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Contract

Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Equipment for Studio Ulster

University of Ulster

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-013940

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04044c

Published 30 April 2024, 4:21pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

University of Ulster

Block X Room X031, Cromore Road

Coleraine

BT52 1SA

Email

a.todd@ulster.ac.uk

Telephone

+44 2870124515

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKN0 - Northern Ireland

Internet address(es)

Main address

www.ulster.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

Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Equipment for Studio Ulster

Reference number

project_27819

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 32000000 - Radio, television, communication, telecommunication and related equipment

II.1.3) Type of contract

Supplies

II.1.4) Short description

Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Equipment for Studio Ulster

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: £19,954,122.42

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 32200000 - Transmission apparatus for radiotelephony, radiotelegraphy, radio broadcasting and television
- 32210000 - Broadcasting equipment
- 32220000 - Television transmission apparatus without reception apparatus
- 32230000 - Radio transmission apparatus with reception apparatus
- 32240000 - Television cameras
- 32260000 - Data-transmission equipment
- 32270000 - Digital transmission apparatus
- 32300000 - Television and radio receivers, and sound or video recording or reproducing apparatus
- 32310000 - Radio broadcast receivers
- 32320000 - Television and audio-visual equipment
- 32330000 - Apparatus for sound, video-recording and reproduction
- 32340000 - Microphones and loudspeakers
- 32350000 - Parts of sound and video equipment
- 32400000 - Networks
- 32410000 - Local area network
- 32420000 - Network equipment
- 32430000 - Wide area network
- 32500000 - Telecommunications equipment and supplies
- 32510000 - Wireless telecommunications system
- 32520000 - Telecommunications cable and equipment
- 32530000 - Satellite-related communications equipment

- 32550000 - Telephone equipment
- 32560000 - Fibre-optic materials
- 32570000 - Communications equipment
- 32580000 - Data equipment
- 38651100 - Camera lenses
- 38651200 - Camera bodies
- 38651400 - Instant print cameras
- 38651500 - Cinematographic cameras
- 38651600 - Digital cameras
- 38653400 - Projection screens
- 38810000 - Industrial process control equipment
- 39113000 - Miscellaneous seats and chairs
- 39121000 - Desks and tables
- 39122000 - Cupboards and bookcases
- 39134100 - Computer tables
- 39156000 - Lounge and reception-area furniture
- 39294100 - Information and promotion products
- 48210000 - Networking software package
- 48220000 - Internet and intranet software package
- 48311100 - Document management system
- 48318000 - Scanner software package
- 48331000 - Project management software package
- 48332000 - Scheduling software package
- 48333000 - Contact management software package
- 48520000 - Multimedia software package
- 48710000 - Backup or recovery software package

- 48720000 - Bar coding software package
- 48730000 - Security software package
- 48750000 - Storage media loading software package
- 48760000 - Virus protection software package
- 48770000 - General, compression and print utility software package
- 48780000 - System, storage and content management software package
- 48790000 - Version checker software package
- 48810000 - Information systems
- 48820000 - Servers
- 48910000 - Computer game software package, family titles and screen savers
- 48920000 - Office automation software package
- 50340000 - Repair and maintenance services of audio-visual and optical equipment
- 51610000 - Installation services of computers and information-processing equipment
- 51620000 - Installation services of office equipment
- 72000000 - IT services: consulting, software development, Internet and support
- 72100000 - Hardware consultancy services
- 72200000 - Software programming and consultancy services
- 72500000 - Computer-related services
- 72600000 - Computer support and consultancy services
- 72800000 - Computer audit and testing services
- 80300000 - Higher education services
- 80500000 - Training services
- 92224000 - Digital television
- 92225100 - Film-on-demand television
- 92226000 - Teleprogramming
- 92370000 - Sound technician

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKN0 - Northern Ireland

Main site or place of performance

North Foreshore Film Studios, Giant's Park, Belfast

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The Vision for Studio Ulster (SU) is to be a leading Commercial Centre of Excellence in Virtual Production ("VP") in the UK and Ireland and to establish a 'Tier 1' Centre of

Excellence in Research and Development and Innovation (R&D&I), in Real-time and Virtual Production, a rapidly developing suite of technologies and methodologies for screen content production.

Located on the North Foreshore in Belfast, the development of SU in conjunction with the Belfast Harbour Film Studio complex creates a unique blend of facilities, that will drive commercial activity and collaboration in R&D on an unprecedented scale involving all strands of production and technology professionals involved in the virtual production, film, broadcast, animation, games, VFX and immersive sectors.

The successful appointed tenderer will develop technical proposals for the

equipment allowing SUL to deliver on the final Business Plan objectives. The design

solutions presented shall be based on the successful tenderer's IP and best practices from experience to date in the VP sector.

SU is a fully funded project, with Contracts for Funding executed and all associated legal agreements with Belfast Harbour in place. The project benefits from £25.2m (£21m excluding VAT) through BRCD, both contributions to support the initial development of the SU VP studio and to part-fund life cycle replacement costs for the specialist VP equipment, within the first 10 years of operation. Ulster University has committed £3.6million from its own funds and has secured a further £2.9m from the UK Levelling Up Fund. These sums represent the total scale of the SUL investment, inclusive of miscellaneous costs for items outside of this Competition (loose

furniture, fees, marketing, branding etc.).

The successful tenderer will develop the design, procure, deliver, install, test and

commission the specialist equipment and provide all necessary training to SUL in the operation of the equipment.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Cost criterion - Name: Contractor Credentials / Weighting: 15

Cost criterion - Name: Strategy & Operations / Weighting: 40

Cost criterion - Name: Commercial / Weighting: 35

Cost criterion - Name: Social value / Weighting: 10

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of options

The final contract includes the requirement for all planned maintenance of the Equipment for a minimum 3-year period from the date of handover to the Client. This will include the provision of all necessary spares / replacement parts and consumables as required.

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

Competitive dialogue

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 000-028546](#)

Section V. Award of contract

Contract No

project_27819

Title

Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Equipment for Studio Ulster

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

18 April 2024

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 3

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

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

NantStudios, LLC

2040 E. Mariposa Avenue, El Segundo, CA 90245

California

Country

United States

NUTS code

- US - United States

The contractor is an SME

No

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

Total value of the contract/lot: £19,954,122.42

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

Please note that a Corrigendum Notice was published (FTS ref: 2023/S 000-028557) which amended the estimated total value in Section II.1.5 of the contract notice from £2,000,000 to £20,000,000.

The quantities, which it is anticipated will be required under this Contract, was set out in the final tender stage of the competition within the Commercial Submission. This information was given for the guidance of the tenderers and was not deemed to be a condition of the Contract or a guarantee of minimum demand or uptake. No compensation will be payable to the successful tenderer should the actual demand be less than that stated.

Further, the delivery of service as to be provided by the successful tenderer is demand-led. Changes which may affect the demand may include but are not limited to, technological upgrades/changes within the virtual production marketplace. Such changes may result in unanticipated workload growth which is higher than the levels accounted for within the tender competition. To be able to offer continuing service delivery as provided for by this tender competition the University reserves the right to commission additional

product volumes over the life of the contract period, including any extension period(s) if utilised. Any steps taken by the University in this regard will be done in compliance with Regulation 72 of the Public Contract Regulations 2015 (as amended).

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

High Court of Justice in Northern Ireland

Royal Courts of Justice, Chichester Street

Belfast

BT1 3JY

Country

United Kingdom

VI.4.3) Review procedure

Precise information on deadline(s) for review procedures

Ulster University incorporated a standstill period at the point information on the award of the contract was communicated to tenderers. The standstill period, which was for a minimum of 10 calendar days, provided time for unsuccessful tenderers to challenge the award decision before the contract was entered into. The Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as amended) 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 (Northern Ireland).