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Planning

Court Reporting & Transcription (CRT) Services

Ministry of Justice

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2022/S 000-020541

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-0356b0

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Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Ministry of Justice

102 Petty France

London

SW1H 9AJ

Email

ccmdopenjustice@justice.gov.uk

Telephone

+44 02033343555

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.justice.gov.uk/>

Buyer's address

<https://ministryofjusticecommercial.bravosolution.co.uk>

I.2) Information about joint procurement

The contract is awarded by a central purchasing body

I.3) Communication

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

I.5) Main activity

Public order and safety

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Court Reporting & Transcription (CRT) Services

Reference number

Prj_8232

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 75231100 - Law-courts-related administrative services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

The Ministry of Justice (hereafter the Authority) intends to run a competition for the procurement of Court Reporting and Transcription Services (CRT) on behalf of HM Courts & Tribunals Service (HMCTS).

The Authority is legally required to record Court proceedings across England and Wales and where requested, produce official transcripts from these hearings. The transcripts are used as evidence in appeals, legal publishing for public interest and form part of case law.

It is the intention that the following transcription services will be procured under a framework agreement:

1. Off-site Transcription Services (OTS) which involves the Court recordings being sent to the relevant supplier where they produce the transcription services based on the contracted service level timeframe.
2. Attendance-based Transcription Services (ATS) comprises stenographers or loggers attending the Court proceeding and then later producing the transcript to the contracted timescales.
3. Real-time Transcription Services (RTS) involves temporarily supplying equipment and production of near-instantaneous transcriptions of proceedings on site.

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £21,475,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: Yes

Maximum number of lots that may be awarded to one tenderer: 2

The contracting authority reserves the right to award contracts combining the following lots or groups of lots:

However the Authority reserves the right to award more than two Call-Off Contracts to individual suppliers in the event there is an insufficient number of Bidders successful in respect to any one Lot i.e. If 4 Bidders are not successful for Lot 1 and/or two different Bidders are not successful for Lots 2 and 3 to enable the Lot 2 and Lot 3 Call-Off Contracts to be awarded to separate suppliers.

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Off-site Transcription Services (OTS)

Lot No

1

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 75130000 - Supporting services for the government
- 75231000 - Judicial services
- 79996100 - Records management

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

Main site or place of performance

Supplier premises

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

OTS involves the production of high volumes of low-value transcripts away from the court, hearing centre or venue, using a recording provided by the court. The supplier is responsible for producing the transcripts in line with HMCTS' rules, including the application of reporting restrictions (anonymisation) and the collection of relevant approvals and permissions. Services are provided based on agreed service bandings and capped units referred to as folios (72 words). OTS is split into three distinct areas, Crown Court transcription, HMCTS Approved Transcription Panel (ATP) and Ministry of Defence (MoD):

a. Crown Courts contracts under OTS are contracted via Regional lots. Audio is recorded using a dedicated Digital Audio Recording, Transfer and Storage system (DARTS) and stored on the DARTS online portal for supplier access. Requestors are limited to one specific supplier based on the location of the hearing.

b. ATP covers Civil & Family Courts and Tribunals. The ATP works on a panel basis where requestors can choose from any of the four suppliers. Audio is recorded using various Digital Audio Recording (DAR) formats after which audio is either downloaded onto physical media and posted to the relevant supplier or uploaded onto the relevant supplier's portal.

c. MoD covers Military Courts. Audio will be recorded and the transcript requests will be issued directly from MoD personnel.

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Attendance-based transcription services (ATS) Crime and Real-time transcription services (RTS)

Lot No

2

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 75130000 - Supporting services for the government
- 75231000 - Judicial services
- 79996100 - Records management

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

Main site or place of performance

ATS Crime - primarily within the Royal Courts of Justice

RTS - Various

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

ATS Crime

- Services comprise of stenographers (skilled professionals utilising stenotype machines) attending hearings to make a record of proceedings to supplement court recording in order to produce a transcript within the stipulated timescales. These services are primarily required in the Court of Appeal Crime Division located within the Royal Courts of Justice (RCJ).

RTS:

The provision of near instantaneous transcription services which usually involves a stenographer attending the court proceeding and inputs a real-time record of the hearing. Editors, either based remotely or on site, will assist in the production of a 'stream', which would appear on screens in the courtroom, laptops and media feeds. RTS also includes the supplier providing the specialised equipment required for the necessary timescales.

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Attendance-based Transcription Services (ATS) – Civil, Family and Tribunals

Lot No

3

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 75130000 - Supporting services for the government
- 75231000 - Judicial services
- 79996100 - Records management

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

Main site or place of performance

Various

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

1. Services comprise of loggers attending hearings to make a note of proceedings to supplement court recording in order to produce a transcript within the stipulated timescales. These services are primarily required in the Civil Appeals Court and Administrative Courts located within the RCJ and The Rolls Building.

2. The Lot also include the provision of limited on-site transcription, in the form of a “sensitive case service”, where supplier personnel with appropriate level of security clearance attend the secure hub located at either the Field House (Central London) or the RCJ to produce a transcript on site.

3. In addition to Civil jurisdictions, the ATS service also includes specialist jurisdictions such as the Special Immigration Appeals Commission (SIAC), the Proscribed Organisations Appeals Commission (POAC) and PAAC (Pathogens Access Appeals Commission).

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

22 August 2022

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

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

Please note the tender response date is planned for 26th September 2022.

The MoJ reserves the right to amend or remove part or all of the information prior to full Find a Tender service (FTS) advertisement, and nothing within this notice constitutes any guarantee or binding statement on behalf of the MoJ.

Further details of the services will be set out in the procurement documents.