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Contract

## **ID 4600551 - DoF - Framework Agreement for the Provision of Independent Assurance Reviewer for GovAssure**

The Department of Finance  
Department of Justice NI  
Department for Communities NI  
Department for Infrastructure NI  
Department for the Economy NI  
Department of Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs  
Department of Education NI  
Department of Finance  
Department of Health NI  
Northern Ireland Housing Executive  
The Executive Office  
Invest Northern Ireland  
Strategic Investment Board  
FE North West Regional College  
FE South Eastern Regional College  
FE Southern Regional College  
FE South West College  
Stranmillis University College  
Labour Relations Agency NI  
Northern Ireland Screen  
Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta  
Middletown Centre for Autism  
General Teaching Council for Northern Ireland  
the Education Authority  
Northern Ireland Policing Board  
NI Water and its subsidiaries  
Waterways Ireland CA  
Translink  
NI Fishery Harbour Authority

Legal Services Agency Northern Ireland  
Police Ombudsman Northern Ireland  
Equality Commission for Northern Ireland  
Commission for Victims and Survivors  
Victims and Survivors Service  
Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Commission  
Maze Long Kesh Development Corporation  
Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland  
Commissioner for Survivors of Institutional Childhood Abuse NI  
The Commissioner for Older People for NI  
Community Relations Council  
Libraries NI  
Local Government Staff Commission  
NI Local Government Officers Superannuation Committee  
Arts Council of Northern Ireland  
Charity Commission for Northern Ireland  
National Museums Northern Ireland  
Armagh Observatory  
Armagh Planetarium  
Sport NI  
Ulster Supported Employment Limited

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-031072

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-046bfa

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## **Section I: Contracting authority**

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Buyer's address

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

## **I.2) Information about joint procurement**

The contract involves joint procurement

## **I.4) Type of the contracting authority**

Body governed by public law

## **I.5) Main activity**

General public services

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## **Section II: Object**

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

#### **II.1.1) Title**

ID 4600551 - DoF - Framework Agreement for the Provision of Independent Assurance Reviewer for GovAssure

Reference number

ID 4600551

#### **II.1.2) Main CPV code**

- 72000000 - IT services: consulting, software development, Internet and support

#### **II.1.3) Type of contract**

Services

#### **II.1.4) Short description**

The Department of Finance, for itself and on behalf of other public sector organisations in Northern Ireland, wishes to establish a Framework Agreement for the provision of

Independent Assessor(s) for GovAssure, providing independent verification for Services, Systems and Applications supporting the Buyer(s) business operations on a Call-Off Contract basis. The selected Supplier(s) will enter into a framework agreement to provide the Services to the Buyer(s) if and when required on a call-off basis in accordance with the terms of this Framework Agreement. The Framework Agreement will be for an initial period of 2 years, with options to extend for two further periods of one year and one year (1year +1 year). For further information please refer to Document entitled "ID 4600551 - Framework Specification".

#### **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: £1,200,000

### **II.2) Description**

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

- 72200000 - Software programming and consultancy services
- 72590000 - Computer-related professional services

#### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UKN - Northern Ireland

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

The Department of Finance, for itself and on behalf of other public sector organisations in Northern Ireland, wishes to establish a Framework Agreement for the provision of Independent Assessor(s) for GovAssure, providing independent verification for Services, Systems and Applications supporting the Buyer(s) business operations on a Call-Off Contract basis. The selected Supplier(s) will enter into a framework agreement to provide the Services to the Buyer(s) if and when required on a call-off basis in accordance with the terms of this Framework Agreement. The Framework Agreement will be for an initial period of 2 years, with options to extend for two further periods of one year and one year (1year +1 year). For further information please refer to Document entitled "ID 4600551 - Framework Specification".

#### **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Quality criterion - Name: Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents / Weighting: 60

Cost criterion - Name: Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents / Weighting: 40

### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: Yes

Description of options

The Framework Agreement will be for an initial period of 2 years, with options to extend for two further periods of one year each 1 year +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 Framework value. This value reflects the potential scale of the Framework and takes into account potential optional extension periods as detailed in the tender documents. This figure does not however take into account the application of indexation or increases to charges due to increases in the Real Living Wage. Neither CPD nor the Authority can provide any guarantee as to the level of business under this Framework. As detailed in the Procurement documents this Framework Agreement has been awarded on a ranked basis to the top four highest scoring Tenderers. Where there is a requirement for a GovAssure Independent Assurance Reviewer a work request for a Call-Off Contract will be placed by a Buyer, with the first ranked Supplier in the first instance. 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 Framework 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.

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## **Section IV. Procedure**

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

#### **IV.1.1) Type of procedure**

Open procedure

#### **IV.1.3) Information about a framework agreement or a dynamic purchasing system**

The procurement involves the establishment of a framework agreement

#### **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 000-016721](#)

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## **Section V. Award of contract**

### **Contract No**

1

### **Title**

Contract

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

### **V.2) Award of contract**

#### **V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract**

23 September 2024

#### **V.2.2) Information about tenders**

Number of tenders received: 5

Number of tenders received from SMEs: 2

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

Number of tenders received from tenderers from non-EU Member States: 4

Number of tenders received by electronic means: 5

The contract has been awarded to a group of economic operators: Yes

**V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor**

COMMISSUM ASSOCIATES LIMITED

Mitchell House, 5 Mitchell Street

EDINBURGH

EH6 7BD

Email

[alexander.northwood@commissum.com](mailto:alexander.northwood@commissum.com)

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

Internet address

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

The contractor is an SME

Yes

**V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor**

Cyber Guarded Ltd

Innovation Factory, Forthriver Business Park

Belfast

BT12 7DG

Email

[paul.toye@cyberguarded.com](mailto:paul.toye@cyberguarded.com)

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

Internet address

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

The contractor is an SME

Yes

### **V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor**

BSI STANDARDS LTD

389 CHISWICK HIGH ROAD

LONDON

W4 4AL

Email

[garry.potter@bsigroup.com](mailto:garry.potter@bsigroup.com)

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

Internet address

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

The contractor is an SME

No

**V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor**

NCC GROUP SECURITY SERVICES LTD

Manchester Technology Centre

MANCHESTER

M1 7EF

Email

[tenders@nccgroup.com](mailto:tenders@nccgroup.com)

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

Internet address

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

The contractor is an SME

No

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

Initial estimated total value of the contract/lot: £1,200,000

Total value of the contract/lot: £1,200,000

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## **Section VI. Complementary information**

### **VI.3) Additional information**

Framework monitoring: the successful Supplier(s) performance on the Framework Agreement will be regularly monitored. Supplier(s).. not delivering on Call-Off and Framework requirements is a serious matter. It means the public purse is not getting what it is paying. for. If a Supplier(s). fails to reach satisfactory levels of Call-Off contract performance they will be given a specified time to improve. If,. after the specified time, they. still fail to reach satisfactory levels of Call-Off contract performance, the matter will be escalated to senior. management in construction and. procurement delivery (CPD) for further action. If this occurs and their performance still does not. improve to satisfactory levels within. the specified period, this may be considered grounds for termination of the Suppliers Place on the. Framework Agreement at your. expense as provided for in the Conditions of Contract. In lieu of termination, CPD may issue a Notice. of Written Warning or a Notice of. Unsatisfactory Performance. A supplier in receipt of multiple Notices of Written Warning or a Notice. of Unsatisfactory Performance may,. in accordance with The Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as amended), be excluded from future. public procurement competitions for. a period of up to three years. The Framework Agreement. is being let by the Department of. Finance on behalf of any listed public sector. organisations requiring services in Northern Ireland including:- Government Departments;. Agencies; Non-departmental Public Bodies;. or other Contracting Authority (including subsidised. bodies or other grant recipients). A list. of organisations is included in the tender. documents. This framework Agreement will be used to progress the Government's wider social,. economic and environmental objectives

### **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

#### **VI.4.3) Review procedure**

Precise information on deadline(s) for review procedures

CPD complied with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as amended) and incorporated a standstill period (i.e. a minimum of 10 calendar days) at the point information on the award of contract was communicated to tenderers. That notification provided full information on the award decision. This provided time for the unsuccessful tenderers to challenge the award decision before the contract was entered into.