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Planning

Supply Chain Transition (Investment Zone)

West Midlands Combined Authority

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-029114

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-0499fc

Published 11 September 2024, 2:28pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

West Midlands Combined Authority

16 Summer Lane

Birmingham

B19 3SD

Contact

Procurement Team

Email

procurement.team@wmca.org.uk

Telephone

+44 3453036760

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKG - West Midlands (England)

Internet address(es)

Main address

www.wmca.org.uk

I.3) Communication

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Electronic communication requires the use of tools and devices that are not generally available. Unrestricted and full direct access to these tools and devices is possible, free of charge, at

<https://wmca.bravosolution.co.uk/esop/guest/login.do>

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Regional or local authority

I.5) Main activity

General public services

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Supply Chain Transition (Investment Zone)

Reference number

05885-2024

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 79411100 - Business development consultancy services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

There are many important trends in the global economy which are creating huge change in how businesses operate. Massive and rapid technological advances, Covid-19 and its aftermath, the push to decarbonise and adapt to climate change as well as geopolitical tensions and their response are altering how businesses operate across many areas such as how they train, recruit and manage staff, how products are made, how services are delivered and how customers and suppliers are managed.

The global competition in older industries (e.g., Automotives) has pushed prices down and forced SME companies to be as competitive as possible. This means many small businesses operate on lower margins, where superfluous costs must be trimmed so they can focus on essentials. As a result of this increased competition, the ability of many smaller firms in the West Midlands to navigate and adapt to the new requirements and practices is limited. It takes a lot of resources for companies to plan and prepare for meeting these requirements, let alone the resources required for investment in new plant and equipment, gaining new certifications or hiring new managers and employees etc. Many companies don't have these resources, and selling their business is sometimes an easier solution.

The Supply Chain Transition (IZ) Programme hopes to inspire and equip hundreds of businesses in the West Midlands to take advantage of opportunities in growing sectors of the global economy. Businesses will be engaged at different stages of their journey – from those just beginning to explore new options, to those who need more in-depth analysis of costs and risks, to those who are committed to change and are seeking to invest in

necessary accreditations, training, research and development or capital equipment.

The programme will be funded by the West Midlands Investment Zone (IZ). The Investment Zone aims to attract investment and jobs into areas which have traditionally underperformed economically but have the potential to be areas of high growth and support the levelling up agenda. The West Midlands Investment Zone will target the Advanced Manufacturing sector.

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £12,000,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 72221000 - Business analysis consultancy services
- 79410000 - Business and management consultancy services
- 79411100 - Business development consultancy services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKG - West Midlands (England)

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The procurement will involve:

- Supporting SMEs based in the seven constituent local authorities of the West Midlands Combined Authority area, plus Warwick District Council, to pivot into new supply chain opportunities related to advanced manufacturing, in particular:

- Smart energy systems
- Electric light vehicles and associated battery storage
- Med-tech and health-tech

- Manufacture of Future Housing
- Aerospace
- Working with a key customer or customers (i.e. organisations that have committed to investing significantly and growing their supply chains) to design and deliver the support.
- Marketing and communication activity to recruit and select appropriate businesses onto the programme.
- Preparation of an audit of current strengths, weaknesses and opportunities of each participant business.
- Preparation of an action plan detailing how participant businesses can respond to the audit, using the following services provided by the contractor:
 - One-to-one intensive, industry-specific technical advice and guidance
 - A £6 million fund for collaborative research and development projects delivered in collaboration with research institutions
 - A £2.5 million budget to pay for leadership and management training at Level 4 and 5 for participant businesses.

This will be awarded as a Services Contract. The terms and conditions used will be those specified in our draft contract. A copy of the draft contract applicable to this commission will be included with the published tender pack. The contract for this programme is estimated to run from April 2025 to March 2029.

II.2.14) Additional information

The WMCA intends to award one contract to one (lead) supplier. The WMCA encourages a delivery model that brings together a range of expertise, through consortium or sub-contracting arrangements, with a lead supplier named in either model. Please note, there will be no consortium management fee available, and any sub-contracting arrangements are expected to be managed by the lead contractor.

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

21 October 2024

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: Yes

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

The WMCA will be holding an in person pre-tender market engagement workshop on the 25th September 2024. The purpose of this workshop is to provide further information to the market about our programme, its aims and objectives and to gather additional feedback/ insights from the supply base to further help refine and shape our Specification, prior to any potential tender publication. The WMCA are looking to establish what capability there might be in providing such a service from suitably qualified, capable, and competent organisations.

The workshop will be held at the following location and time-

Foundry

6 Brindley Place,

Birmingham

B1 2JB

Workshop Start Time: 12:30pm to 4:30pm

Further details on how to confirm your interest in attending our workshop is provided below:

Portal Website: <https://wmca.bravosolution.co.uk/esop/guest/login.do>

Bravo Solution Project Folder/ Reference: Project_904 Supply Chain Transition
(Investment Zone)

Once registered on Bravo, please access Project_904 on our e-tendering portal and respond to PQQ_235 Supply Chain Transition (Supplier Engagement- not evaluated) by

completing the Qualification Envelope found inside the PQQ folder. The WMCA is accepting one attendee per organisation and due to the available room size- only the first 30 suppliers who respond to PQQ_235 and confirm their attendance will be accepted.

The deadline for confirming your attendance to the live workshop is 23rd September 2024 by 12:00pm. Please note any responses to our PQQ after this time and date, or after the first 30 suppliers have confirmed their attendance will not be accepted.

The supplier engagement workshop will take place from 12:30pm to 4:30pm and will be recorded. A link to this recording will be made available to all suppliers who have registered on PQQ_235, including those who do not attend the live workshop.

Following the event, any supplier feedback obtained during the workshop will be considered and built into the wider tender opportunity, which is expected to be published later this year. Please note, those suppliers who register to the PQQ, but who do not attend the live workshop will not be precluded from bidding for this work when the final tender is published

Please note, this is not a formal PQQ or expression of interest in a tender exercise. The PQQ is being used purely for suppliers to submit general information to the WMCA and to confirm their interest in attending our pre-tender market engagement workshop. This notice, and the subsequent workshop, is an information gathering exercise rather than a call for competition and therefore publication or response does not commit WMCA or respondents to a future procurement, nor provide any process exemptions or preferential treatment to any parties expressing an interest.