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Award

University of Portsmouth Bus Services

University of Portsmouth Higher Education Corporation

UK6: Contract award notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-028338

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04f7bc ([view related notices](#))

Published 29 May 2025, 10:04am

Scope

Reference

24-HB-057

Description

The University of Portsmouth Higher Education Corporation requires a ‘pay-to-use’ bus service for its staff and students. The bus Service shall provide access for staff and student to the main University campus in Portsmouth city centre, during term-time and for special weekend and event Services.

The provision of a reliable and convenient low emission bus Service aims to attract students and staff away from using personal cars, further improving air quality and enhancing local community safety given the number of school children going to and from school in the area.

The Commencement Date for the Contract shall be 01 September 2025, with a Contract Term of three (3) years up to 31 August 2028 and an option to extend for a further two (2) x twelve (12) month periods, if required, with a potential full Contract Term up to 31 August 2030.

The Supplier shall be required to provide two main bus Service routes: U1: is a Southsea circular route that operates Monday to Friday, during term-time, in an anti-clockwise direction only, through the main student and staff housing areas and starting at Kings Theatre. U2: The U2 bus Service shall run Monday to Friday, during term-time, to help students get from the city centre campus to Langstone sports pitches.

The nature of the University activities is such that demand for bus Services will fluctuate during the day, (with early morning and late afternoon peaks for travel), and throughout the year, with greater demand at the start of the academic year and during events organised by the University or Student Union, for example. The Supplier shall be required to provide Services to cater for the busiest periods, and shall be required to deliver a flexible Service which is able to react to changes in demand. This may require the provision of duplicate or additional vehicles operating outside the standard timetable, and provision of additional vehicles to cater for specific events within the University calendar.

Contract 1. University of Portsmouth Bus Services

Supplier

- [First Hampshire & Dorset Limited](#)

Contract value

- £3,646,412 excluding VAT
- £4,375,695 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Award decision date

23 May 2025

Date assessment summaries were sent to tenderers

23 May 2025

Standstill period

- End: 9 June 2025
- 8 working days

Earliest date the contract will be signed

1 July 2025

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 September 2025 to 1 September 2028
- Possible extension to 1 September 2030
- 5 years, 1 day

Description of possible extension:

Option to extend for a further two years, if required.

Main procurement category

Services

Options

The right to additional purchases while the contract is valid.

Flexibility in University changes and innovative improvements to the Service.

CPV classifications

- 98000000 - Other community, social and personal services
- 60112000 - Public road transport services
- 60100000 - Road transport services
- 60130000 - Special-purpose road passenger-transport services

Information about tenders

- 3 tenders received
- 1 tender assessed in the final stage:
 - 0 submitted by small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)
 - 0 submitted by voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)
- 1 supplier awarded contracts
- 0 suppliers unsuccessful (details included for contracts over £5 million)

Procedure

Procedure type

Open procedure

Supplier

First Hampshire & Dorset Limited

- Companies House: 01999120

Hoeford, Gosport Road

Fareham, Hampshire

PO16 0ST

United Kingdom

Email: Peter.matthews@firstbus.co.uk

Region: UKJ35 - South Hampshire

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): No

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Supported employment provider: No

Public service mutual: No

Contract 1. University of Portsmouth Bus Services

Contracting authority

University of Portsmouth Higher Education Corporation

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PWYV-2655-NPMQ

University House

Portsmouth

PO1 2UP

United Kingdom

Contact name: Helen Booth

Email: procurement@port.ac.uk

Website: <http://www.port.ac.uk/>

Region: UKJ31 - Portsmouth

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government