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Contract

Studio Ulster

University of Ulster

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-021531

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-0386be

Published 25 July 2023, 4:17pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

University of Ulster

Block X Room X031, Cromore Road

Coleraine

BT52 1SA

Email

a.todd@ulster.ac.uk

Telephone

+44 2870124515

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKN0 - Northern Ireland

Internet address(es)

Main address

www.ulster.ac.uk

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.5) Main activity

Education

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Studio Ulster

Reference number

project_27187

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 72000000 - IT services: consulting, software development, Internet and support

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

Ulster University is seeking to procure an Operator and Delivery partner for the Studio Ulster

project. Studio Ulster is a large-scale virtual studio production complex designed to support

both commercial and research, development and innovation activities. The facilities include,

but are not limited to, a large-scale virtual studio sound stage, second flexible virtual production sound stage, a smart/demo stage, a motion capture stage and 3D scanning stage

with a total floor area of approx. 70,000sq.

The Operator will be responsible for developing the design, the installation and the operation

of the equipment servicing Studio Ulster.

Studio Ulster will include a 'Tier 1' Centre of Excellence in Research & Development & Innovation in the virtual production and associated technologies sector.

The building is being delivered by Belfast Harbour as part of an expansion within the existing

Belfast Harbour Film complex. Belfast Harbour, as landlord, and Ulster University have entered into a long-term Agreement for Lease for Studio Ulster.

The Operator and Delivery Partner will develop the detailed design for the specialist equipment, procure the specialist equipment on behalf of UU and operate the commercial activities within the facility, which in turn will drive R&D across the virtual production, broadcast, animation, games and immersive elements of this sector.

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The Operator & Delivery Partner will be required to :

- Work with strategic partners within the virtual production and associated technologies sector to support the growth of the creative industry sector in NI, through a focus on virtual production as a nexus within the screen industries.

- Promote and operate a centre of excellence in the screen sector, recognised locally, nationally and internationally, as a focal point for the screen industries.
- Support innovation in the production cycle to generate new products, services and experiences, through applied research and collaborative R&D with players in the screen industry.
- Create a step change in the wider ecosystem by supporting development and driving innovation in the screen sector, that facilitates the application and adoption of new approaches and emerging technologies across multiple industry sectors.
- Work with key stakeholders to provide training and skills development opportunities that expand the capacity of the talent pipeline, to meet the needs of the screen sector.

Ulster University is fully committed to the implementation and delivery of Social Value through procurement and operations, and this shall form part of the procurement award criteria for this competition

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKN0 - Northern Ireland

Main site or place of performance

North Foreshore Film Studios, Giant's Park, Belfast

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

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It is currently envisaged that the successful Economic Operator will enter into two contractual agreements:

- a Collaborative Partnership Agreement with Studio Ulster Limited for all commercial activities to be undertaken in respect of the Studio Ulster and providing for the provision of Operator and Delivery Partner Services to Ulster University by the successful Economic Operator;
- a Research and Innovation Partnership Agreement to encourage and initiate research engagement between the Economic Operator and Ulster University that will be mutually beneficial both to the operator and sector wide R&D challenges. An agreement that is responsive to the needs of industry going forward and that will help build a sustainable ecosystem for the development of new solutions, identify applied research needs and

supports the wider innovation and development needs of the virtual production sector. Ulster University is fully committed to the implementation and delivery of Social Value through procurement and operations, and this shall form part of the procurement award criteria for this competition that shall be conducted via Reg 30 Competitive Dialogue process.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Cost criterion - Name: Financial Performance (business plan) / Weighting: 10

Cost criterion - Name: Financial Performance (revenue sharing arrangements) / Weighting: 15

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of options

The University may agree renewal options to extend for any periods up to and including 120 months.

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

Competitive dialogue

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: [2022/S 000-036276](#)

Section V. Award of contract

Contract No

project_27187

Title

Studio Ulster

A contract/lot is awarded: No

V.1) Information on non-award

The contract/lot is not awarded

Other reasons (discontinuation of procedure)

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

The University has decided not to proceed with the Studio Ulster tender competition for appointment of an Operator. The reason for this decision is that the University has not received sufficient tenders to ensure provision of the services required.

The University is considering its position with the intention to hold a new tender competition for the design, development, supply and install of equipment for Studio Ulster. The specification and requirements for this tender opportunity are currently being reviewed by the University.

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

High Court of Justice in Northern Ireland

Royal Courts of Justice, Chichester Street

Belfast

BT1 3JY

Country

United Kingdom