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Planning

Bus Franchising - Bolton Small Franchise

Transport for Greater Manchester

UK3: Planned procurement notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-021867

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-0514bf ([view related notices](#))

Published 15 May 2025, 3:34pm

Scope

Reference

DN773100

Description

Following the implementation of bus franchising across Greater Manchester, Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM), on behalf of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), is seeking an Operator to provide bus passenger services for the Bolton Small Franchise from March 2027. Estimated Peak Vehicle Requirements (PVR) for this franchise is 21.

Total value (estimated)

- £38,571,000 excluding VAT
- £46,285,200 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 7 March 2027 to 27 September 2030
- Possible extension to 27 September 2032
- 5 years, 6 months, 21 days

Description of possible extension:

TfGM reserve the right to extend this contract in multiple periods of up to 24 months (total)

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 60112000 - Public road transport services

Contract locations

- UKD3 - Greater Manchester

Participation

Particular suitability

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

Submission

Publication date of tender notice (estimated)

7 July 2025

Submission type

Requests to participate

Deadline for requests to participate

11 August 2025, 12:00pm

Submission address and any special instructions

Upon publication of the tender notice, Tenders should be submitted via the ProContract procurement portal. Suppliers can register for free using the following link:

<https://procontract.due-north.com/Register>.

Upon registration, suppliers can access the opportunity via the following project reference:
DN773100

Tenders may be submitted electronically

Yes

Languages that may be used for submission

English

Award decision date (estimated)

22 June 2026

Award criteria

Name	Description	Type	Weighting
Technical Assessment	The award criteria maybe subject to change as per Section 24 of the Procurement Act 2023.	Quality	60%
Price	The award criteria maybe subject to change as per Section 24 of the Procurement Act 2023.	Price	40%

Other information

Applicable trade agreements

- Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

Procedure

Procedure type

Competitive flexible procedure

Special regime

Utilities

Competitive flexible procedure description

TfGM are seeking to engage with potential suppliers who wish to become a Franchise Operator. Through this procurement process suppliers will be required to provide and pass a Procurement Specific Questionnaire (PSQ) including Conditions of Participation. Any successful Bidders who have successfully passed the PSQ phase will qualify to participate in the subsequent stages of the procurement (the Invitation to Negotiation stage and final tender submission).

Further detail on the proposed award criteria and tender process will be made available through market engagement and subsequently the tender notice and PSQ documentation. However, this may be subject to change during this competitive flexible procedure.

The tender documents will be made available on the Pro-Contract E-Tendering portal (<https://procontract.due-north.com/register>) in July 2025.

Contracting authority

Transport for Greater Manchester

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PNJQ-2746-NWYT

2 Piccadilly Place

Manchester

M1 3BG

United Kingdom

Contact name: Kirk Boulton

Email: kirk.boulton@tfgm.com

Website: <https://www.tfgm.com>

Region: UKD33 - Manchester

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government