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Award

Apollo Solution

NORTHERN GAS NETWORKS LIMITED

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-025167

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-048943

Published 9 August 2024, 10:10am

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

NORTHERN GAS NETWORKS LIMITED

1100 Ceturty Way, Thorpe Park Business Centre, Colton

LEEDS

LS158TU

Contact

Rebecca Rowley

Email

rrowley@northerngas.co.uk

Telephone

+44 7935077342

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKE42 - Leeds

Companies House

NORTHERN GAS NETWORKS LIMITED

Internet address(es)

Main address

www.northerngasnetworks.co.uk/procurement

I.6) Main activity

Production, transport and distribution of gas and heat

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Apollo Solution

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

Apollo Solution services are used on all NGN laptops, tablets System Control desktops and Offtake Site Comms PCs, to enable secure remote access to NGN's IT systems. This enables widescale home-working and supports secure day to day operations for NGN's field force and system control to access NGN services to conduct their work duties. Brand provide us capabilities within its services to overcome some critical restrictions within our AWS design architecture that Amazon natively does not support from an network routing

prospective.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKE42 - Leeds

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Apollo Solution services are used on all NGN laptops, tablets System Control desktops and Offtake Site Comms PCs, to enable secure remote access to NGN's IT systems. This enables widescale home-working and supports secure day to day operations for NGN's field force and system control to access NGN services to conduct their work duties.

Brand provide us capabilities within its services to overcome some critical restrictions within our AWS design architecture that Amazon natively does not support from an network routing prospective.

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: No

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Negotiated without a prior call for competition

- The works, supplies or services can be provided only by a particular economic operator for the following reason:
 - absence of competition for technical reasons

Explanation:

NGN have a contract with Brand Communications, which expires on the 31st of August 2024.

Apollo Solution services are used on all NGN laptops, tablets System Control desktops and Offtake Site Comms PCs, to enable secure remote access to NGN's IT systems. This enables widescale home-working and supports secure day to day operations for NGN's field force and system control to access NGN services to conduct their work duties. Brand provide us capabilities within its services to overcome some critical restrictions within our AWS design architecture that Amazon natively does not support from an network routing prospective. We cannot overcome this challenge without re-architecting our AWS landscape. With Brand technologies we have been able to circumvent these restrictions with their expert Layer 2 Network skills and experience. Bridging our VPC landscapes would not have been feasible without Brand technologies whilst ensuring security principles were maintained throughout the solution implemented. This is also extended into our Operational landscape where utilising the Brand Communication services, we are able to drastically improve our CNI network coverage, performance, monitoring and security of telemetry and gas day quality data flows from our critical offtake sites.

This software is a critical part of our IT infrastructure and would be a multi-million pound investment to replace, procure and swap out all devices if Brand was replaced. Therefore there is a need to renew the contract to save NGN time and money that has been spent on building our current infrastructure to replace this with a new solution.

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

Apollo Solutions

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract/concession

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

9 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

Brand Communications Limited

Huntingdon

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKH12 - Cambridgeshire CC

Companies House

Brand Communications Limited

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: £335,441.95

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Northern Gas Networks

Leeds

Country

United Kingdom