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Planning

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) screening and assessment Tool

Ministry of Justice

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-028961

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-0499a6

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Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Ministry of Justice

102 Petty France

London

SW1H 9AJ

Email

pes-screeningandassessment@justice.gov.uk

Telephone

+44 02033343555

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice>

I.3) Communication

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

I.5) Main activity

Public order and safety

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) screening and assessment Tool

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 72212190 - Educational software development services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) has a legal requirement to secure the provision of education and training for prisoners and recognises that Education, Skills, and Work (ESW) play a significant role in reducing reoffending. A 2017 MoJ report shows that prisoners who participated in any form of learning activity were 9 percentage points less likely to reoffend compared to non-learners and 1.8 percentage points more likely to be in employment after release. MoJ is committed to delivering a transformed 'Prisoner Education Service' (PES) focused on work-based training and skills'.

The Prisoner Education Service (PES) is developing an innovative, integrated digital ecosystem that brings together a holistic prisoner view that informs planning, delivery and accountability. Effective Screening and Assessment (S&A) is at the core of this, ensuring that prisoner's learner needs are identified when engaging with education, and inform their learner journey throughout their time in custody. This system should enable HMPPS to drive up standards and outcomes across the estate, both in custody and in the community.

To realise this vision, we are procuring digital S&A tools for the PES contracts.

This PIN is for an English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) screening tool only.

We are expecting to procure one tool; the tool can be part, fully or not yet developed. The expected contract length is up to 7 years.

The ESOL tool must accurately identify any gaps in a prisoner's ability to read, write, speak and understand English, written and spoken language, in line with National Standards. The tool must also indicate the level of support required to enable progression.

ESOL assessments can include digital elements but should include interaction with and reading assessment outcomes determined by screening and assessment delivery staff.

The Tool must be compliant with Government Digital Standard (GDS) in the design, testing and deployment in a timeframe agreed with the Authority, supported by an Implementation Plan and must be capable of integrating with other services and sharing data using open standards.

The vision for the ESOL tool contract is to:

- Implement a high-quality, accessible tool that accurately identifies prisoners ESOL ability levels.
- Enable collaboration with the Authority and PES providers to ensure continuous improvement so that the tool enables quality ESOL S&A delivery.
- Enable data reporting integration of the ESOL tool into the Authority systems.
- Provide for the first time national consistent ESOL screening across the PES prison estate to reduce duplication and improve data flow across the estate.
- Deliver the ambition for digital by default screening with contingencies to allow continued S&A delivery when access to digital tool/s is impacted.
- Ensure high quality ESOL S&A tool provider led training and ongoing support to PES Core-Education staff on the use of provider screening tools.
- Drive quality via output measured key performance indicators.

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £2,170,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 48190000 - Educational software package

- 72212190 - Educational software development services
- 72212210 - Networking software development services
- 72212311 - Document management software development services
- 72212517 - IT software development services
- 72250000 - System and support services
- 72253000 - Helpdesk and support services
- 72260000 - Software-related services
- 72261000 - Software support services
- 72267000 - Software maintenance and repair services
- 72310000 - Data-processing services
- 75231200 - Services related to the detention or rehabilitation of criminals
- 75231230 - Prison services
- 80000000 - Education and training services
- 80400000 - Adult and other education services
- 80533000 - Computer-user familiarisation and training services
- 80533100 - Computer training services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The purpose of this engagement is to secure wider market involvement in the testing and development of our procurement structure, including the specification and contract.

Topics we would like to hear suppliers' view on may include but are not limited to:

- Tool demonstration or vision
- Specification Optimisation
- Contract Terms Proportionality
- Removing Barriers to SMEs
- IPR
- Costs
- Pay Mech (including development, mobilisation and service delivery costs)
- Ability to meet current requirements and timescale including if developed
- Appetite to develop tool
- Insurance Levels
- Digital Requirements
- Delivery requirements
- Tool outputs & next steps

We have included a Survey to seek out your views and to ask if you would be willing to speak with us further on this topic, once complete please return it to the PES-ScreeningandAssessment@justice.gov.uk email no later than the 27th September 2024. If you agree to speak with us, we will be holding meetings on a first come first serve basis between 30th September - 7th October.

Other supporting material is attached to the Contracts Finder PIN, which can be found here: English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Screening and Assessment Tool Market Engagement - Contracts Finder

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

27 January 2025

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.8) Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: No