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Contract

Rehosting Partner for Stanage Data Centre

UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-013347

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04fdf2

Published 7 April 2025, 11:50am

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

Firth Court, Western Bank

Sheffield

S102TN

Contact

Savio Arinda

Email

s.t.arinda@sheffield.ac.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKE32 - Sheffield

Companies House

RC000667

Internet address(es)

Main address

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

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

Rehosting Partner for Stanage Data Centre

Reference number

4346.IT.STA.24

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 72317000 - Data storage services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

As a result of growing demand for data storage to support existing and new research projects, the University has concluded an exercise to identify a suitable data centre

partner to provide reliable hosting services and expanded hosting capacity. This requirement was fulfilled under the NHSSBS Digital Workplace Solutions Framework Agreement.

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: £2,939,429.59

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 72514000 - Computer facilities management services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKD - North West (England)

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The University has identified a supplier for the provision of secure, scalable data storage and hosting services as well as the ability to provide ad hoc services as needed. The selected supplier was awarded through the NHSSBS Digital Workplace Services Framework Agreement.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Price

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: 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

- New works/services, constituting a repetition of existing works/services

Explanation:

The decision to award this contract is lawful as it was carried out through the NHS SBS Digital Workplace Framework an established, fully PCR-compliant route. This framework permits direct awards to approved suppliers, and Softcat was selected from the list of awarded suppliers. Using this framework allowed us to act quickly and efficiently, without the delays and risks associated with running a full open tender. Given the scale and urgency of the project, as well as the pre-existing relationship with both Softcat and the incumbent hosting provider, this route ensured best value and full legal compliance.

Maintaining continuity with our existing supplier was critical. The data centre supports vital research infrastructure, and any disruption could have seriously impacted ongoing academic and critical research activities. Moving to a new provider would have meant relocating sensitive equipment, a process made even more challenging by the current state of the ageing cabling, which poses risks of downtime or failure during a move. The incumbent supplier not only offered continuity and familiarity but also responded to our new requirement for expanded hosting capacity by offering additional space within the data centre. This, along with favourable discounted rates and an aligned approach to the university's long-term objectives, made staying with the current supplier the most practical and value-driven choice.

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: No

Section V. Award of contract

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

27 March 2025

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 1

The contract has been awarded to a group of economic operators: No

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

Softcat PLC

Marlow

SL7 1LW

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKJ1 - Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire

Companies House

02174990

The contractor is an SME

No

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

Total value of the contract/lot: £2,939,429.59

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

This is an estimated value over the duration of the contract. Due to the nature of the services, the actual spend over this period could be either lower or higher than this.

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

The University of Sheffield

Sheffield

Country

United Kingdom