

This is a published notice on the Find a Tender service: <https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Notice/018172-2026>

Planning

Assessors for King's Awards 2026-2029

Department for Business & Trade

UK3: Planned procurement notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2026/S 000-018172

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-058082 ([view related notices](#))

Published 27 February 2026, 6:34pm

Scope

Description

The Department for Business and Trade (DBT) intends to launch a procurement for the provision of Assessors for the King's Awards for Enterprise. This planned procurement notice signals DBT's upcoming requirement and informs suppliers of the intention to publish a tender. The procurement will seek to appoint suitably qualified suppliers capable of delivering high quality, independent assessment services in support of the King's Awards for Enterprise programme.

The Secretary of State for DBT is the contracting authority responsible for meeting this anticipated requirement. DBT intends to publish the tender by 12th March 2026.

The full specification details shall be provided with the contract tender documents, but it is expected to incorporate the following:

The procurement of contractor(s) to provide external technical assessment services for the five King's Awards categories listed below. Subject to commercial strategy approval, tenderers will have the opportunity to bid for one or more lots. DBT aim to appoint one successful supplier per Lot.

1. Lot 1; Innovation: Recognising companies that have demonstrated commercial success

through:

- invention, design, production (in respect of goods)
- performance (in respect of services, including advice)
- marketing, distribution, after sale support of goods or services

2. Lot 2; International Trade: Recognising companies that have demonstrated substantial growth in overseas earnings and in commercial success relative to the business size and sector.

3. Lot 3; Promoting Opportunity through social mobility: – for social mobility programmes that help people from disadvantaged backgrounds into successful working lives.

4. Lot 4; Sustainable Development: Recognising companies that have developed commercially successful products, services, and approaches to management which have major benefits for the environment, society and the economy.

5. Lot 5; To recognise Young Founder (New category) – this was announced in the Government's Small Business Plan. Businesses can apply if they have a founder aged between 18 and 30.

It is anticipated the contract shall be for a period of 3 years, with the option to extend for two additional 12-month terms, on a 1+1 basis. The requirement has an estimated total value of £762,000.00 ex-VAT for all 5 Lots.

Background of Kings Award

The Kings award for Enterprise (previously known as the Queens award) was established in 1965 and is the highest official awards programme in the UK. It is the most prestigious award for UK businesses for outstanding achievement.

The whole assessment process, including consideration by the Panels of Judges and the Prime Minister's Advisory Committee (PMAC), is completed between the closing date for applications and the anniversary of His Majesty Coronation, 6th May.

Total value (estimated)

- £1,270,000 excluding VAT
- £1,524,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 22 May 2026 to 21 May 2029
- Possible extension to 15 May 2031
- 4 years, 11 months, 25 days

Description of possible extension:

There will be two 12 months optional extensions, totaling a maximum of 24 months.

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 79900000 - Miscellaneous business and business-related services

Contract locations

- UK - United Kingdom
-

Lot 1. Innovation

Description

Recognising companies that have demonstrated commercial success through:

- invention, design, production (in respect of goods)
- performance (in respect of services, including advice)
- marketing, distribution, after sale support of goods or services

Lot value (estimated)

- £410,000 excluding VAT
- £492,000 including VAT

Same for all lots

CPV classifications, contract locations and contract dates are shown in the Scope section, because they are the same for all lots.

Lot 2. International Trade

Description

Recognising companies that have demonstrated substantial growth in overseas earnings and in commercial success relative to the business size and sector.

Lot value (estimated)

- £305,000 excluding VAT
- £366,000 including VAT

Same for all lots

CPV classifications, contract locations and contract dates are shown in the Scope section, because they are the same for all lots.

Lot 3. Promoting Opportunity through social mobility

Description

For social mobility programmes that help people from disadvantaged backgrounds into successful working lives.

Lot value (estimated)

- £145,000 excluding VAT
- £174,000 including VAT

Same for all lots

CPV classifications, contract locations and contract dates are shown in the Scope section, because they are the same for all lots.

Lot 4. Sustainable Development

Description

Recognising companies that have developed commercially successful products, services, and approaches to management which have major benefits for the environment, society and the economy.

Lot value (estimated)

- £300,000 excluding VAT
- £360,000 including VAT

Same for all lots

CPV classifications, contract locations and contract dates are shown in the Scope section, because they are the same for all lots.

Lot 5. Young Founder (New category)

Description

This was announced in the Government's Small Business Plan. Businesses can apply if they have a founder aged between 18 and 30.

Lot value (estimated)

- £110,000 excluding VAT
- £132,000 including VAT

Same for all lots

CPV classifications, contract locations and contract dates are shown in the Scope section,

because they are the same for all lots.

Participation

Particular suitability

Lot 1. Innovation

Lot 2. International Trade

Lot 3. Promoting Opportunity through social mobility

Lot 4. Sustainable Development

Lot 5. Young Founder (New category)

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

Submission

Publication date of tender notice (estimated)

12 March 2026

Enquiry deadline

2 April 2026, 11:59pm

Tender submission deadline

14 April 2026, 11:59pm

Tenders may be submitted electronically

Yes

Languages that may be used for submission

English

Award decision date (estimated)

11 May 2026

Award criteria

Lot 1. Innovation

Lot 3. Promoting Opportunity through social mobility

Lot 5. Young Founder (New category)

Name	Description	Type	Weighting
Technical Assessment Methodology	Outline your proposed approach to conducting technical assessments, including how you will ensure consistency, accuracy, and alignment with King's Awards criteria. The Tenderers response must be within the context of the specific requirements of each lot being tendered and include: A clear methodology for appraising and shortlisting applications using RAG rating and grading. Use of desk research and verification processes. Approach to appraising the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) responses on the applications, where relevant.	Quality	20%
Price award	Please set out, in a method statement and project plan, the specific, measurable and time bound commitment(s) the Bidder will make to deliver the 1C Fair work: that offers fair wages and good working conditions and the Award Criteria set out above.	Price	20%

Name	Description	Type	Weighting
Assessor Team Expertise and Category Knowledge	Please describe the qualifications and experience of your proposed assessor team, including the Lead Assessor and how this will be applied to the process to ensure high quality assessments in relation to the specific award category Lot(s) you are bidding for.	Quality	15%
Quality Assurance and Moderation	Describe your quality assurance processes, including moderation of assessments and reporting mechanisms.	Quality	15%
Timeliness and Contract Management	Explain how you will manage the assessment timelines and volumes for the relevant Category Lot (outlined in the specification) to ensure timely delivery of outputs across the award cycle.	Quality	15%
Data Protection and Conflict of Interest Management	Provide details of your approach to confidentiality, data protection, and conflict of interest mitigation	Quality	5%

Name	Description	Type	Weighting
Fair working conditions	Please set out, in a method statement and project plan, the specific, measurable and time bound commitment(s) the Bidder will make to deliver the 1B Fair work: that offers fair wages and good working conditions and the Award Criteria set out above.	Quality	5%
Fair pay practices	Please set out, in a method statement and project plan, the specific, measurable and time bound commitment(s) the Bidder will make to deliver the 1C Fair work: that offers fair wages and good working conditions and the Award Criteria set out above.	Quality	5%

Lot 2. International Trade

Name	Description	Type	Weighting
Technical Assessment Methodology	<p>Outline your proposed approach to conducting technical assessments, including how you will ensure consistency, accuracy, and alignment with King's Awards criteria. The Tenderers response must be within the context of the specific requirements of each lot being tendered and include: A clear methodology for appraising and shortlisting applications using RAG rating and grading. Use of desk research and verification processes. Approach to appraising the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) responses on the applications, where relevant. A clear methodology for appraising and shortlisting applications using RAG rating and grading. Use of desk research and verification processes. Approach to appraising the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) responses on the applications, where relevant.</p>	Quality	20%

Name	Description	Type	Weighting
Price award	Please set out, in a method statement and project plan, the specific, measurable and time bound commitment(s) the Bidder will make to deliver the 1C Fair work: that offers fair wages and good working conditions and the Award Criteria set out above.	Price	20%
Assessor Team Expertise and Category Knowledge	Please describe the qualifications and experience of your proposed assessor team, including the Lead Assessor and how this will be applied to the process to ensure high quality assessments in relation to the specific award category Lot(s) you are bidding for.	Quality	15%
Quality Assurance and Moderation	Describe your quality assurance processes, including moderation of assessments and reporting mechanisms.	Quality	15%
Timeliness and Contract Management	Explain how you will manage the assessment timelines and volumes for the relevant Category Lot (outlined in the specification) to ensure timely delivery of outputs across the award cycle.	Quality	15%

Name	Description	Type	Weighting
Data Protection and Conflict of Interest Management	Provide details of your approach to confidentiality, data protection, and conflict of interest mitigation	Quality	5%
Fair working conditions	Please set out, in a method statement and project plan, the specific, measurable and time bound commitment(s) the Bidder will make to deliver the 1B Fair work: that offers fair wages and good working conditions and the Award Criteria set out above.	Quality	5%
Fair pay practices	Please set out, in a method statement and project plan, the specific, measurable and time bound commitment(s) the Bidder will make to deliver the 1C Fair work: that offers fair wages and good working conditions and the Award Criteria set out above.	Quality	5%

Lot 4. Sustainable Development

Name	Description	Type	Weighting
Technical Assessment Methodology	Outline your proposed approach to conducting technical assessments, including how you will ensure consistency, accuracy, and alignment with King's Awards criteria. The Tenderers response must be within the context of the specific requirements of each lot being tendered and include: A clear methodology for appraising and shortlisting applications using RAG rating and grading. Use of desk research and verification processes.	Quality	20%
Price award	Please set out, in a method statement and project plan, the specific, measurable and time bound commitment(s) the Bidder will make to deliver the 1C Fair work: that offers fair wages and good working conditions and the Award Criteria set out above.	Price	20%

Name	Description	Type	Weighting
Assessor Team Expertise and Category Knowledge	Please describe the qualifications and experience of your proposed assessor team, including the Lead Assessor and how this will be applied to the process to ensure high quality assessments in relation to the specific award category Lot(s) you are bidding for.	Quality	15%
Quality Assurance and Moderation	Describe your quality assurance processes, including moderation of assessments and reporting mechanisms.	Quality	15%
Timeliness and Contract Management	Explain how you will manage the assessment timelines and volumes for the relevant Category Lot (outlined in the specification) to ensure timely delivery of outputs across the award cycle.	Quality	15%
Data Protection and Conflict of Interest Management	Provide details of your approach to confidentiality, data protection, and conflict of interest mitigation	Quality	5%

Name	Description	Type	Weighting
Fair working conditions	Please set out, in a method statement and project plan, the specific, measurable and time bound commitment(s) the Bidder will make to deliver the 1B Fair work: that offers fair wages and good working conditions and the Award Criteria set out above.	Quality	5%
Fair pay practices	Please set out, in a method statement and project plan, the specific, measurable and time bound commitment(s) the Bidder will make to deliver the 1C Fair work: that offers fair wages and good working conditions and the Award Criteria set out above.	Quality	5%

Procedure

Procedure type

Open procedure

Contracting authority

Department for Business & Trade

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PZZJ-6312-QTTD

Old Admiralty Building

London

SW1A 2DY

United Kingdom

Email: dbtpeopleandkeyprojects@businessandtrade.gov.uk

Region: UKI32 - Westminster

Organisation type: Public authority - central government