

This is a published notice on the Find a Tender service: <https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Notice/022376-2021>

Award

ID 1678809 - DFE TOURISM NI BUSINESS SUPPORT

DfE Tourism Northern Ireland

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2021/S 000-022376

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-02ded7

Published 9 September 2021, 11:54am

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

DfE Tourism Northern Ireland

Linum CHambers, Bedford Square, Bedford Street

BELFAST

BT2 7ES

Email

SSDAdmin.CPD@finance-ni.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://tourismni.com/>

Buyer's address

<https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/topics/procurement>

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.5) Main activity

Economic and financial affairs

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

ID 1678809 - DFE TOURISM NI BUSINESS SUPPORT

Reference number

ID 1678809

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 79411000 - General management consultancy services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

Following a competition advertised in the Official Journal of the EU on 30/11/18 the Department for the Economy Tourism NI entered into a Business Support Programme contract but due to the impact of Covid-19 the level of support required by tourism businesses has been unprecedented and unforeseen at the time of securing the contract. In continuing to support the sector recover via the roll out of the Tourism Recovery Action Plan, it is anticipated that the 8 months remaining will require an ongoing high level of support for the tourism sector businesses therefore Tourism NI requires a variation to the

value of the contract to ensure it is able to deliver the required level of support to the industry. Tourism NI wishes to increase the value of the contract by £2,250,000 ex VAT (50% of the original contract value), to cover requirements until the end of the contract (18/02/2022). Tourism NI is relying on the Regulation 72(1)(c) provision as the need for change could not have been foreseen by a “diligent” contracting authority. This is on the basis that the level of support required by tourism businesses has increased dramatically due to the impact of the pandemic which could not have been predicted and these increased requirements could not have been foreseen or accounted for when estimating the contract value at the time of tender. This additional funding will continue to support the sector recover via the roll out of the Tourism Recovery Action Plan. The changes required do not affect the overall nature of the contract.

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: £4,500,000

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKN0 - Northern Ireland

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The Northern Ireland Tourist Board trading as Tourism Northern Ireland appointed a Contractor to

provide a Managed Business Support Service to the Tourism Industry. The Contractor was required to ensure a full supply of Industry experts to act as business support personnel to meet the requirements of the

specification.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: AC1 Project Manager Experience / Weighting: 17.5

Quality criterion - Name: AC2 Proposed Methodology for Resourcing Industry Support Experts / Weighting: 17.5

Quality criterion - Name: AC3 Contract Management / Weighting: 10.5

Quality criterion - Name: AC4 Evaluation of Support / Weighting: 10.5

Quality criterion - Name: AC5 Contingency Arrangements / Weighting: 10.5

Quality criterion - Name: AC6Buy Social/Social Consideration / Weighting: 3.5

Cost criterion - Name: Total Daily Rate / Weighting: 30

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of options

This contract commenced on 19 February 2019 for one year. The Client took up both annual options to extend until expiry of contract on 18 February 2022.

II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

II.2.14) Additional information

This voluntary transparency notice has been published to alert economic operators of the Department. for Economy intention to further modify the DFE Tourism NI Business Support Programme contract under Regulation 72(1)(c) of the Public Contract Regulations (as amended). The modification will take the form of an increase in spend over the last 8 months of the contract at a cost of £2.25 million. A modification notice will be published after the modification has been formalised.

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Award of a contract without prior publication of a call for competition in the cases listed below

- The procurement falls outside the scope of application of the regulations

Explanation:

Regulation 72(1)(c) provision ‘the need for change could not have been foreseen by a “diligent” contracting authority’ based on the level of support required by tourism businesses increasing dramatically due to the impact of the pandemic which was unprecedented and unforeseen at the time of contract award. This additional funding will continue to support the sector recover via the roll out of the Tourism Recovery Action Plan. The changes required do not affect the overall nature of the contract.

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: [2019/S 039-088605](#)

Section V. Award of contract/concession

Contract No

ID 1678809

Title

ID 1678809 DfE Tourism NI - Business Support Programme

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract/concession

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

19 February 2019

V.2.2) Information about tenders

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

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire

Wholeschool Software Ltd.

Glenwood Business Centre, Springbank Industrial Estate

BELFAST

BT17 0QL

Email

frank@wholeschool.ie

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKN0 - Northern Ireland

Internet address

<https://www.whole.school/>

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

Yes

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

Initial estimated total value of the contract/lot/concession: £4,500,000

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £6,750,000

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

The value of the modification is a cost of £2,250,000 for the last 8 months of the contract. The original award value in Feruary 2019 was £4,500,000.

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

UK Contracting Authorities do not have a review procedure in place. Economic Operators have access to the NI Courts and

BELFAST

Country

United Kingdom