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Award

Dialogue Driven Partnerships

Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-024269

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-048713

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Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office

Abercombie House, Eaglesham Road, East Kilbride

Glasgow

G75 8EA

Email

ls.nagarajan@fcdo.gov.uk

Telephone

+44 1355844000

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/foreign-commonwealth-development-office>

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

I.5) Main activity

General public services

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Dialogue Driven Partnerships

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 73220000 - Development consultancy services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

A contract for the management of two sets of dialogues for British Embassy Kathmandu (BEK):

1) The “Horizons” series: The supplier will facilitate a series of seminars. This work will act as a ‘soft power’ lever, demonstrating the UK as a thought leader by convening relevant stakeholders from Nepal and the international community to deliver cutting edge analysis of topics critical to Nepal’s future. Five thematic ‘dialogue’ events will be hosted every two months by British Embassy Kathmandu, culminating in a two-day workshop).

2) Partner Dialogues: The supplier will facilitate roundtable discussions with Nepal development programme partners to deliver portfolio coherence and collaborative learning and adaptation across portfolio themes at BEK. The Partners Dialogues will be central to ‘onboarding’ implementing partners and delivering stronger portfolio impacts and greater VFM (identifying what’s not working and ensuring the dialogues help solve problems, build consensus on ways of working, and support evidence-based decision making on portfolio priorities).

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: £223,665

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- NP - Nepal

Main site or place of performance

Nepal

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Building on BEK's influencing approach, the Horizons dialogues will be used as a direct and practical influencing 'lever' whereby the UK convenes stakeholders to shape and inform debate and develops strategic action in Kathmandu and the provinces.

This will foster coherence and collaboration across Development Partners, moving away from a projectized way of delivering programmes towards more strategic, impact-focused development outcomes across relevant actors, bringing in Government of Nepal representation where suitable.

This work will act as a 'soft power' lever, demonstrating the UK as a thought leader by convening relevant stakeholders from Nepal and the international community to deliver cutting edge analysis of topics critical to Nepal's future (in the next 5-10 years).

This work will seek to bring in local and often marginalised voices, alongside other relevant stakeholders. One dialogue should be expected to be held in one of BEK's priority provinces (Karnali, Madhesh, Lumbini).

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of options

3 months extension with a possibility to raise the financial limit upto £250,000 from the original contract value.

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:

Single source Direct Award in order to maintain continuity for a project that is strategically and reputationally important to British Embassy Kathmandu (BEK). The first Horizons seminar is scheduled for September but this will not be possible if there is a sustained delay in the preparatory work being carried out by the DDP project. A key objective of the Partner Dialogues is to induct new programme partners into a coherent portfolio way-of-working. There are a number of programmes that are mobilising right now and in the next two months so it is important that the DDP project continues to support this mobilisation.

The Single Source rationale is therefore that:

A satisfactory proposal, with satisfactory value for money, that avoids conflict of interest risk, has been cut short for reasons that have nothing to do with the viability of the contract or the performance of the delivery team. There is an opportunity to continue with the same proposal, the same delivery team, and the same prices by Direct Award.

This would achieve near seamless operational continuity, allowing BEK to deliver the objectives of the Dialogue Driven Partnerships (DDP) project, which are very important to BEK's 'soft power' strategy and their vision for managing their development programmes in a more coherent and effective 'portfolio' manner.

The new contract will replicate an original contract that was procured in a robust way using the EACDS2 framework. The framework price caps provided assurance on VFM and the technical proposal was evaluated as the best of two proposals that were submitted.

Single Source is permitted under regulation 32 (2)(c), "insofar as is strictly necessary where, for reasons of extreme urgency brought about by events unforeseeable by the contracting authority, the time limits for the open or restricted procedures or competitive procedures with negotiation cannot be complied with." In this case, the unforeseeable event was the liquidation of the original Supplier, which happened very suddenly and did not allow time for an open or restricted procurement to be carried out.

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: No

Section V. Award of contract/concession

Title

Dialogue Driven Partnerships

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract/concession

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

2 August 2024

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

Agulhas Applied Knowledge Limited

10e Branch Place

London

N1 5PH

Email

lauren@agulhas.co.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

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: £250,000

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £223,665

V.2.5) Information about subcontracting

The contract/lot/concession is likely to be subcontracted

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

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