Glow Blogs service. Glow is Scotland's national digital environment that offers a number of different services to support learning and teaching across the curriculum.

Glow Blogs is a service that is available to all Glow users to allow them to create, manage and host websites. It is currently a fully managed WordPress multisite environment which resides on an AWS infrastructure. There are around 60,000 sites (blogs) in the environment and an average of 1,500,000 monthly page views. These sites may, for example, be private and used by learners recording their work or be public for schools to share resources. The service offers users a selection of themes and plugins that have educational value and these must be kept up to date and sometimes customised with factors such as safeguarding in mind.

The AWS infrastructure has provided a high level of reliability and was designed to be flexible with features such as auto-scaling used. A high level of reliability and flexibility is required due to ever changing user requirements, including but not limited to, an increase in remote working. The WordPress application provides a selection of themes and plugins that provide functionality based on user requirements. Both the infrastructure and application continue to be improved by taking an Agile approach to development and making changes based on user stories.

It is expected that any potential Service Provider would have sufficient technical knowledge and an understanding of how such a service should be best provided and maintained. It is anticipated that the current offering of Glow Blogs through a WordPress multisite hosted in AWS will continue to be how the service is provided.

Potential Service Providers must note that the information provided as part of this process will be used as background to the procurement strategy and tender documents for the requirement only.

This process will be undertaken entirely on a without commitment basis and no undertaking is given that any potential Service Provider will be included in the tender process. Submitted questionnaires shall not be evaluated or scored and shall be excluded from evaluation at the tender stage. Please note that at this stage we are not issuing any additional documents to describe the requirement. All tender documentation shall be available at the next stage of the procurement process.

Interested Service Providers are asked to complete the Market Engagement questionnaire. Responses are requested by Friday 03 May 2024.

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

1 August 2024

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

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

Education Scotland will be managing the procurement process under the call-off conditions of the Scottish Government Digital Technology and Cyber Services Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS). Accordingly, potential Service Providers must be successfully appointed to the DPS at the point of tender to be eligible to participate. A link to further information on the Digital Technology and Cyber Services DPS, including the Suppliers Guide and a copy of the Contract Notice is contained in the Market Engagement Questionnaire.

Please send your completed Market Engagement Questionnaire response to edsprocurement@educationscotland.gov.scot by 5:00pm on Friday 03 May 2024.

NOTE: To register your interest in this notice and obtain any additional information please visit the Public Contracts Scotland Web Site at https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/Search/Search_Switch.aspx?ID=762791.

(SC Ref:762791)