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Tender

Embark - Outsource Catering Service

Embark Federation

UK4: Tender notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2026/S 000-015007

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-065794

Published 18 February 2026, 8:00pm

Scope

Reference

EBMAT01.48

Description

The Trust is seeking an outsourced Catering Service to provide a high-quality service and school meal, whilst delivering value for money for the school, parents and pupils using the Services. The tender is for primary and secondary schools however further schools may join the contract as the Trust grows.

Total value (estimated)

- £3,500,000 excluding VAT
- £4,200,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 September 2026 to 31 August 2029
- Possible extension to 31 August 2031
- 5 years

Description of possible extension:

Two further 1 year extensions (3+1+1)

Options

The right to additional purchases while the contract is valid.

To include schools who join the Trust and associated services

Main procurement category

Services

Additional procurement category

Goods

CPV classifications

- 55524000 - School catering services
- 55520000 - Catering services

Contract locations

- UKF - East Midlands (England)

Participation

Legal and financial capacity conditions of participation

A financial appraisal will be based upon a credit check. Insurances Employer Liability £10m Public Liability - £10m Product Liability - £2m

Technical ability conditions of participation

Provide 3 relevant previous contract examples To constitute a pass, the contract examples provided shall be relevant to the requirement, with a sufficient level of detail that provides confidence in the Tenderer's established past experience in similar and relevant projects/contracts. The contracts must be within the education sector and similar complexity and working on more than one site within the contract. My Checklist The checklist is here to help you finalize the notice. Click the Validate-button below to generate your checklist. Validate Europe/London

Particular suitability

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

Submission

Enquiry deadline

2 April 2026, 12:00pm

Tender submission deadline

2 April 2026, 12:00pm

Submission address and any special instructions

https://uk.eu-supply.com/app/rfq/rwlentrance_s.asp?PID=102966&TID100108173&B=

Tenders may be submitted electronically

Yes

Languages that may be used for submission

English

Award decision date (estimated)

7 May 2026

Recurring procurement

Publication date of next tender notice (estimated): 1 January 2031

Award criteria

Name	Type	Weighting
Guaranteed Position Assessment	Cost	30.0%
Proposed Service Model	Quality	12.5%
Menu Planning & Development	Quality	10.0%
Guaranteed	Cost	10.0%
Food Offering	Quality	7.5%
Allergy Management	Quality	7.5%
Service Model Case Study	Quality	5.0%
Contractor Staff	Quality	5.0%
Contract Management	Quality	5.0%
Account Management	Quality	2.5%
Contract Mobilisation & Risk Management	Quality	2.5%
Sustainability	Quality	2.5%

Other information

Payment terms

One invoice per month Invoicing for UIFSM & FSM based on actual meals taken, broken down by school

Description of risks to contract performance

Financial Inflation and Rising Costs: Food price inflation, energy bills, and wage increases. Caterers locked into long-term contracts may struggle to remain profitable, risking service quality or contract withdrawal. Staffing Challenges Recruitment Difficulties: Shortages of skilled catering staff, especially in rural or low-income areas. Difficulty attracting and retaining staff due to limited pay and benefits. Training Gaps: Inadequate training in food safety, allergens, and safeguarding can lead to compliance issues. Reputational and Compliance Risks Non-compliance with School Food Standards can result in reputational damage and regulatory scrutiny. Non-compliance with the tender

specification or compliance requirement

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Open procedure

Justification for not publishing a preliminary market engagement notice

The requirements are not complex, or niche and the Contracting Authority already has an understanding of what they want the service to deliver and the market is known.

Contracting authority

Embark Federation

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PYLY-4964-TXGH

University of Derby Kedleston Road

Derby

DE22 1GB

United Kingdom

Contact name: Richard Mansfield

Email: richard.mansfield@embarkfed.org.uk

Region: UKF11 - Derby

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government

Other organisation

These organisations are carrying out the procurement, or part of it, on behalf of the contracting authorities.

PHP Law LLP

Summary of their role in this procurement: Procurement Consultant

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PPRM-9434-VNYQ

Unit 3 The Brutus Centre Station Road Totnes

Totnes

TQ9 5RW

United Kingdom

Contact name: Claire Jones

Email: claire.jones@phplaw.co.uk

Region: UKK43 - Devon CC

Contact organisation

Contact [PHP Law LLP](#) for any enquiries.