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Contract

DfE - Invest NI Small Business Loan Fund III

Invest Northern Ireland

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-029742

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-047338

Published 17 September 2024, 4:01pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Invest Northern Ireland

Bedford Square, 1 Bedford St,

BELFAST

BT2 7ES

Contact

SSDAdmin.CPDfinance-ni.gov.uk

Email

SSDAdmin.CPD@finance-ni.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://etendersni.gov.uk/epps>

Buyer's address

<https://etendersni.gov.uk/epps>

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.5) Main activity

General public services

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

DfE - Invest NI Small Business Loan Fund III

Reference number

5160293

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 66000000 - Financial and insurance services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

Invest NI is seeking to appoint a fund manager to manage and deliver NISBLF III on behalf of Invest NI for a ten-year period with an option to extend for two periods of 1 year,

if required at the end of the fund, to exit from the loan book in an orderly fashion.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.1.7) Total value of the procurement (excluding VAT)

Value excluding VAT: £2,700,000

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 66100000 - Banking and investment services
- 66113100 - Micro-credit granting services
- 66113000 - Credit granting services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKN - Northern Ireland

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Invest NI is seeking to appoint a fund manager to manage and deliver NISBLF III on behalf of Invest NI for a ten-year period with an option to extend for two periods of 1 year, if required at the end of the fund, to exit from the loan book in an orderly fashion.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Personnel Recruitment / Weighting: 4.55

Quality criterion - Name: Personnel Experience of Executive 1 / Weighting: 5.85

Quality criterion - Name: Personnel Experience if Executive 2 / Weighting: 5.85

Quality criterion - Name: Management of NISBLF II / Weighting: 13.4

Quality criterion - Name: Marketing Strategy Development / Weighting: 9.75

Quality criterion - Name: Maximising Returns to Limited Partners / Weighting: 6.5

Quality criterion - Name: Engagement with Invest NI / Weighting: 4.55

Quality criterion - Name: Governance / Weighting: 4.55

Quality criterion - Name: Social Value / Weighting: 10

Cost criterion - Name: First Bonus Share Percentage / Weighting: 7

Cost criterion - Name: Combined Core Cost / Weighting: 28

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of options

option to extend for two periods of 1 year

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

The figure indicated in Section II 1.5 represents an estimated contract value. This value reflects the potential scale of the contract and takes into account potential optional extension periods and the uptake of potential optional services as detailed in the tender documents. This figure does not however take into account the application of indexation. Neither CPD nor the Authority can provide any guarantee as to the level of business under this contract. The Contracting Authority does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender. Economic Operators remain responsible for all costs and expenses incurred by them or by any third party acting under instructions from the Economic Operator in connection with taking part in this procurement process regardless of whether such costs arise as a consequence, directly or indirectly of any amendments made to the procurement documents by the Contracting Authority at any time. No legally binding contract shall arise and an Economic Operator shall have no legitimate expectation that a contract will be entered into until such time as entry into the Contract has been confirmed by the Contracting Authority. Economic Operators should note that all dates, time periods and figures in relation to values and volumes specified in this notice and the procurement documents are approximate only and the Contracting Authority reserves the right to change any or all of them.

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Open procedure

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.2.1) Previous publication concerning this procedure

Notice number: [2024/S 000-019749](#)

Section V. Award of contract

Contract No

1

Title

DfE - Invest NI Small Business Loan Fund III

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

17 September 2024

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 1

Number of tenders received from SMEs: 1

Number of tenders received from tenderers from other EU Member States: 0

Number of tenders received from tenderers from non-EU Member States: 1

Number of tenders received by electronic means: 1

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

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

ULSTER COMMUNITY FINANCE LTD.

13-19 Linenhall Street

BELFAST

BT2 8AA

Email

barryconnolly@communityfinanceireland.com

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://etendersni.gov.uk/epps>

The contractor is an SME

Yes

V.2.4) Information on value of contract/lot (excluding VAT)

Initial estimated total value of the contract/lot: £2,700,000

Total value of the contract/lot: £2,700,000

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

The successful contractor's performance on the contract will be regularly monitored in line with the tender documentation. Contractors not delivering on contract requirements is a serious matter. It means the public purse is not getting what it is paying for. If a contractor fails to reach satisfactory levels of contract performance they will be given a specified time to improve. If, after the specified time, they still fail to reach satisfactory levels of contract performance, the matter will be escalated to senior management in CPD for further action. If this occurs and their performance still does not improve to satisfactory levels within the specified period, it may be regarded as an act of grave professional misconduct and they may be issued with a Notice of Unsatisfactory Performance and the contract may be terminated. The issue of a Notice of Unsatisfactory Performance can result in the Contractor being excluded from all procurement competitions being undertaken by Centres of Procurement Expertise on behalf of bodies covered by the Northern Ireland Procurement Policy for a period of three years from the date of issue. The Authority expressly reserves the rights: (I) not to award any contract as a result of the procurement process commenced by publication of this notice; (II) to make whatever changes it may see fit to the content and structure of the tendering Competition; (III) to award (a) contract(s) in respect of any part(s) of the [services] covered by this notice; and (IV) to award contract(s) in stages. and in no circumstances will the Authority be liable for any costs incurred by candidates

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

The UK does not have any such bodies with responsibility for appeal/mediation procedures. Instead; any challenges are dealt with by the High Court, Commercial Division, to which proceedings may be issued regarding alleged breaches of the PCR 2015 as amended.

belfast

Country

United Kingdom