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Award

DSD Medical Support Services

Department for Communities formerly the Department for Social Development DSD

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-022693

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-03ecfd

Published 4 August 2023, 10:33am

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

Department for Communities formerly the Department for Social Development DSD

Causeway Exchange, 1-7 Bedford Street

BELFAST

BT2 7EG

Email

healthtransformation@communities-ni.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

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

Buyer's address

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

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.5) Main activity

Health

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

DSD Medical Support Services

Reference number

Project 71

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 85000000 - Health and social work services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

DfC shall enter into a Contract Variation of the Medical Support Services (MSS) Agreement with the incumbent supplier following a period of 10 days from the date of publication of this notice.

The Contract Variation provides for a six (6) month extension from 04 March 2024 to 6 September 2024 of the services delivered by the Medical Support Services (MSS) Agreement. This is necessary due to delays in the completion of the Lot 5 (Northern Ireland) Functional Assessment Services (FAS) 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: £121,392,886

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

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

- 75000000 - Administration, defence and social security services
- 75311000 - Sickness benefits
- 75313000 - Disability benefits
- 75313100 - Temporary disablement benefits

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKN - Northern Ireland

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Continuation of the provision of work capability assessment services in Northern Ireland.

For full details of the nature of the services please see OJEU 2007/S 063-077231.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Medical Personnel / Weighting: 15

Quality criterion - Name: Service Quality / Weighting: 25

Quality criterion - Name: Transition and Service / Weighting: 10

Quality criterion - Name: IS/IT Solutions / Weighting: 10

Quality criterion - Name: Legal and Contractual / Weighting: 10

Quality criterion - Name: Properties / Weighting: 5

Cost criterion - Name: Financial / Weighting: 25

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

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:

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) led FAS procurement, based on 5 geographic Lots (Lot 5 in Northern Ireland), was launched on 12 November 2021.

On 15 March 2023, DWP notified FAS bidders of the outcome of the procurement in Lots 1, 2, 4 and 5. Procurement activity in Lot 3 (Southwest England) continues, resulting in a DWP and DfC agreement to delay contract signature in all Lots to support full alignment in FAS transition to 'go-live' in 2024. DfC has a number of dependencies on DWP to enable it to comply with key Authority obligations in relation to FAS Lot 5 service delivery.

It is anticipated that the completion of the FAS procurement exercise in Lot 3 will result in a 6-month delay in the contract signature for Lot 3 and consequently in Lots 1, 2, 4 and 5.

Without an extension there would be a service provision gap, adversely impacting MSS customers and resulting in a failure of DfC to meet its statutory obligations. Furthermore, the absence of continuity in service provision would put at significant risk a vulnerable group of MSS recipients and create further hardship and disadvantage.

DfC considers Regulation 72(1)(b) PCR applicable. For the reasons set out above, the provision of additional services until 6 September 2024 is necessary and:

(i) interchangeability issues with a new supplier means these key services could be negatively impacted for technical and economic reasons. The implementation of the contract currently being procured will necessitate a lengthy handover period, and make it impossible therefore to introduce a new provider for a short extension period. A change in supplier, without a full handover programme (to include transition to a new IT service necessitating dual running of systems), would risk delivery of these services which provide critical statutory benefits to vulnerable people;

(ii) appointing a new supplier to cover a short extension period (which DfC does not consider a viable option) at the same time an incumbent is engaged in handover to a new FAS supplier, would result in significant duplication of costs and a loss of value for money

for the taxpayer;

(iii) the value of the contract for the extended period does not exceed 50% of value of original contract; and

(iv) DfC will publish a modification notice pursuant to Regulation 72(3) of PCR.

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: [2007/S 063-077231](#)

Section V. Award of contract/concession

Contract No

Project 71

Title

DSD Medical Support Services

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract/concession

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

31 December 2010

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

Atos Origin IT Services Ltd

London

Email

robert.gidney@atos.net

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://atos.net/en/>

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

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

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £6,309,000

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

The UK does not have any such bodies with responsibility for appeal/mediation procedures.

Belfast

Country

United Kingdom