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Award

CBMDC 466 - Northgate Cloud Hosting Solution

Bradford Metropolitan District Council

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2021/S 000-015308

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-02c33f

Published 5 July 2021, 9:39am

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

Bradford Metropolitan District Council

Britannia House, Hall Ings

Bradford

BD1 1HX

Contact

Mrs Catherine Mullins

Email

catherine.mullins@bradford.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKE - Yorkshire and the Humber

Internet address(es)

Main address

<http://www.bradford.gov.uk/bmdc>

Buyer's address

<http://www.bradford.gov.uk/bmdc>

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Regional or local authority

I.5) Main activity

Other activity

IT Services

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

CBMDC 466 - Northgate Cloud Hosting Solution

Reference number

DN551809

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 72000000 - IT services: consulting, software development, Internet and support

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

This VEAT notification is to notify the market that the Council is intending to contract with NEC Software Solutions UK Ltd (previously Northgate Public Services UK Ltd) for a 5 year term for its Revenues and Benefits system. The contract is not to procure a new system, but to contract with NEC Software Solutions to continue to provide the existing solution, and to move this to a cloud hosted model. The existing system was purchased in 2005 and is currently operating on Council on-premise infrastructure.

The Council is using Regulation 32 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, the negotiated procedure without prior publication to award this contract.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.1.7) Total value of the procurement (excluding VAT)

Lowest offer: £1,490,000 / Highest offer: £2,000,000 taken into consideration

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKE - Yorkshire and the Humber

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

This VEAT notification is to notify the market that the Council is intending to contract with NEC Software Solutions UK Ltd (previously Northgate Public Services UK Ltd) for a 5 year term for its Revenues and Benefits system. The contract is not to procure a new system, but to contract with NEC Software Solutions to continue to provide the existing solution, and to move this to a cloud hosted model. The existing system was purchased in 2005 and is currently operating on Council on-premise infrastructure.

The Council is using Regulation 32 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, the negotiated procedure without prior publication to award this contract.

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**

Negotiated without a prior call for competition

- The works, supplies or services can be provided only by a particular economic operator for the following reason:
 - protection of exclusive rights, including intellectual property rights

Explanation:

The Council is using Regulation 32 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, the negotiated procedure without prior publication to award this contract.

The protection of exclusive rights, including intellectual property rights Regulation 32(2)(b)(iii).

NEC Software Solutions UK Ltd (previously Northgate Public Services UK Ltd) own the IPR rights to the software in the existing solution, and do not allow other 3rd parties to access source code and therefore another provider would be unable to provide a support and maintenance service for the existing solution. To move the existing solution to another provider would not be possible, and would necessitate an overhaul of all of the integrated systems and a new solution to be designed which would make it cost-prohibitive.

Competition is absent for technical reasons (Regulation 32(2)(b)(ii)).

There is a complex integration in place between the existing Council Northgate system and external organisations such as Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and govtech as well as integration with internal systems across the Council.

The new contract will include a migration of applications, reports and schedules from an unsupported environment to the current supported version and current universes. It will also include a regular unlimited refresh/clone of the system to enable the Council to carry out extensive testing.

The Council requires specialist skills for support during year end processes including rollbacks and out of hours support. Batch processes need to run efficiently so there is no impact on the BAU activities during core working hours. This contract will ensure the infrastructure is designed and tuned to improve system performance.

Moving the existing system to a hosted solution is specialist support that logistically can only be provided in the most cost-effective, expedient and complete way by NEC Software Solutions as the existing provider. They have implemented the system and made bespoke developments to the system since 2005 and therefore have the requisite technical expertise in this system.

In terms of ongoing hosting once migrated, the provision of the hosting service by the owner of the solution will allow for direct accountability to the Council and the most economically advantageous solution which enables the Council to have access to the most up to date product functionality direct from the source.

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/concession

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract/concession

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

5 July 2021

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

NEC Software Solutions UK Ltd

575-599 Maxted Road

Hemel Hempstead

HP2 7DX

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKE - Yorkshire and the Humber

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

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

Lowest offer: £1,490,000 / Highest offer: £2,000,000 taken into consideration

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

City of Bradford MDC

Bradford

BD1 1HY

Country

United Kingdom