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Contract

## **DfE - Tourism NI - Concept Testing**

Department for the Economy Tourism NI

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-020794

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-045252

Published 8 July 2024, 2:46pm

### **Section I: Contracting authority**

#### **I.1) Name and addresses**

Department for the Economy Tourism NI

10-12 Linum Chambers, Bedford Street

BELFAST

BT2 7ES

#### **Contact**

ssdadmin.cpdfinance-ni.gov.uk

#### **Email**

[ssdadmin.cpd@finance-ni.gov.uk](mailto:ssdadmin.cpd@finance-ni.gov.uk)

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

#### **Region 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.4) Type of the contracting authority**

Body governed by public law

**I.5) Main activity**

General public services

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## **Section II: Object**

### **II.1) Scope of the procurement**

#### **II.1.1) Title**

DfE - Tourism NI - Concept Testing

#### **II.1.2) Main CPV code**

- 73000000 - Research and development services and related consultancy services

#### **II.1.3) Type of contract**

Services

#### **II.1.4) Short description**

DfE - Tourism NI - Concept Testing - Tourism NI wishes to appoint a Contractor to design and deliver a methodology for testing early stage and more developed product and experience concepts, appropriate to the Northern Ireland tourism proposition, as a decision support tool.

#### **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: £585,000

### **II.2) Description**

#### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 73300000 - Design and execution of research and development
- 79300000 - Market and economic research; polling and statistics
- 79310000 - Market research services

#### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UKN0 - Northern Ireland

#### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

DfE - Tourism NI - Concept Testing - Tourism NI wishes to appoint a Contractor to design and deliver a methodology for testing early stage and more developed product and experience concepts, appropriate to the Northern Ireland tourism proposition, as a decision support tool.

#### **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Quality criterion - Name: Qualitative Criteria / Weighting: 40

Cost criterion - Name: Quantitative Criteria / Weighting: 60

#### **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

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## **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 000-012204](#)

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## **Section V. Award of contract**

### **Contract No**

1

### **Title**

Contract

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

### **V.2) Award of contract**

#### **V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract**

1 July 2024

#### **V.2.2) Information about tenders**

Number of tenders received: 4

Number of tenders received from SMEs: 1

Number of tenders received from tenderers from other EU Member States: 0

Number of tenders received from tenderers from non-EU Member States: 1

Number of tenders received by electronic means: 4

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

#### **V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor**

COGNISENSE LTD

Adelaide House, 1 Falcon Rd

BELFAST

BT12 6SJ

Email

[theteam@cognisense-uk.com](mailto:theteam@cognisense-uk.com)

Telephone

+44 2890387057

Fax

+44 2890387051

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

Internet address

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

The contractor is an SME

Yes

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

Initial estimated total value of the contract/lot: £585,000

Total value of the contract/lot: £585,000

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## **Section VI. Complementary information**

### **VI.3) Additional information**

The figure indicated in Section II 1.5 represents an estimated contract value. This value reflects the potential scale of the contract, however, neither CPD nor the 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.

## **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 as amended

United Kingdom

Country

United Kingdom

### **VI.4.3) Review procedure**

Precise information on deadline(s) for review procedures

CPD complied with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and incorporated a standstill period (i.e. a minimum of 10 calendar days) at the point information on the award of contract was communicated to tenderers. That notification provided full information on the award decision. This provided time for the unsuccessful tenderers to challenge the award decision before the contract was entered into..