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Contract

Delivery of National Reference Tests from 2025

Ofqual

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-023023

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-034c5e

Published 24 July 2024, 1:25pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Ofqual

Floor 2, Friargate, One Station Square

Coventry

CV1 2GN

Contact

David Thomas

Email

david.thomas@ofqual.gov.uk

Telephone

+44 7946672370

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKG33 - Coventry

Internet address(es)

Main address

<http://ofqual.gov.uk>

Buyer's address

https://www.mytenders.co.uk/search/Search_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA29088

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

Education

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Delivery of National Reference Tests from 2025

Reference number

OF923

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 80200000 - Secondary education services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

To provide the National Reference Tests (NRT) in England on behalf of Ofqual. The National Reference Tests provide evidence for Ofqual on changes in performance standards over time in GCSE English Language and Mathematics in England at the end of Key Stage 4.

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: £12,998,997

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 80200000 - Secondary education services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKG33 - Coventry

Main site or place of performance

Coventry

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

In June 2022, Ofqual published a Prior Information Notice (PIN) advising the market of the intent to procure a supplier of the National Reference Tests for the 2025 to 2029 test years, with an option to extend the contract up to 3 further years. A public contract regulations restricted competition procurement process was used. Possible suppliers were shortlisted at stage 1 and only those which showed relevant skills and sufficient experience were invited to tender. At the second stage, suppliers proposed their solution to the stated need and bids were evaluated against Authority requirements using the weightings and scoring guide disclosed in the invitation to tender. The contract was awarded to the supplier who submitted the solution with the highest overall score.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Method statements / Weighting: 70

Price - Weighting: 30

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of options

Following the initial contract period, and subject to minimum notice being provided as per contract, the Buyer may choose to extend the contract by 3 x 12 month periods, reviewed annually and subject to Supplier agreement via the agreed change/variation process.

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 procurement is exempt from VAT

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Restricted 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: [2023/S 000-002162](#)

Section V. Award of contract

Contract No

OF923

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

28 June 2024

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 3

Number of tenders received from SMEs: 2

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

Number of tenders received from tenderers from non-EU Member States: 3

Number of tenders received by electronic means: 3

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

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

The National Foundation for Educational Research in England and Wales

The Mere, Upton Park

Slough

SL1 2DQ

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKG33 - Coventry

The contractor is an SME

Yes

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

Total value of the contract/lot: £12,998,997

V.2.5) Information about subcontracting

The contract is likely to be subcontracted

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

This procurement is VAT exempt.

This Contract will include ongoing strategic development and delivery of the National Reference Tests on an annual basis up to and including the Tests in 2029; the contract may be extended at Ofqual's discretion for any period up to a maximum of 3 years to include the delivery of the Tests in 2030, 2031 and 2032.

(MT Ref:232365)

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Public Procurement Review Service

Cabinet Office

London

Email

publicprocurementreview@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

Telephone

+44 3450103503

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-procurement-review-service-scope-and-remit>