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Award

DSD Medical Support Services

Department for Communities formerly the Department for Social Development DSD

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2021/S 000-015124

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-02c288

Published 1 July 2021, 4:55pm

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

Department for Communities formerly the Department for Social Development DSD

Causeway Exchange, 1-7 Bedford Street

BELFAST

BT32 7EG

Email

healthtransformation@communities-ni.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

www.communities-ni.gov.uk

Buyer's address

<https://etendersni.gov.uk/epps>

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.5) Main activity

Health

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

DSD Medical Support Services

Reference number

Project 71

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 85000000 - Health and social work services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

Further to the VEAT notice issued on 10 July 2020, REF. NO 2020/S 135-333759, DfC shall enter into a Contract Variation of the Medical Support Service Contract with the incumbent supplier following a period of 10 days from the date of publication of this notice in accordance with Regulation 72(1)(c). The Contract Variation provides for an extension of two (2) years from 01.08.2021 - 31.07.2023.

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: £82,250,208

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 72000000 - IT services: consulting, software development, Internet and support
- 75000000 - Administration, defence and social security services
- 75313000 - Disability benefits

- 75313100 - Temporary disablement benefits
- 75311000 - Sickness benefits

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKN - Northern Ireland

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Continuation of the provision of work capability assessment services in Northern Ireland.

For full details of the nature of the services please see OJEU 2007/S 063-077231.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Medical personnel / Weighting: 15

Quality criterion - Name: Service quality / Weighting: 25

Quality criterion - Name: Transition and service / Weighting: 10

Quality criterion - Name: IS/IT solutions / Weighting: 10

Quality criterion - Name: Legal and contractual / Weighting: 10

Quality criterion - Name: Properties / Weighting: 5

Cost criterion - Name: Financial / Weighting: 25

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: No

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

Award of a contract without prior publication of a call for competition in the cases listed below

- The procurement falls outside the scope of application of the regulations

Explanation:

Award of a contract without prior publication of a call for competition in the Official Journal of the European Union in the cases listed below

- The procurement falls outside the scope of application of the directive

Explanation:

On 5 March 2020, DWP published a PIN signalling its intent to re-procure its Health and Disability Assessment Services contract for the provision of Work Capability Assessment services in England, Scotland and Wales. The Department for Communities agreed to join the procurement with Northern Ireland constituting a separate Lot. The re-procurement of the HDAS Contract was in accordance with Section 7 of the PCR 2015. However, the Covid-19 pandemic began impacting on the UK, in particular for the Department, impacting both the delivery of health assessment services, and the planned launch of the procurement. The continuation of the provision of services under the current contract over a period of 2 years has become necessary.

Regulation 72(1)(c) PCR allows:

(i) The need for modification has been brought about by circumstances which a “diligent contracting authority” could not have foreseen. Covid-19 is a unique event whose impact could not have been foreseen; and

(ii) The modification does not alter the overall nature of the contract; The services to be provided by the incumbent will remain consistent and there will be no alteration to the overall nature of the Contract, and.

(iii) The modification does not exceed 50 % of the original contract value.

The price to be paid for the extended period of the Contract does not exceed 50 % of the original value of the Contract, and

(iv) DfC will publish a Modification Notice pursuant to Regulation 72(3) of PCR. Please see Section VI.3 for additional information.

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: [2007/S 063-077231](#)

Section V. Award of contract/concession

Contract No

Project 71

Title

DSD Medical Support Services

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract/concession

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

31 December 2010

V.2.2) Information about tenders

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

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire

Atos Origin IT Services Ltd

London

Email

john.keir@atos.net

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://atos.net/en/>

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

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

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £19,997,162

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

The impact of Covid-19 on health assessment services has been, and continues to be significant. DfC had to act quickly to implement a number of changes to service delivery, both to ensure the health and wellbeing of the public, its own employees and health assessment provider staff, and in response to the effect of the pandemic on the capacity of DfC and its assessment provider to deliver health assessment services. These changes included the temporary suspension of face to face assessments, and the introduction of telephony based assessments. The changes implemented to date, combined with the effect of two waves of the pandemic in the past year and the potential impacts of an impending third wave and possible further waves continue to be challenges to DfC's efforts to stabilise the service in advance of any procurement. Given that Work Capability Assessments (WCA) undertaken as part of the Contract Services support critical statutory welfare benefits catering for vulnerable people, a gap in service provision is not an option. DfC has therefore concluded that extending the existing MSS Contract for up to 2 years is the best option for: (i) stabilising Work Capability Assessment services, (ii) ensuring a continuous service for these complex and vitally important services, which support delivery of statutory welfare benefits to vulnerable claimants each year and (iii) allowing DfC to fully understand and evaluate the impacts of Covid-19 ahead of any future procurements or decisions on service delivery. DfC will continue to implement steps to secure further efficiencies and service improvements in the way that the existing Contract is currently delivered and in particular throughout the extension period and will monitor performance in order to demonstrate value for money. DfC, partnering with DWP, intends to continue engaging with the market to discuss the future transition of Work Capability Assessment services and the future of health assessments more broadly. DfC will build in periodic reviews (4-6 monthly) to identify whether longer or shorter extensions than 24 months are needed.

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Official name: The UK does not have any such bodies with responsibility for appeal/mediation procedures.

Belfast

Country

United Kingdom