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Tender

ID 5121238 - DfE - Invest NI - Invest NI Framework Agreement for Patent Appraisal Services 2023-2027

Invest Northern Ireland

F02: Contract notice

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-026771

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-0492d7

Published 22 August 2024, 9:34am

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Invest Northern Ireland

Bedford Square, 1 Bedford St

BELFAST

BT2 7ES

Contact

SSDAdmin.CPDfinance-ni.gov.uk

Email

SSDAdmin.CPD@finance-ni.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

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

Buyer's address

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

I.3) Communication

The procurement documents are available for unrestricted and full direct access, free of charge, at

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

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted to the above-mentioned address

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

ID 5121238 - DfE - Invest NI - Invest NI Framework Agreement for Patent Appraisal Services 2023-2027

Reference number

ID 5121238

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 79120000 - Patent and copyright consultancy services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

Invest NI wishes to establish a framework list of Contractors to undertake Patent Appraisals /Reviews of PoC proposals. Other Divisions from within Invest NI may, on occasions, use the Framework for similar proposals. The programme is not sector specific, but applications generally fall into the following sectors: Life Sciences , ICT, Engineering. The appointed Contractors will carry out patent appraisals on each of the PoC project proposals and provide a comprehensive report (circa 15-20 pages) for each.

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £220,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 79000000 - Business services: law, marketing, consulting, recruitment, printing and security
- 79100000 - Legal services

- 79121000 - Copyright consultancy services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKN - Northern Ireland

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Invest NI wishes to establish a framework list of Contractors to undertake Patent Appraisals /Reviews of PoC proposals. Other Divisions from within Invest NI may, on occasions, use the Framework for similar proposals. The programme is not sector specific, but applications generally fall into the following sectors: Life Sciences , ICT, Engineering. The appointed Contractors will carry out patent appraisals on each of the PoC project proposals and provide a comprehensive report (circa 15-20 pages) for each.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

II.2.6) Estimated value

Value excluding VAT: £220,000

II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system

Duration in months

24

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

The Framework Agreement will run for an initial period of 2 years and with the option to extend for 2 further periods of up to and included 12 months each.

II.2.10) Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: No

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of options

The Framework Agreement will run for an initial period of 2 years and with the option to extend for 2 further periods of up to and included 12 months each.

II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

II.2.14) Additional information

Contract Value. The figure indicated in Section II 1.5 represents an estimated Framework value. This value reflects the potential scale of the Framework and takes into account potential optional extension periods and the uptake of potential optional services as detailed in the tender documents. This figure does not however take into account the application of indexation. Neither CPD nor the Authority can provide any guarantee as to the level of business under this Framework. The Contracting Authority does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender. Economic Operators remain responsible for all costs and expenses incurred by them or by any third party acting under instructions from the Economic Operator in connection with taking part in this procurement process regardless of whether such costs arise as a consequence, directly or indirectly of any amendments made to the procurement documents by the Contracting Authority at any time. No legally binding contract shall arise (and an Economic Operator shall have no legitimate expectation that a contract will be entered into) until such time as entry into the Contract has been confirmed by the Contracting Authority. Economic Operators should note that all dates, time periods and figures in relation to values and volumes specified in this notice and the procurement documents are approximate only and the Contracting Authority reserves the right to change any or all of them.

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Open procedure

IV.1.3) Information about a framework agreement or a dynamic purchasing system

The procurement involves the establishment of a framework agreement

Framework agreement with several operators

Envisaged maximum number of participants to the framework agreement: 3

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.2.2) Time limit for receipt of tenders or requests to participate

Date

11 September 2024

Local time

3:00pm

IV.2.4) Languages in which tenders or requests to participate may be submitted

English

IV.2.6) Minimum time frame during which the tenderer must maintain the tender

Tender must be valid until: 10 December 2024

IV.2.7) Conditions for opening of tenders

Date

11 September 2024

Local time

3:30pm

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.1) Information about recurrence

This is a recurrent procurement: No

VI.2) Information about electronic workflows

Electronic ordering will be used

Electronic invoicing will be accepted

Electronic payment will be used

VI.3) Additional information

Contractors not delivering on contract requirements is a serious matter. It means the public purse is not getting what it is paying for. If a contractor fails to reach satisfactory levels of contract performance they will be given a specified time to improve. If, after the specified time, they still fail to reach satisfactory levels of contract performance, the matter will be escalated to senior management in CPD for further action. If this occurs and the performance still does not improve to satisfactory levels within the specified period, it may be regarded as an act of grave professional misconduct and they may be issued with a Notice of Unsatisfactory Performance and their place on the contract may be terminated. The issue of a Notice of unsatisfactory Performance will result in the contractor being excluded from all procurement competitions being undertaken by Centres of Procurement Expertise on behalf of bodies covered by the Northern Ireland Procurement Policy for a period of twelve months from the date of issue of the Notice.

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

The UK does not have any such bodies with responsibility for appeal/mediation procedures. 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 as amended

UK

Country

United Kingdom

VI.4.3) Review procedure

Precise information on deadline(s) for review procedures

CPD will comply with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and, where appropriate, will incorporate a standstill period (i.e. a minimum of 10 calendar days) at the point information on the award of contract is communicated to tenderers. That notification will provide full information on the award decision. This provides time for the unsuccessful tenderers to challenge the award decision before the contract is entered into.