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Future opportunity

Science CPD Programme

Department for Education

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice reference: 2021/S 000-023744

Published: 23 September 2021, 10:45pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Department for Education

Sanctuary Buildings, 20, Great Smith Street

London

SW1P 3BT

Email

John.BURTON@education.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

www.gov.uk/dfe

Buyer's address

<https://education.app.jaggaer.com>

I.3) Communication

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

I.5) Main activity

Education

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Science CPD Programme

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 80000000 - Education and training services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

The purpose of this Prior Information Notice (PIN) is to notify the market of a forthcoming opportunity to bid for a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programme for those teaching the sciences in primary and secondary schools and further education institutes in England. Interested parties are invited to a market engagement event on 06 October to hear details about this opportunity and share thoughts and questions about the programme.

The contract is due to commence in April 2022. The length of the contract will be 17 months, finishing at the end of August 2023.

The continued growth of science-related research and industry is a central part of the government's industrial strategy. To support this, and to increase the flow of people into STEM-related careers, it is vital to increase the number of students achieving good grades in the sciences.

CPD has a key role to play in the development of a world class education system. Evidence shows that CPD can lead to improved student outcomes by allowing teachers to improve and refine their practice. CPD can also contribute to improved teacher retention, which is vital for maintaining a high quality workforce.

In recent years science-specific CPD funded by the Department for Education has been delivered to thousands of teachers and technicians, including those teaching at schools in areas of disadvantage. This has supported participating schools to increase the number of students achieving the science component of EBacc.

The new CPD contract will replace three current agreements for science CPD. The intention

is that the current offer of a general science network, a specific physics network and a bursary scheme is replicated in the new contract. However, instead of three separate oversight bodies as currently, the new arrangement will be for a single oversight body to oversee all three programmes to help present a clear and easily-navigable offer for teachers to access science-specific CPD from key stage 1 to key stage 5.

The Department is seeking a lead provider, consortia or similar entity to deliver the programme according to the following primary objective:

To provide high quality science CPD to teachers in primary schools, secondary schools and FE colleges in order to improve the number of students studying science subjects at GCSE and A level and achieving good results. The CPD should support the teaching of a knowledge rich curriculum at primary, secondary and post-16 level.

In addition, the programme will have the following related strategic objectives:

- To carry out targeted action to address the disadvantage gap in GCSE and A level science by targeting support towards schools with a high percentage of students with free school meals in order to improve outcomes.
- To carry out targeted action to improve participation from under-represented groups progressing to A level science. In particular, this should include action to increase the number of females studying A level physics.
- To deliver targeted support to primary science leaders in delivering a knowledge-rich curriculum in order to improve engagement in primary science and to maximise the quality of training that science leaders deliver in turn to their colleagues.
- To improve teacher retention by supporting teachers to confidently deliver a knowledge-rich curriculum in the science subjects they teach.

Indicative Dates for Procurement:

Subject to internal clearances, we intend to publish the Invitation to Tender in November 2021. Contract award will take place around January 2022 with contract commencement in April 2022.

The Department is managing this Procurement based upon the 'Open' tendering procedure as defined by the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (Regulation 27).

You must register your interest in this event via the Jaggaer portal. Details can be found here <https://education.app.jaggaer.com>

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 80100000 - Primary education services
- 80200000 - Secondary education services
- 80300000 - Higher education services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

This notice is a zero value PIN notice to announce a potential opportunity for an anticipated seventeen- month contract. It is for information only and is not a call for competition. The Department reserves the right not to enter a formal procurement process and not proceed with contract award. Accordingly, the Department will not be liable for any bid cost, expenditure, work or effort incurred by any organisation in acting on the basis of this Prior Information Notice.

All information included in this notice is indicative and subject to change

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

26 November 2021

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.8) Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes