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Opportunity

ID 3058959 DAERA - Information System for Laboratories in AFBI, NIEA and DAERA (ISLAND)

The Department Of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

F02: Contract notice

Notice reference: 2021/S 000-019042

Published: 6 August 2021, 1:35pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

The Department Of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

Dundonald House

BELFAST

BT4 3SB

Contact

StrategicDelivery.CPDfinance-ni.gov.uk

Email

StrategicDelivery.CPD@finance-ni.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

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

Buyer's address

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

I.2) Information about joint procurement

The contract is awarded by a central purchasing body

I.3) Communication

The procurement documents are available for unrestricted and full direct access, free of charge, at

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

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted electronically via

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

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.5) Main activity

Environment

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

ID 3058959 DAERA - Information System for Laboratories in AFBI, NIEA and DAERA (ISLAND)

Reference number

ID 3058959

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 72500000 - Computer-related services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

This procurement is for a public Cloud Hosted, Commercial off the Shelf (COTS) Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) for DAERA. This project will replace aging and disparate laboratory IT systems with a single, modern, joined up LIMS in 10 key laboratory areas. The solution will replace existing LIMS in 8 laboratory areas and provide new LIMS in a further 2 laboratory areas. The implementation period is to last no longer than 4 years. Implementation will involve a phased rollout of approximately 2 lab areas every 6 months. Prioritisation of rollout will be agreed with the Authority based on impact several factors, including business as usual and availability of laboratory areas. Implementation will include assisting in business transformation and design, training and the migration of minimum required LIMS data in an organised and secure manner for successful 'day 1' business operation. This includes ensuring the safety, accuracy (e.g. avoiding rounding) and integrity of the migrated data, formulating a migration plan and carrying out the migration in collaboration with the Authority. The Supplier may be required to assist the Authority to cleanse the data as part of the migration exercise. A Laboratory Science Data Enterprise solution will be developed in-house and is not covered by the scope of this project.

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £24,000,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 48000000 - Software package and information systems

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKN - Northern Ireland

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

This procurement is for a public Cloud Hosted, Commercial off the Shelf (COTS) Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) for DAERA. This project will replace aging and disparate laboratory IT systems with a single, modern, joined up LIMS in 10 key laboratory areas. The solution will replace existing LIMS in 8 laboratory areas and provide new LIMS in a further 2 laboratory areas. The implementation period is to last no longer than 4 years. Implementation will involve a phased rollout of approximately 2 lab areas every 6 months. Prioritisation of rollout will be agreed with the Authority based on impact several factors, including business as usual and availability of laboratory areas. Implementation will include assisting in business transformation and design, training and the migration of minimum required LIMS data in an organised and secure manner for successful 'day 1' business operation. This includes ensuring the safety, accuracy (e.g. avoiding rounding) and integrity of the migrated data, formulating a migration plan and carrying out the migration in collaboration with the Authority. The Supplier may be required to assist the Authority to cleanse the data as part of the migration exercise. A Laboratory Science Data Enterprise solution will be developed in-house and is not covered by the scope of this project.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

II.2.6) Estimated value

Value excluding VAT: £24,000,000

II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system

Duration in months

84

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

The contract will have an option to extend (subject to the terms of the contract and the performance of the successful Economic Operator) for 3 years followed by a further 2 optional extension periods of up to 2 years each i.e. 3+2+2.

II.2.10) Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: No

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of options

The contract will have an option to extend (subject to the terms of the contract and the performance of the successful Economic Operator) for 3 years followed by a further 2 optional extension periods of up to 2 years each i.e. 3+2+2.

II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

II.2.14) Additional information

The Contracting Authority reserves the right to award the Contract following submission of Initial Tender Responses and the right to down-select Economic Operators following each round of negotiations.

Section III. Legal, economic, financial and technical information

III.1) Conditions for participation

III.1.1) Suitability to pursue the professional activity, including requirements relating to enrolment on professional or trade registers

List and brief description of conditions

Candidates will be assessed in accordance with Regulation 58 of the Public Contract Regulations 2015 as set out in the Information Memorandum and Selection Questionnaire. A selection process will also be used to identify economic operators, who having submitted a response to the Selection Questionnaire, sufficiently demonstrate to the Department's satisfaction the appropriate technical and professional ability, economic, financial and legal standing to meet the requirements of the contract.

III.1.2) Economic and financial standing

Selection criteria as stated in the procurement documents

III.1.3) Technical and professional ability

Selection criteria as stated in the procurement documents

III.2) Conditions related to the contract

III.2.2) Contract performance conditions

The appointment to the contract will be subject to the preferred supplier demonstrating that the minimum requirements specified in the selection questionnaire continue to be met and that there being no material adverse change to the standing of the supplier. The appointment will also be subject to all other necessary due diligence being carried out by the Authority. Contract performance will be subject to the conditions specified in the contract, which may include social and environmental clauses in order to promote equality of opportunity and sustainable development. Further details are set out at Section VI.3 below and furthermore in the Information Memorandum..

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Competitive procedure with negotiation

IV.1.5) Information about negotiation

The contracting authority reserves the right to award the contract on the basis of the initial tenders without conducting negotiations

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.2.2) Time limit for receipt of tenders or requests to participate

Date

17 September 2021

Local time

3:00pm

IV.2.4) Languages in which tenders or requests to participate may be submitted

English

IV.2.6) Minimum time frame during which the tenderer must maintain the tender

Tender must be valid until: 16 December 2021

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.1) Information about recurrence

This is a recurrent procurement: No

VI.3) Additional information

The Contracting Authority reserves the right: to hold additional rounds of negotiations with Economic Operators; to require the submission of any further or additional information or tender submissions; to award the Contract following the submission of initial tenders; to award the Contract following conclusion of the first round of negotiation sessions; and/or to down-select Economic Operators following each round of negotiations. For the avoidance of doubt, final tenders will not be subject to any negotiation with the Contracting Authority (however, they may be subject to clarification, if required, at the Contracting Authority's absolute discretion). The Contracting Authority reserves the right: to reject any or all SQ or tender responses and to cancel or withdraw the procurement process at any stage; to award a contract without prior notice; to change the basis of, the procedure and the timescales set out or referred to in the procurement documents; to require an Economic Operator to clarify its SQ or tender response in writing and/or provide additional information; to terminate the procurement process; and/or to amend the terms and conditions of the SQ or tender evaluation process or negotiation process. •The Contracting Authority does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender. •Economic Operators remain responsible for all costs and expenses incurred by them or by any third party acting under instructions from the Economic Operator in connection with taking part in this procurement process, regardless of whether such costs arise as a consequence, directly or indirectly, of any amendments made to the procurement documents by the Contracting Authority at any time. No legally binding contract shall arise (and an Economic Operator shall have no legitimate expectation that a contract will be entered into) until such time as entry into the Contract has been confirmed by the Contracting Authority. Economic Operators should note that all dates, time periods and figures in relation to values and volumes specified in this notice and the procurement documents are approximate only and the Contracting Authority reserves the right to change any or all of them. The figure indicated in II.1.5 represents an estimated contract value £24m. This is a maximum figure that reflects the potential scale of the contract and takes into account potential optional extension periods and the uptake of potential optional services as detailed in the tender documents. The pricing strategy applied and the setting of cost/profit margins are a commercial decision for economic operators when submitting a bid for this competition. In addition, neither CPD nor the Contracting Authority can provide any guarantee as to the level of business under this contract. The successful contractor's performance on the contract will be regularly monitored. Contractors not delivering on contract requirements is a serious matter. It means the public purse is not getting what it is paying for. If a contractor fails to reach satisfactory levels of contract performance they will be given a specified time to improve. If, after the specified time, they still fail to reach

satisfactory levels of contract performance, the matter will be escalated to senior management in CPD for further action. If this occurs and their performance still does not improve to satisfactory levels within the specified period, it may be regarded as an act of grave professional misconduct and they may be issued with a Notice of Unsatisfactory Performance and the contract may be terminated. The issue of a Notice of unsatisfactory Performance will result in the contractor being excluded from all procurement competitions being undertaken by Centres of Procurement Expertise on behalf of bodies covered by the Northern Ireland. Procurement Policy for a period of twelve months from the date of issue of the Notice. This contract will not be awarded in Lots as a single supplier is required.

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

The UK does not have any special review body with responsibility for appeal/mediation procedures in public procurement competitions. Instead; any challenges are dealt with by the High Court, Commercial Division, to which proceedings may be issued regarding alleged breaches of the PCR 2015

Belfast

Country

United Kingdom

VI.4.3) Review procedure

Precise information on deadline(s) for review procedures

CPD will comply with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and, where appropriate, will incorporate a standstill period (i.e. a minimum of 10 calendar days) at the point information on the award of contract is communicated to tenderers. That notification will provide full information on the award decision. This provides time for the unsuccessful tenderers to challenge the award decision before the contract is entered into.