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Contract

UKRI-4491 ESRC-BBSRC Food Systems Commercialisation Catalyst

UK Research & Innovation

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-018280

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-04c9c8

Published 1 May 2025, 10:06am

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

UK Research & Innovation

Polaris House, North Star Avenue

Swindon

SN2 1FL

Email

corporateprocurement@ukri.org

Telephone

+44 1793867000

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKK14 - Swindon

Internet address(es)

Main address

www.ukri.org

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.5) Main activity

Other activity

Research

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

UKRI-4491 ESRC-BBSRC Food Systems Commercialisation Catalyst

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 79410000 - Business and management consultancy services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

UKRI requires a supplier to support the development and delivery of an early-stage mission-led commercialisation catalyst (The Programme).

The key aims for the Programme are to:

- i.Enable collaboration between bioscience and social science researchers: recruiting researchers, building and supporting multidisciplinary/interdisciplinary teams to address an agreed team challenge.
- ii.Support skills and capacity development: training, supporting and enabling the cohort of grant holders to grow and sustain positive social and/or environmental impact from their research in the mission area of healthy, sustainable and resilient food systems. This may include formal training, mentoring and peer support, networking, and facilitating connections with relevant expertise and national/international markets.
- iii.Support grant holders to explore alternative (non-traditional commercial) enterprise models to create effective and self-sustaining impact. Grant administration will be managed by UKRI.

This requirement will be for initial period of 12 months with an optional extension of up to a further 6 months. The value of the requirement will be up to £500,000.00 for the initial period and £300,000.00 for the extension which will be subject to approval.

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: £800,000

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

Main site or place of performance

UNITED KINGDOM

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

UKRI requires a supplier to support the development and delivery of an early-stage mission-led commercialisation catalyst (The Programme).

The key aims for the Programme are to:

- Enable collaboration between bioscience and social science researchers: recruiting researchers, building and supporting multidisciplinary/interdisciplinary teams to address an agreed team challenge.
- Support skills and capacity development: training, supporting and enabling the cohort of grant holders to grow and sustain positive social and/or environmental impact from their research in the mission area of healthy, sustainable and resilient food systems. This may include formal training, mentoring and peer support, networking, and facilitating connections with relevant expertise and national/international markets.
- Support grant holders to explore alternative (non-traditional commercial) enterprise models to create effective and self-sustaining impact. Grant administration will be managed by UKRI.

This Programme is in response to both ESRC and BBSRC's (two of UKRI's component research councils) strategic aims to support commercialisation for social, economic, and environmental good. ESRC and BBSRC are investing:

- Up to £1m in maximum 10 grants within a single competition in 2025. The grant award facilitates researchers to develop their idea with a view to its eventual launch (10 awards at £100k each = £1m). The supplier will manage the grant competition; UKRI will administer the grants.

- Up to £500k (exc. VAT) for this 'mission-led commercialisation catalyst support package' as described in this scope of work. The overall project costs cannot exceed this amount.

To support delivery of this Programme, the supplier will be expected to recruit researchers, build and support multi/inter-disciplinary teams, where each award-holding team must have a mix of social science and bioscience expertise. The supplier will also be expected to train, support and enable these researchers to grow and sustain positive social / environmental impact from their research in the mission area of healthy, sustainable and resilient food systems. As such, the supplier must have expertise in social science commercialisation, commercialisation of bioscience innovations, as well as commercialisation of multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research.

Duration of Initial period will be 12 months commencing in March 2025. there will be an optional extension period of up to a further 6 months subject to approval.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Quality / Weighting: 90

Cost criterion - Name: Price / Weighting: 10

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

Open procedure

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: [2024/S 000-041050](#)

Section V. Award of contract

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

8 April 2025

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 3

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

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

Zinc Ventures Limited

24 Eversholt St,

London

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKI - London

National registration number

10796984

The contractor is an SME

No

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

Initial estimated total value of the contract/lot: £800,000

Total value of the contract/lot: £800,000

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

To view this notice, please click here:

<https://ukri.delta-esourcing.com/delta/viewNotice.html?noticeId=946186734> GO

Reference: GO-202551-PRO-30400143

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

United Kingdom Research & Innovation

Swindon

SN2 1FL

Country

United Kingdom

