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Contract

National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Central Commissioning Facility (CCF)

Department of Health and Social Care

F20: Modification notice

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-029562

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-0408aa

Published 6 October 2023, 3:00pm

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

Department of Health and Social Care

39 Victoria Street

London

SW1H 0EU

Contact

Elle Mothersole

Email

elle.mothersole@dhsc.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKI32 - Westminster

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-health-and-social-care>

Buyer's address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-health-and-social-care>

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Central Commissioning Facility (CCF)

Reference number

C0289

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 75120000 - Administrative services of agencies

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 98113000 - Services furnished by specialist organisations
- 75120000 - Administrative services of agencies

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

Main site or place of performance

United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement at the time of conclusion of the contract:

- Established processes for commissioning R&D within NIHR and DH were set up to promote probity in spending public money and equality of opportunity. The CCF will be expected to adopt similar standards of commissioning for all its managed programmes. This is an essential requirement and bidders must demonstrate an understanding of the process and the skills required to deliver it which, crucially, include scientific secretariat skills,

- The CCF will be required to provide administrative support to all systems and structures used for research commissioning, monitoring and project management.
- The CCF will provide secretariat support, under the direction of a Programme Director and/or named DH staff, to expert advisory committees to advise on research proposals to be taken forward for funding.
- The CCF will be required to make all necessary arrangements for commissioning and other meetings. For example, the maintenance of committee membership lists, the production and distribution of all papers necessary well in advance of meetings, the taking of minutes of meetings (which will include discussions of science and research methodology) and the prompt circulation of accurate minutes following meetings.
- The CCF will be responsible for the issuing of all project and research infrastructure contracts (standard contract form) which will be sent for final signature to the DH Science, Research and Evidence Directorate (SRED).
- All projects will require a detailed project timetable with milestones. The CCF will monitor projects and report on the programme or individual projects within it as required, ensuring that researchers keep to the timetable and achieve the project's milestones. This will require a basic understanding of the science as well as strong administrative skills.
- The CCF will be responsible for forecasting, profiling and reporting on annual budgets from April 1st to March 31st of each of the years covered, reporting quarterly and monitoring monthly.
- Payments to R&D project and research infrastructure contractors are made by DH normally quarterly in arrears. The CCF will take responsibility for informing SRED when projects/research infrastructure contracts have started in order that scheduled payments may commence, and of alerting SRED of any adverse event necessitating suspension of payments.
- The CCF will be required to set up and run, in liaison with SRED, financially sound and transparent accounting systems. The CCF will be expected to adopt information management systems that are compatible with systems already in use by other parts of NIHR. The CCF contractor will provide progress reports, including financial summaries, in respect of the managed programmes as required. Bidders must be able to demonstrate the necessary skills to deliver this aspect of their bid.
- The CCF will administer the awards/contracts for the NIHR Research Infrastructure. This will involve liaison with the Directors and staff of the infrastructure, taking receipt of annual reports, performance management and making recommendations to DH on proposed changes in the event of performance issues.

- The CCF will provide accurate and timely data and information on the infrastructure awards and research portfolio in response to requests from DH.
- The CCF will take such steps as are necessary to ensure that accurate, well presented, peer reviewed final reports and executive summaries are forthcoming promptly from all projects funded, and that these reports and summaries are entered into appropriate database and library systems.
- The CCF will provide notice and copies of forthcoming publications, press releases etc. arising from funded research at least 28 days prior to publication. Contractors will alert the Department immediately to such forthcoming publications and ensure that it receives advance copies as soon as these are available.
- The CCF will use its best endeavours to ensure, as far as possible, that intellectual property rights (IPR) of value to the NHS are properly protected and managed, and agreements are drawn up to ensure the NHS receives an appropriate share of any earnings from IPR, or ensure that IP is otherwise exploited for public benefit.

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

Start date

1 April 2018

End date

31 March 2025

In the case of framework agreements, provide justification for any duration exceeding 4 years

N/A

II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds

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

Section IV. Procedure

IV.2) Administrative information

IV.2.1) Contract award notice concerning this contract

Notice number: [2017/S 123-249984](#)

Section V. Award of contract/concession

Contract No

2016/S 208-376509

Lot No

2

Title

The Central Commissioning Facility (CCF)

V.2) Award of contract/concession

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract/concession award decision:

18 May 2017

V.2.2) Information about tenders

The contract/concession has been awarded to a group of economic operators: No

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire

LGC LIMITED

Leeds

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

V.2.4) Information on value of the contract/lot/concession (at the time of conclusion of the contract;excluding VAT)

Total value of the procurement: £86,414,305

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

The High Court

The Strand

London

WC2A 2LL

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://www.judiciary.uk/courts-and-tribunals/high-court/>

VI.4.2) Body responsible for mediation procedures

The High Court

The Strand

London

WC2A 2LL

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://www.judiciary.uk/courts-and-tribunals/high-court/>

Section VII: Modifications to the contract/concession

VII.1) Description of the procurement after the modifications

VII.1.1) Main CPV code

- 75120000 - Administrative services of agencies

VII.1.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 98113000 - Services furnished by specialist organisations

VII.1.3) Place of performance

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

Main site or place of performance

United Kingdom

VII.1.4) Description of the procurement:

- Established processes for commissioning R&D within NIHR and DH were set up to promote probity in spending public money and equality of opportunity. The CCF will be expected to adopt similar standards of commissioning for all its managed programmes. This is an essential requirement and bidders must demonstrate an understanding of the process and the skills required to deliver it which, crucially, include scientific secretariat skills,
- The CCF will be required to provide administrative support to all systems and structures used for research commissioning, monitoring and project management.
- The CCF will provide secretariat support, under the direction of a Programme Director and/or named DH staff, to expert advisory committees to advise on research proposals to be taken forward for funding.
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Research and Evidence Directorate (SRED).

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- The CCF will be required to set up and run, in liaison with SRED, financially sound and transparent accounting systems. The CCF will be expected to adopt information management systems that are compatible with systems already in use by other parts of NIHR. The CCF contractor will provide progress reports, including financial summaries, in respect of the managed programmes as required. Bidders must be able to demonstrate the necessary skills to deliver this aspect of their bid.
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- The CCF will provide accurate and timely data and information on the infrastructure awards and research portfolio in response to requests from DH.
- The CCF will take such steps as are necessary to ensure that accurate, well presented, peer reviewed final reports and executive summaries are forthcoming promptly from all projects funded, and that these reports and summaries are entered into appropriate database and library systems.
- The CCF will provide notice and copies of forthcoming publications, press releases etc. arising from funded research at least 28 days prior to publication. Contractors will alert the Department immediately to such forthcoming publications and ensure that it receives advance copies as soon as these are available.
- The CCF will use its best endeavours to ensure, as far as possible, that intellectual

property rights (IPR) of value to the NHS are properly protected and managed, and agreements are drawn up to ensure the NHS receives an appropriate share of any earnings from IPR, or ensure that IP is otherwise exploited for public benefit.

VII.1.5) Duration of the contract, framework agreement, dynamic purchasing system or concession

Start date

1 April 2018

End date

31 March 2025

In the case of framework agreements, provide justification for any duration exceeding 4 years:

N/A

VII.1.6) Information on value of the contract/lot/concession (excluding VAT)

Total value of the contract/lot/concession:

£103,816,650.52

VII.1.7) Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire

LGC LIMITED

Leeds

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

VII.2) Information about modifications

VII.2.1) Description of the modifications

Nature and extent of the modifications (with indication of possible earlier changes to the contract):

This modification extends the CCF's existing work strands to include:

- Research: Expand existing research funding programmes, extend expert research funding advisory committees support and increase monitoring of impact.
- Infrastructure: Manage high value strategic partnerships between the UK Government and key life science companies, support delivery of the vision for UK clinical research and coordinate stakeholder engagement across NIHR
- Faculty: Support better access to Open Access publishing for NIHR funded researchers and better participant representation in NIHR funded research
- Systems: Support implementation of the ongoing NIHR-wide digital transformation programme within CCF.

Previous changes to the contract have been made, bringing the current contract value to 93,892,884.00 GBP (this value excludes this modification and excludes the possible 2-year extension period from March 2025 - March 2027 that is not yet exercised.)

VII.2.2) Reasons for modification

Need for additional works, services or supplies by the original contractor/concessionaire.

Description of the economic or technical reasons and the inconvenience or duplication of cost preventing a change of contractor:

The Authority believes that the modification was permitted under Regulation 72(1)(b) of the PCR 2015 (SI 102) due to the following reasons:

- a) the modification was necessary to respond to a significant growth in demand for, and/or improvements in, NIHR CCF research services and associated outputs arising after the date, on which the CCF Contract had been entered into
- b) a change of contractor could not have been made for economic or technical reasons as such additional services required highly specialised, health and care research management expertise, reliance on extensive, established stakeholder relationships and an up-to-date working knowledge of NIHR strategy, policies and systems
- c) a change of contractor would have caused significant inconvenience and substantial duplication of costs as a result of:
 - i) the fragmentation and duplication of existing NIHR research programmes;
 - ii) significant, increased contractual management costs
 - iii) significantly higher admin costs

VII.2.3) Increase in price

Updated total contract value before the modifications (taking into account possible earlier contract modifications, price adaptations and average inflation)

Value excluding VAT: £93,892,884

Total contract value after the modifications

Value excluding VAT: £103,816,650.52