

This is a published notice on the Find a Tender service: <https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Notice/020651-2021>

Planning

NEPO418 Library Books & Digital Content

THE ASSOCIATION OF NORTH EAST COUNCILS LIMITED

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2021/S 000-020651

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-02d81a

Published 23 August 2021, 1:56pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

THE ASSOCIATION OF NORTH EAST COUNCILS LIMITED

Guildhall, Sandhill

Newcastle Upon Tyne

NE1 3AF

Contact

Marie Bartup

Email

professional.services@nepo.org

Telephone

+44 1916380040

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKC - North East (England)

Internet address(es)

Main address

www.nepo.org

I.2) Information about joint procurement

The contract is awarded by a central purchasing body

I.3) Communication

Access to the procurement documents is restricted. Further information can be obtained at

www.nepo.org

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Regional or local authority

I.5) Main activity

General public services

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

NEPO418 Library Books & Digital Content

Reference number

DN557273

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 22113000 - Library books

II.1.3) Type of contract

Supplies

II.1.4) Short description

The Association of North East Councils Trading as the North East Procurement Organisation (NEPO) is seeking to establish a multi-lot, multi-supplier Framework Agreement for the provision and servicing of adult fiction and non-fiction books, children's fiction and non-fiction books, multi media material and digital content including eBooks, eAudio, eMagazines and eNewspapers; delivered to central delivery points, individual branch libraries and other contracting authority establishments. The future Framework Agreement will replace the existing NEPO418 Library Books & eBooks Framework which expires 31 March 2022.

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £10,000,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: Yes

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Adult Fiction & Non-Fiction Books

Lot No

1

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 22113000 - Library books

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The purpose of the prior information notice (PIN) is to provide advance notice to the marketplace of the tendering opportunity and intentions of NEPO to hold market consultation activities with suppliers to help shape the future Framework Agreement. NEPO are not advertising this PIN as a mechanism to reduce future procurement timescales.

NEPO intends to publish a soft market testing questionnaire via the NEPO eTendering portal. The questionnaire will be used to assess interest in the tendering opportunity and to gain information and insight from the market to help shape the future NEPO418 Framework Agreement design. The soft market testing questionnaire will be made accessible via the NEPO eTendering portal on Monday 23 August 2021 with a submission deadline of 12 p.m. Friday 27 August 2021.

Suppliers wishing to access and complete the soft market testing questionnaire must first register on the portal using the following link <https://procontract.due-north.com/register?openform>

In addition, NEPO intends to hold individual market consultation meetings. Market consultation meetings advertised openly via this PIN are limited in number and will take place the week commencing Tuesday 31 August 2021. Suppliers wishing to register attendance must do so in writing to Marie Bartup (Marie.Bartup@nepo.org) no later than 12 p.m. on 27 August 2021. Appointments will be no longer than 1 hour and NEPO intend to conduct these sessions virtually through online meeting platform applications. NEPO anticipates these virtual meeting sessions will take place on Microsoft Teams or other secure meeting platforms. The time and location of each appointment will be confirmed following the registration deadline and places will be secured on a first come first serve basis. Suppliers wishing to attend the virtual market consultation meetings should be capable of meeting the requirements under any of the applicable lots as a whole within section II.2. NEPO reserves the right to seek assurances from interested suppliers prior to

allocating a place.

Attendance at market consultation is optional and does not provide suppliers with an advantage in any future related procurement. Attendance also does not constitute as an intention to tender for any future related procurement. Please note the above dates may be subject to change depending on availability and supplier uptake.

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Children's Fiction & Non-Fiction Books

Lot No

2

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 22113000 - Library books

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The purpose of the prior information notice (PIN) is to provide advance notice to the marketplace of the tendering opportunity and intentions of NEPO to hold market consultation activities with suppliers to help shape the future Framework Agreement. NEPO are not advertising this PIN as a mechanism to reduce future procurement timescales.

NEPO intends to publish a soft market testing questionnaire via the NEPO eTendering portal. The questionnaire will be used to assess interest in the tendering opportunity and to gain information and insight from the market to help shape the future NEPO418 Framework Agreement design. The soft market testing questionnaire will be made accessible via the NEPO eTendering portal on Monday 23 August 2021 with a submission deadline of 12 p.m. Friday 27 August 2021.

Suppliers wishing to access and complete the soft market testing questionnaire must first register on the portal using the following link <https://procontract.due-north.com/register?openform>

In addition, NEPO intends to hold individual market consultation meetings. Market consultation meetings advertised openly via this PIN are limited in number and will take place the week commencing Tuesday 31 August 2021. Suppliers wishing to register attendance must do so in writing to Marie Bartup (Marie.Bartup@nepo.org) no later than 12 p.m. on 27 August 2021. Appointments will be no longer than 1 hour and NEPO intend to conduct these sessions virtually through online meeting platform applications. NEPO anticipates these virtual meeting sessions will take place on Microsoft Teams or other secure meeting platforms. The time and location of each appointment will be confirmed following the registration deadline and places will be secured on a first come first serve basis. Suppliers wishing to attend the virtual market consultation meetings should be capable of meeting the requirements under any of the applicable lots as a whole within section II.2. NEPO reserves the right to seek assurances from interested suppliers prior to allocating a place.

Attendance at market consultation is optional and does not provide suppliers with an advantage in any future related procurement. Attendance also does not constitute as an intention to tender for any future related procurement. Please note the above dates may be subject to change depending on availability and supplier uptake.

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Digital Content

Lot No

3

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 48160000 - Library software package

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The purpose of the prior information notice (PIN) is to provide advance notice to the marketplace of the tendering opportunity and intentions of NEPO to hold market consultation activities with suppliers to help shape the future Framework Agreement. NEPO are not advertising this PIN as a mechanism to reduce future procurement timescales.

NEPO intends to publish a soft market testing questionnaire via the NEPO eTendering portal. The questionnaire will be used to assess interest in the tendering opportunity and to gain information and insight from the market to help shape the future NEPO418 Framework Agreement design. The soft market testing questionnaire will be made accessible via the NEPO eTendering portal on Monday 23 August 2021 with a submission deadline of 12 p.m. Friday 27 August 2021.

Suppliers wishing to access and complete the soft market testing questionnaire must first register on the portal using the following link <https://procontract.due-north.com/register?openform>

In addition, NEPO intends to hold individual market consultation meetings. Market consultation meetings advertised openly via this PIN are limited in number and will take place the week commencing Tuesday 31 August 2021. Suppliers wishing to register attendance must do so in writing to Marie Bartup (Marie.Bartup@nepo.org) no later than 12 p.m. on 27 August 2021. Appointments will be no longer than 1 hour and NEPO intend to conduct these sessions virtually through online meeting platform applications. NEPO anticipates these virtual meeting sessions will take place on Microsoft Teams or other secure meeting platforms. The time and location of each appointment will be confirmed following the registration deadline and places will be secured on a first come first serve basis. Suppliers wishing to attend the virtual market consultation meetings should be capable of meeting the requirements under any of the applicable lots as a whole within section II.2. NEPO reserves the right to seek assurances from interested suppliers prior to allocating a place.

Attendance at market consultation is optional and does not provide suppliers with an advantage in any future related procurement. Attendance also does not constitute as an intention to tender for any future related procurement. Please note the above dates may be subject to change depending on availability and supplier uptake.

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

12 November 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

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

NEPO is a Central Purchasing Body as defined in the Public Contract Regulations 2015 (PCR15). The agreement will be available for use by all NEPO Members. A list of member organisations is available in the About section of the NEPO website at: www.nepo.org

This agreement will also be made available to all current and future NEPO Associate Members. Current Associate Members are listed in the Associate Member section of the NEPO website at: www.nepo.org/associate-membership/list

NEPO intends to make the resulting agreement available for use by all Contracting Authorities throughout all administrative regions of the UK (as defined by the Public Contracts Regulations 2015) including but not limited to Government Departments and their Agencies, Non-Departmental Public Bodies, Central Government, NHS Bodies, Local Authorities, Emergency Services, Coastguard Emergency Services, Educational Establishments, Registered Social Landlords and Registered Charities who have a need to purchase the above services.

Please see the following websites for further details:

<http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/DI1/Directories/Localcouncils/index.htm>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education>

<https://www.gov.uk/check-a-university-is-officially-recognised/recognised-bodies>

<http://www.schoolswebdirectory.co.uk/localauthorities.php>

<http://www.ukschoolsdirectory.net>

<https://www.gov.uk/find-school-in-england>

<https://education.gov.scot/ParentZone>

<http://hwb.wales.gov.uk/>

<https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/open-academies-and-academy-projects-in-development>

<http://unistats.direct.gov.uk/institutions/>

<http://www.hefce.ac.uk/workprovide/unicoll/heis/>

<http://www.hefce.ac.uk/workprovide/unicoll/fecs/>

<http://www.nhs.uk/ServiceDirectories/Pages/AcuteTrustListing.aspx>

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/nhwalesaboutus/structure>

<http://www.scottishambulance.com/TheService/organised.aspx>

<http://www.hscni.net/index.php?link=trusts>

<http://www.scottishambulance.com/AboutUs/HowWeOrganised.aspx>

<http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/DI1/Directories/A-ZOfCentralGovernment/index.htm>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations>

<http://www.northernireland.gov.uk/gov.htm>

<http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/local-councils-in-northern-ireland>

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2012/02/2421/1>

<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/contact>

<https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/articles/list-public-bodies-which-ni-public-procurement-policy-applies>

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

<https://www.police.uk/forces/>

<http://www.police-information.co.uk/index.html>

<http://www.psni.police.uk/index.htm>

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/maritime-and-coastguard-agency>

<http://www.fireservice.co.uk/information/ukfrs>

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/archive/law-order/Police/PoliceServiceofScotland>

<http://www.fire.org.uk/fire-brigades.html>

<http://www.nifrs.org/areas-districts/>

<http://www.firesscotland.gov.uk/your-area.aspx>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/current-registered-providers-of-social-housing>

<http://directory.scottishhousingregulator.gov.uk/pages/default.aspx>

<https://gov.wales/topics/housing-and-regeneration/publications/registered-social-landlords-in-wales/?lang=en>

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/contacts/housing-associations>

http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/About_us/Regulation/Registering_charities_index.aspx

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/>

<https://idea.org.uk/>
<http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk>Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/registerhomepage.aspx>

http://www.sell2wales.gov.uk/Search/search_Auth.aspx

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/newsroom/factsandfigures/housingplanning1/facts/socialhousing/?id=1822644>

A complete list of permissible users is shown on the NEPO website below:

<https://www.nepo.org/associate-membership/permissible-users>

Organisations wishing to access the NEPO agreement will be required to register as a NEPO Associate Member in the first instance.

Further information can be found at: www.nepo.org