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Planning

Reality Emulator - Future Opportunity and Market Engagement

University of Bristol

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2021/S 000-015988

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-02c5e6

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Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

University of Bristol

4th Floor, Augustine's Courtyard, Orchard Lane

Bristol

BS1 5DS

Email

ds14720@bristol.ac.uk

Telephone

+44 01179289000

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKK1 - Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Bristol/Bath area

Internet address(es)

Main address

www.bristol.ac.uk

I.3) Communication

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Electronic communication requires the use of tools and devices that are not generally available. Unrestricted and full direct access to these tools and devices is possible, free of charge, at

<https://tenders.bris.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

Reality Emulator - Future Opportunity and Market Engagement

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 48000000 - Software package and information systems

II.1.3) Type of contract

Supplies

II.1.4) Short description

The University of Bristol is shortly looking to embark on an a new procurement exercise to develop a cutting edge Reality Emulator.

This notice is to advise the suppliers of this future opportunity and the forthcoming market engagement event. For full details, see below.

1. The Opportunity:

The University of Bristol is seeking to undertake a competitive procedure for the development and supply of a Reality Emulator. This is an exciting opportunity for the successful Supplier to be part of a highly innovative project which seeks to create an open and accessible facility to enable experience-driven socio-technical research i.e. to allow the creation of increasingly large and complex future scenarios, and to allow many such scenarios to be supported concurrently.

The University has recently undertaken tenders via the open procedure for the equipment, however due to a re-evaluation and a subsequent change to University's own internal constraints, these procurement exercises were discontinued. This new opportunity seeks to engage with the market in a collaborative and innovative way via a different procedure.

The Reality Emulator will be a unique physical-virtual environment, which will allow the study of complex socio-technical systems at different scales, in different contexts, and at different stages, (from early-stage technologies through to embedded social systems) addressing fundamental research questions about technical development, social change commercial models, security, ethics, policy and legislation. This will be achieved by creating digital models of physical environments / scientific phenomena, ingesting real world data, and studying the outcomes in the immersive facilities. This new facility will include: 1) state of the art software defined connectivity services both internally and with the city/region established testbeds, including 5/6G. 2) a virtualised datacentre environment, providing compute, data, network, and security services. 3) ultra-high-performance, reconfigurable hardware platforms (e.g. FGPA's and Neuromorphic devices) 4) advanced immersive reality facilities (a cave and VR/AR environments) 5) diverse internet facing services for supporting smart infrastructures and ingestion of data.

The new tender is intended to be released end of August 2021; this PIN serves to notify the market of this upcoming tender opportunity only and is not a call for competition.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 30200000 - Computer equipment and supplies
- 72000000 - IT services: consulting, software development, Internet and support

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKK1 - Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Bristol/Bath area

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

2. Market Engagement Presentation Events

In order to engage and advise the market fully of the detail of this ambitious opportunity we are holding market presentations on the following date:

- 16th July 2021 - 9.30 - 10.30 (the session will be recorded for suppliers unable to attend)

The presentations shall include details of the proposed requirements and new updates to both technical and the proposed contracting approach.

The presentations shall also cover the proposed procurement and tendering procedure to be used; this is currently intended to be Competitive Dialogue.

3. Supplier Networking

As part of this market engagement, and due the complexity of the requirement, we are also enabling the event as a networking opportunity for all potential Suppliers. Suppliers, of all sizes and specialties, as part of this event, will be able to make introductions should they wish to explore possible partnering/sub-contracting opportunities.

(Note. The University is not seeking to be part of/party to decision making towards Supplier-Supplier engagement, this is at Supplier's discretion and choice, merely we are facilitating the opportunity should this be of interest to Suppliers).

4. Feedback Questionnaire and 1 to 1 Sessions

As part of preparing for the tender, the University is seeking Supplier feedback to the requirement and proposed approach. To enable this, we will share a brief questionnaire with Suppliers to support us in capturing this important information. We welcome and encourage this reply from all Suppliers at all levels in the market, even where they may

not be able to attend a 1 to 1 session (see below).

After the presentations, we are also holding a limited number of 1 to 1s sessions with Suppliers to allow further exploration of the feedback questionnaire and any other feedback/solutions/considerations.

The 1 to 1 sessions will be held in 30min slots on the following dates:

- 20th July 2021
- 21st July 2021
- 27th July 2021
- 30th July 2021

Suppliers will be provided opportunity to sign up a 1 to 1 session on a first come first serve basis.

5. Contact

To register for the Presentations, 1 to 1 sessions and receive a feedback questionnaire, Supplier should register via the University e-procurement portal:

<https://tenders.bris.ac.uk/>

Suppliers can also raise any queries via the same link, once registered to the Reality Emulator Market Engagement Event.

II.2.14) Additional information

In issuing this PIN and seeking to engage with the market, the University makes no commitment to undertake these procurements. Non-participation by economic operators in the aforementioned market consultations will not be taken into account in any future procurement activities and will not preclude and/or prejudice any economic operator from tendering for the provision of these goods and services.

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

25 August 2021

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes