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Award

992,638

Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-031626

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-0546ef

Published 11 June 2025, 3:57pm

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd

Waterloo General Offices

London

SE1 8SW

Email

humza.tayyab@networkrail.co.uk

Telephone

+44 1908781000

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

www.networkrail.co.uk

Buyer's address

www.networkrail.bravosolution.co.uk/web/login.html

I.6) Main activity

Railway services

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

992,638

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

This is a voluntary ex ante transparency (VEAT) notice. This notice is to indicate that Network Rail intends to contract with Aptitude Software Limited, for the Software licencing + support & maintenance services.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

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

Lowest offer: £992,638 / Highest offer: £992,638 taken into consideration

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

This requirement is for a three year renewal for the Microgen Aptitude Software Licence, Maintenance and Support Agreement with Aptitude Software Limited via a Single Tender Action (STA) commencing on 23/06/2025.

The “Track access billing programme” has been established within Route Services IT to deliver a consolidated software application, database and infrastructure for the recording of Track Access, Compensation Payments (Planned and Unplanned) and the maintenance of reference data. The Billing programme is a strategic programme to improve the way in which the billing function for Network Rail (NR) is carried out and managed by the organisation.

As a longstanding client of Aptitude since 2008, Network Rail has leveraged Aptitude

Software Limited platform to support critical internal operations through a customised application built

and maintained using the Aptitude Platform.

Key Areas of Support:

- Web Application Development

Network Rail uses the Aptitude Platform’s web application generator to develop

and operate an internal application. Uniquely, they run their environment on

Microsoft Windows, utilising IIS (Internet Information Services) and .NET

technologies, rather than the more common Linux-based setup.

- Calculation Capability

The platform supports core business calculations - specifically, those used to

model and determine the fees other companies must pay to access and use railway infrastructure. These financial models are essential to Network Rail's operations.

- Ongoing Upgrades and Technical Support

Aptitude has supported several platform upgrades over the years, with the most recent migration to version 24.4.1. We assisted in resolving issues during this process, particularly compatibility concerns with Windows Server 2022.

- Testing and Migration Status

Network Rail is in the final phase of testing their newly upgraded application.

Most system tests have been completed successfully, with a few final validations currently underway.

- Continued Engagement

While direct development work has been minimal since 2019, Aptitude continues to provide proactive technical support, version upgrades, and assistance with troubleshooting to ensure continued platform stability.

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: No

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.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Negotiated without a prior call for competition

- The works, supplies or services can be provided only by a particular economic operator for the following reason:
 - protection of exclusive rights, including intellectual property rights

Explanation:

This award is compliant with the New Procurement Act 2023 under section 41 referencing I7 Sch. 5 para. 4 and para. 5 ; competition is absent for technical reasons and NR's C&P Policy. The Rationale is as follows:

- Due to a particular supplier having intellectual property rights or other exclusive rights, only that supplier can supply the goods, services or works required, and
- There are no reasonable alternatives to those goods, services or works.
- due to an absence of competition for technical reasons, only a particular supplier can supply the goods, services or works required, and
- There are no other suppliers in the marketplace that are able to replace NR's legacy billing systems with a single solution that could manage changes to the billing rules more effectively and to more efficiently manage the workload and improve the accuracy of revenue collection.

The Contract Award Notice also noted that the estimated total value was based on Network Rail's current forecast of future spend under the frameworks. The Contract Award Notice noted that the values are Network Rail's best estimate based on currently available information, and in particular that any third party spend is not certain at the stage the Contract Award Notice was published.

Please note that this is a voluntary transparency notice and the contracts have not yet been awarded.

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

Section V. Award of contract/concession

Title

Aptitude Software Limited, Tabs -Software licencing + support & maintenance

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract/concession

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

11 June 2025

V.2.2) Information about tenders

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

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

Aptitude Software Limited

London

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

V.2.5) Information about subcontracting

The contract/lot/concession is likely to be subcontracted

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

NOTE: To register your interest in this notice and obtain any additional information please visit the Find a Tender website: Find a Tender (find-tender.service.gov.uk)

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

The High Court

London

WC2A 1AA

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

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