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Award

Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) Provision and Support

UNIVERSITY OF YORK

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2021/S 000-026243

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-02edf0

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Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

UNIVERSITY OF YORK

Heslington

YORK

YO105DD

Contact

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Email

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Telephone

+44 1904328201

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKE21 - York

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.york.ac.uk>

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**

Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) Provision and Support

Reference number

UY/PROC/525

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 48190000 - Educational software package

II.1.3) Type of contract

Supplies

II.1.4) Short description

Provision and support of a VLE for university students

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: £1,664,000

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKE21 - York

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Provision and support of a VLE for university students for a five year period commencing 1st July 2022

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:

A previously published VEAT notice (2019-OJS 149-367112) stated an intention to enter an open procurement activity prior to the end of the current extended contract. The impact of the COVID pandemic has prevented the University from being able to undertake this activity with enough time remaining to complete a procurement and an implementation activity without significant risk of project delay.

The University is currently undergoing an ambitious strategic change programme. This is affecting all staff involved in teaching and learning activities and any significant changes to the enabling VLE platform are considered too disruptive at this time. The University must have a solution to its current self-hosted BlackBoard infrastructure going out of support. It is therefore the intention to migrate to BlackBoard's cloud hosted infrastructure without undertaking a competitive tender.

By not undertaking a competitive tender, the University will increase the lead time available to start implementation; thereby significantly reducing the risk of missing a critical summer migration deadline. Furthermore, there has been significant investment in process, staff skills and capabilities over the last 5 years that can be utilised, removing the need for organisation wide retraining and detailed process review.

The strategic change activities currently underway at the University are expected to take between 3 and 5 years to deliver and become embedded within the University. The provision of a stable, well managed and understood VLE plays a significant role in enabling the success of these changes. The continuation of service throughout this 5 year period is therefore a critical success factor and any change to the VLE supplier during this period would neither be advantageous nor sustainable. As a consequence, the University will be seeking a 5 year commitment during which time we will consider competitive options for a new, longer-term solution.

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: [2019/S 149-367112](#)

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

18 October 2021

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

Blackboard International B.V.

Amsterdam

Country

Netherlands

NUTS code

- NL - Netherlands

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: £1,664,000

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

University of York

York

Country

United Kingdom