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Tender

# Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Equipment for Studio Ulster

University of Ulster

F02: Contract notice

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-028546

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04044c

Published 27 September 2023, 4:37pm

# **Section I: Contracting authority**

### I.1) Name and addresses

University of Ulster

Block X Room X031, Cromore Road

Coleraine

**BT52 1SA** 

**Email** 

a.todd@ulster.ac.uk

**Telephone** 

+44 2870124515

**Country** 

**United Kingdom** 

Region code

UKN0 - Northern Ireland

#### Internet address(es)

Main address

www.ulster.ac.uk

#### I.3) Communication

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

https://e-sourcingni.bravosolution.co.uk/web/login.shtml

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted electronically via

https://e-sourcingni.bravosolution.co.uk/web/login.shtml

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

Education

# **Section II: Object**

#### II.1) Scope of the procurement

#### II.1.1) Title

Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Equipment for Studio Ulster

Reference number

project\_27819

#### II.1.2) Main CPV code

• 32000000 - Radio, television, communication, telecommunication and related equipment

#### II.1.3) Type of contract

Supplies

#### II.1.4) Short description

Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Equipment for Studio Ulster

#### II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £2,000,000

#### II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

#### II.2) Description

#### II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 32000000 Radio, television, communication, telecommunication and related equipment
- 32200000 Transmission apparatus for radiotelephony, radiotelegraphy, radio broadcasting and television
- 32210000 Broadcasting equipment
- 32220000 Television transmission apparatus without reception apparatus
- 32230000 Radio transmission apparatus with reception apparatus

- 32240000 Television cameras
- 32260000 Data-transmission equipment
- 32270000 Digital transmission apparatus
- 32300000 Television and radio receivers, and sound or video recording or reproducing apparatus
- 32310000 Radio broadcast receivers
- 32320000 Television and audio-visual equipment
- 32330000 Apparatus for sound, video-recording and reproduction
- 32340000 Microphones and loudspeakers
- 32350000 Parts of sound and video equipment
- 32400000 Networks
- 32410000 Local area network
- 32420000 Network equipment
- 32430000 Wide area network
- 32500000 Telecommunications equipment and supplies
- 32510000 Wireless telecommunications system
- 32520000 Telecommunications cable and equipment
- 32530000 Satellite-related communications equipment
- 32550000 Telephone equipment
- 32560000 Fibre-optic materials
- 32570000 Communications equipment
- 32580000 Data equipment
- 38651100 Camera lenses
- 38651200 Camera bodies
- 38651400 Instant print cameras
- 38651500 Cinematographic cameras
- 38651600 Digital cameras

- 38653400 Projection screens
- 38810000 Industrial process control equipment
- 39113000 Miscellaneous seats and chairs
- 39121000 Desks and tables
- 39122000 Cupboards and bookcases
- 39134100 Computer tables
- 39156000 Lounge and reception-area furniture
- 39294100 Information and promotion products
- 48210000 Networking software package
- 48220000 Internet and intranet software package
- 48311100 Document management system
- 48318000 Scanner software package
- 48331000 Project management software package
- 48332000 Scheduling software package
- 48333000 Contact management software package
- 48520000 Multimedia software package
- 48710000 Backup or recovery software package
- 48720000 Bar coding software package
- 48730000 Security software package
- 48750000 Storage media loading software package
- 48760000 Virus protection software package
- 48770000 General, compression and print utility software package
- 48780000 System, storage and content management software package
- 48790000 Version checker software package
- 48810000 Information systems
- 48820000 Servers

- 48910000 Computer game software package, family titles and screen savers
- 48920000 Office automation software package
- 50340000 Repair and maintenance services of audio-visual and optical equipment
- 51610000 Installation services of computers and information-processing equipment
- 51620000 Installation services of office equipment
- 72000000 IT services: consulting, software development, Internet and support
- 72100000 Hardware consultancy services
- 72200000 Software programming and consultancy services
- 72500000 Computer-related services
- 72600000 Computer support and consultancy services
- 72800000 Computer audit and testing services
- 80300000 Higher education services
- 80500000 Training services
- 92224000 Digital television
- 92225100 Film-on-demand television
- 92226000 Teleprogrammation
- 92370000 Sound technician

#### II.2.3) Place of performance

**NUTS** codes

UKN0 - Northern Ireland

Main site or place of performance

North Foreshore Film Studios, Giant's Park, Belfast

#### II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The Vision for Studio Ulster (SU) is to be a leading Commercial Centre of Excellence in Virtual Production ("VP") in the UK and Ireland and to establish a 'Tier 1' Centre of Excellence in Research and Development and Innovation (R&D&I), in Real-time and Virtual Production, a rapidly developing suite of technologies and methodologies for

screen content production.

Located on the North Foreshore in Belfast, the development of SU in conjunction with the Belfast Harbour Film Studio complex creates a unique blend of facilities, that will drive commercial activity and collaboration in R&D on an unprecedented scale involving all strands of production and technology professionals involved in the virtual production, film, broadcast, animation, games, VFX and immersive sectors.

The successful appointed Economic Operator will develop technical proposals for the equipment that will allow SUL to deliver on the final Business Plan objectives. The design solutions presented should be based on the Economic Operator's IP and best practices from experience to date in the VP sector.

SU is a fully funded project, with Contracts for Funding executed and all associated legal agreements with Belfast Harbour in place.

The project benefits from £25.2m (£21m excluding VAT) through BRCD, both contributions to support the initial development of the SU VP studio and to part-fund life cycle replacement costs for the specialist VP equipment, within the first 10 years of operation. Ulster University has committed £3.6million from its own funds and has secured a further £2.9m from the UK Levelling Up Fund. These sums represent the total scale of the SUL investment, inclusive of miscellaneous costs for items outside of this Competition (loose furniture, fees, marketing, branding etc).

The successful tenderer will develop the design, procure, delivery, install, test and commission the specialist equipment and provide all necessary training to SUL in the operation of the equipment.

#### 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: £20,000,000

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

End date

31 July 2024

This contract is subject to renewal

No

#### II.2.9) Information about the limits on the number of candidates to be invited

Envisaged minimum number: 3

Maximum number: 4

Objective criteria for choosing the limited number of candidates:

- 1. Experience in in Design, Development, Delivery & Installation of large-scale VP facilities
- 2. Economic Operator Experience in Design, Development, Delivery & Installation of large MoCap studio
- 3. Economic Operator Experience in Design, Development, Delivery & Installation for integrated IT Infrastructure Solution
- 4. Economic Operator Key Team Member Experience
- 5. Economic Operator Experience in Development & Application of Highly Innovative Solutions to VP Pipeline

#### II.2.10) Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: Yes

#### II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

#### Description of options

The final contract will include the requirement for all planned maintenance of the Equipment for a minimum 3-year period from the date of handover to the Client. This will include the provision of all necessary spares / replacement parts and consumables as required.

#### 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

Ulster University welcomes interest from all suitable potential providers. However, interested parties are advised that they must ultimately satisfy the minimum requirements at Stage 1 (selection) that will be set out in the procurement documents, in order to be selected to proceed to Stage 2 (dialogue) of the procurement process.

## Section III. Legal, economic, financial and technical information

#### III.1) Conditions for participation

# III.1.1) Suitability to pursue the professional activity, including requirements relating to enrolment on professional or trade registers

List and brief description of conditions

As stated in the procurement documents.

#### III.1.2) Economic and financial standing

Selection criteria as stated in the procurement documents

#### III.1.3) Technical and professional ability

Selection criteria as stated in the procurement documents

#### Section IV. Procedure

#### **IV.1) Description**

#### IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Competitive dialogue

#### 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

27 October 2023

Local time

11:59pm

#### 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

Duration in months: 9 (from the date stated for receipt of tender)

# **Section VI. Complementary information**

#### VI.1) Information about recurrence

This is a recurrent procurement: No

#### VI.3) Additional information

Market sounding exercise was undertaken in 2 stages; the initial exercise was concluded in February 2020 by the Ulster University for the purpose of ascertaining the potential scope, scale, technical nature, and costs associated with the various element of the Virtual Production equipment and associated systems on the Studio Ulster project

consistent with the project budget.

This exercise was conducted by university client advisor and Industry advisors with a range of potential suppliers and users in the industry. This exercise was aimed at identifying requirements for hardware, software and systems to support a Virtual Production facility.

Consultations were conducted in 3-pronged approach as follows.

- 1. Hardware consultation with suppliers of this technology to help inform the technical & spatial requirements for the building, services and budget.
- 2. Software/systems consultation with specialist suppliers and demos of software solutions on the market.
- 3. End Users engagement. Based on first 2 steps indicative technical specification was formulated and shared with end users (specialist in their respective fields) to validate findings from previous steps.

The second phase of pre-market engagement was undertaken in between September to December 2021 by the project team in order to inform the procurement strategy. This process was a questionnaire-based process accessed via the University webpage.

These market sounding exercises have culminated in the current procurement approach and technical performance requirements.

Ulster University shall include the information shared with suppliers during the marketing sounding exercise along with summary of key findings within the PQQ stage of the process.

The University also undertook a Competitive Dialogue competition between late 2022 and July 2023 seeking an Operator and Delivery Partner; this Competition included the Operation of the Commercial facilities of Studio Ulster for a period of no less than 10 years, as well as the design, supply, and installation of the specialist equipment itself. A number of market factors resulted in this competition concluding without identifying an appointable bidder. SUL will now be expanded to operate all aspects of the facility.

The quantities, which it is anticipated will be required under this Contract, shall be set out in the final tender stage of the competition within in the Commercial Submission. This information is given for the guidance of the tenderer and is not deemed to be a condition of Contract or a guarantee of minimum demand or uptake. No compensation will be

payable to a tenderer should the actual demand be less than that stated.

Further, the delivery of service as to be provided by this tender is demand led. Changes which may affect the demand may include, but are not limited to, technological upgrades / changes within the virtual production marketplace. Such changes may result in unanticipated workload growth which is higher than the levels accounted for within this tender. To be able to offer continuing service delivery as provided for by this tender the University reserves the right to commission additional product volumes over the life of the contract period, including any extension period(s) if utilised. This clause is to provide compliance with paragraph 72(1)(a) of the Public Contract Regulations 2015.

#### VI.4) Procedures for review

#### VI.4.1) Review body

High Court of Justice in Northern Ireland

Royal Courts of Justice, Chichester Street

Belfast

BT1 3JY

Country

**United Kingdom** 

#### VI.4.3) Review procedure

Precise information on deadline(s) for review procedures

Ulster University will incorporate a standstill period at the point information on the award of the contract is communicated to tenderers. The standstill period, which will be for a minimum of 10 calendar days, provides time for unsuccessful tenderers to challenge the award decision before the contract is entered into. The Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as amended) provide for aggrieved parties who have been harmed or are at risk of harm by a breach of the rules to take action in the High Court (Northern Ireland).