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Award

DoF EU Division - European Structural and Investment Funds Computer System

Department of Finance Northern Ireland

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2021/S 000-024023

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-02e547

Published 28 September 2021, 10:25am

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

Department of Finance Northern Ireland

NINE Lanyon Place

BELFAST

BT1 3LP

Email

ssd.cpd@finance-ni.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKN0 - Northern Ireland

Internet address(es)

Main address

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

Buyer's address

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

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.5) Main activity

General public services

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

DoF EU Division - European Structural and Investment Funds Computer System

II.1.2) Main CPV code

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

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

It is necessary to take up the extension option for a 4 year period from the end of 2021 since functionality of the Database will be required until closure of the ESIF Funding period at the end of 2025. The existing contractor has designed and developed this bespoke Database, it would not be practical or cost effective to engage a different supplier for further enhancements and system support up to the end of the contract period. To do so would result in the requirement to re-train all existing users, have the system re-designated by the Audit Authorities and have the system accredited again to ISO27001 security standard – an accreditation the current system has until 2023.

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: £1,163,423

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 48000000 - Software package and information systems
- 72000000 - IT services: consulting, software development, Internet and support

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKN - Northern Ireland

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

This contract is for the development and maintenance of a European structural investment Funds Database for the EU Division. This contract has an initial end date of 31.12.2021 with the option to extend for 2 optional 2 year periods. It is necessary to take up the extension option for a 4 year period from the end of 2021 since functionality of the Database will be required until closure of the ESIF Funding period at the end of 2025. The existing contractor has designed and developed this bespoke Database, it would not be practical or cost effective to engage a different supplier for further enhancements and system support up to the end of the contract period. To do so would result in the requirement to re-train all existing users, have the system re-designated by the Audit Authorities and have the system accredited again to ISO27001 security standard – an accreditation the current system has until 2023.

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of options

2 optional 2 year extensions.

II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: Yes

Identification of the project

CFT 550128

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Negotiated without a prior call for competition

- No tenders or no suitable tenders/requests to participate in response to open procedure

Explanation:

The value of this contract and proposed modification (at £1,163,423) is above the EU threshold therefore the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as amended) apply.

The current contract (DAC 150/16) was put in place for an initial period of 5 years with two optional extension periods of 2 years each due to unforeseen events.

Two public tender competitions had failed to deliver a multi-function database for use by Department for the Economy, Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs and the Special European Union Programmes Body as required by European Commission Regulations to comply with e-cohesion principles and enable the drawdown of €1 bn+ EU funding to Northern Ireland during the 2014 – 2020 round of European Structural and Investment Funds.

The contractor appointed following the most recent open competition was unable to deliver the requirements specified in the tender SOR resulting in the contract being terminated on 13th June 2016 due to default.

This created an urgent requirement to have a functioning database in place by the end of 2016 to meet Commission requirements. As the scheme continues after the initial 5 year period CPD held a number of discussions with EUD on requirements going forward following exit from EU.

The scheme will close in 4 years' time and EUD have negotiated with the contractor (RMA now under Fluent Technology) to aggregate the extension periods into one 4 year deal to provide best vfm. This included social value considerations which were incorporated into the original contract. In addition to support and maintenance costs, these costs include a software refresh which is necessary to continue to meet current security standards and archiving of the data at the end of the contract.

The Regulations permit the modification of a contract where the changes proposed meet one or more of the prescribed tests as set out in Regulation 72. Having considered the information provided there would appear to be convincing reasons to modify this contract in accordance with Regulation 72(1)(b); that is additional services "have become necessary" and were not included in the initial procurement and a change of supplier would not be practicable for economic or technical and would involve substantial inconvenience/duplication of costs - provided the change does not exceed 50% of the value of the original contract.

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

Section V. Award of contract/concession

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract/concession

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

13 October 2016

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

RMA SYSTEMS And SERVICES LTD

17 GRAYS HILL

BANGOR

BT20 3BB

Email

alan@rmasystems.co.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKN - Northern Ireland

Internet address

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

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

Yes

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

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £1,163,423

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

The UK does not have any special review body with responsibility for appeal/mediation procedures in public procurement competitions. Instead, any challenges are dealt with by the High Court, Commercial Division, to which proceedings may be issued regarding alleged breaches of the PCR 2015

Belfast

Country

United Kingdom