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Tender

(NU/1866) Network Infrastructure Refresh Project

Newcastle University

F02: Contract notice

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-012709

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-0399df

Published 3 May 2023, 4:49pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Newcastle University

Newcastle University, Procurement Services, Kingsgate

Newcastle

NE1 7RU

Contact

Mr Dave Anderson

Email

dave.anderson@ncl.ac.uk

Telephone

+44 1912085360

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKC22 - Tyneside

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.ncl.ac.uk>

Buyer's address

<https://www.ncl.ac.uk>

I.3) Communication

The procurement documents are available for unrestricted and full direct access, free of charge, at

<https://procontract.due-north.com/Advert/Index?advertId=9ee90145-16e5-ed11-8121-005056b64545>

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted electronically via

<https://procontract.due-north.com/Advert/Index?advertId=9ee90145-16e5-ed11-8121-005056b64545>

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

(NU/1866) Network Infrastructure Refresh Project

Reference number

DN652647

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 32400000 - Networks

II.1.3) Type of contract

Supplies

II.1.4) Short description

Newcastle University's IT Network is the enabler for all the IT Services which underpin Newcastle's critical business functions, teaching, and research.

The existing network infrastructure has been in place for nine years and has reached the end of its supportable life. This, coupled with the incumbent supplier Huawei pulling out of the UK market and the University's need to improve its cyber security posture, has led to the need to replace all wired and wireless networking infrastructure across campus, satellite sites, NUMed (Malaysia) and NewRIIS (Singapore).

The University increasingly depends on its network infrastructure for business-critical activities driven by increasing numbers of digital services and data growth generated through teaching, learning and research activities.

The University demands a modern, fit for purpose network with up-to-date security controls in line with industry best practice and leveraging cloud and artificial intelligence (AI) to meet the University's existing needs while providing agility to meet the future demand, capacity, and innovation to underpin the needs of the "Campus of the Future." The upgrading of the University's IT network is an essential step to manage Newcastle University's cyber security risk.

As well as replacing the network infrastructure ('hardware') the University needs to replace

the underpinning network services ('software') to provide deeper integration into the network management tools, enabling monitoring, visibility, automation, enhancements to service reliability and cyber security.

The replacement network will support the University's digital aspirations and strategies, be easier to upgrade in the future and therefore provide a lower incremental upgrade cost and, consequently, mitigate the peril of having to replace the network in a 'big bang' project like this again.

The University is using the Competitive Procedure with Negotiation to appoint a single partner/integrator.

The successful supplier will need to provide a solution to deliver the following high level business case requirements:

- Re-design and transformation of the Newcastle University network
- Hardware replacement, core network, campus and switch estate
- Wi Fi modernisation, replacement and transformation of existing solution
- Cyber security re design and resilient future proofed solution
- New network tools maximising and automating standard processes
- Support and maintenance

The University invites interested candidates to participate in an initial prequalification stage, from which a maximum of five will be selected to participate in a tender process. This can be accessed here:

<https://procontract.duenorth.com/Advert/Index?advertId=9ee90145-16e5-ed11-8121-005056b64545>

The contract reference is NU/1866.

The deadline for submitting your prequalification stage response is 16:00 BST on Friday 2nd June 2023

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 50312300 - Maintenance and repair of data network equipment
- 72315100 - Data network support services
- 72315200 - Data network management services
- 72511000 - Network management software services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKC22 - Tyneside

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

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As well as replacing the network infrastructure ('hardware') the University needs to replace the underpinning network services ('software') to provide deeper integration into the network management tools, enabling monitoring, visibility, automation, enhancements to service reliability and cyber security.

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The contract reference is NU/1866.

The deadline for submitting your prequalification stage response is 16:00 BST on Friday 2nd June 2023

II.2.5) Award criteria

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system

Duration in months

120

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

The contract will be for a period of six years (72 months) initially, with an option to extend for four years (at two-year intervals) by mutual agreement.

II.2.9) Information about the limits on the number of candidates to be invited

Maximum number: 5

II.2.10) Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: No

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of options

The contract will be for a period of six years initially, with an option to extend for four years (at two-year intervals) by mutual agreement.

II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

II.2.14) Additional information

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Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Competitive procedure with negotiation

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: [2023/S 000-002053](#)

IV.2.2) Time limit for receipt of tenders or requests to participate

Date

2 June 2023

Local time

4:00pm

IV.2.3) Estimated date of dispatch of invitations to tender or to participate to selected candidates

22 June 2023

IV.2.4) Languages in which tenders or requests to participate may be submitted

English

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.1) Information about recurrence

This is a recurrent procurement: No

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Newcastle University

King's Gate

Newcastle upon Tyne

NE1 7RU

Country

United Kingdom

VI.4.3) Review procedure

Precise information on deadline(s) for review procedures

The University will incorporate a standstill period at the point information on the award of the contract is communicated to tenderers. That notification will provide full information on the award decision. The standstill period, which will be for a minimum of 10 calendar days, provides time for unsuccessful tenderers to challenge the award decision before the contract is entered into.

The Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (SI 2015 No 102) provide for aggrieved parties who have been harmed or are at risk of harm by a breach of the rules to take action in the High Court (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) within 30 days of knowledge or constructive knowledge of breach.