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Tender

## **DfE - Project Gigabit Consultancy**

Department for the Economy

F02: Contract notice

Notice identifier: 2022/S 000-031706

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-038074

Published 9 November 2022, 1:55pm

### **Section I: Contracting authority**

#### **I.1) Name and addresses**

Department for the Economy

Adelaide House , 39-49 Adelaide Street

BELFAST

BT2 8FD

#### **Contact**

ssdadmin.cpdfinance-ni.gov.uk

#### **Email**

[ssdadmin.cpd@finance-ni.gov.uk](mailto: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.2) Information about joint procurement**

The contract is awarded by a central purchasing body

**I.3) Communication**

Access to the procurement documents is restricted. Further information can be obtained at

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

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted electronically via

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

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted to 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://etendersni.gov.uk/epps>

**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**

DfE - Project Gigabit Consultancy

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

- 71316000 - Telecommunication consultancy services

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

Services

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

The UK Gigabit Programme is the UK Government's £5bn programme to deliver 'lighting fast, reliable broadband to all premises in the UK'. The UK Government has set a target to deliver gigabit capable infrastructure to a minimum of 85 percent of premises by 2025, and all premises 'as soon as possible'. Northern Ireland is well placed to lead the rest of the UK in terms of access to gigabit capable broadband, building on momentum created by considerable commercial and public investment in broadband infrastructure. The purpose of this consultancy assignment is:

- Outline Business Case (OBC) – develop an OBC for Project Gigabit in line with the Better Business Cases NI Five Case Model. The OBC will undertake a detailed assessment of value for money, affordability and achievability including a full economic appraisal and other key management information. The OBC will be used to inform any investment decision and provide evidence if the project can proceed to procurement.
- Pre-procurement - support the development of the procurement process including advice on draft contract documents and ITT documentation. The Contractor will provide the necessary and appropriate technical, financial and economic support and advice to assist DfE in the development of the technical and financial specification requirements for this project.
- Procurement - advise on evaluation of bids. The Contractor will be required to assist with the evaluation of the technical and financial aspects of submitted bids against the technical and financial specification and criteria.
- Full Business Case (FBC) - the Contractor will be required to provide the necessary economic support to develop and complete the Full Business Case for the project in line with the Better Business Cases NI Five Case Model, leading to contract award.
- Implementation phase of broadband contract - provide specialist technical and financial advice during the implementation of a contract.

#### **II.1.5) Estimated total value**

Value excluding VAT: £500,000

### **II.1.6) Information about lots**

This contract is divided into lots: No

## **II.2) Description**

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

- 71621000 - Technical analysis or consultancy services
- 72220000 - Systems and technical consultancy services
- 72100000 - Hardware consultancy services
- 72600000 - Computer support and consultancy services
- 79411000 - General management consultancy services
- 73220000 - Development consultancy services
- 73200000 - Research and development consultancy services
- 73210000 - Research consultancy services

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

NUTS codes

- UKN0 - Northern Ireland

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

The UK Gigabit Programme is the UK Government's £5bn programme to deliver 'lighting fast, reliable broadband to all premises in the UK'. The UK Government has set a target to deliver gigabit capable infrastructure to a minimum of 85 percent of premises by 2025, and all premises 'as soon as possible'. Northern Ireland is well placed to lead the rest of the UK in terms of access to gigabit capable broadband, building on momentum created by considerable commercial and public investment in broadband infrastructure. The purpose of this consultancy assignment is:

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documentation. The Contractor will provide the necessary and appropriate technical, financial and economic support and advice to assist DfE in the development of the technical and financial specification requirements for this project. • Procurement - advise on evaluation of bids. The Contractor will be required to assist with the evaluation of the technical and financial aspects of submitted bids against the technical and financial specification and criteria. • Full Business Case (FBC) - the Contractor will be required to provide the necessary economic support to develop and complete the Full Business Case for the project in line with the Better Business Cases NI Five Case Model, leading to contract award. • Implementation phase of broadband contract - provide specialist technical and financial advice during the implementation of a contract.

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

Quality criterion - Name: Qualitative Criteria / Weighting: 70

Cost criterion - Name: Quantitative Criterion / Weighting: 30

#### **II.2.6) Estimated value**

Value excluding VAT: £500,000

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

Duration in months

60

This contract is subject to renewal

No

#### **II.2.10) Information about variants**

Variants will be accepted: No

#### **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

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## **Section III. Legal, economic, financial and technical information**

### **III.1) Conditions for participation**

#### **III.1.2) Economic and financial standing**

List and brief description of selection criteria

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#### **III.1.3) Technical and professional ability**

Selection criteria as stated in the procurement documents

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## **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.2.2) Time limit for receipt of tenders or requests to participate**

Date

12 December 2022

Local time

3:00pm

#### **IV.2.4) Languages in which tenders or requests to participate may be submitted**

English

#### **IV.2.6) Minimum time frame during which the tenderer must maintain the tender**

Tender must be valid until: 12 March 2023

#### **IV.2.7) Conditions for opening of tenders**

Date

12 December 2022

Local time

3:30pm

Information about authorised persons and opening procedure

Construction and Procurement Delivery Authorised Personnel

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## **Section VI. Complementary information**

### **VI.1) Information about recurrence**

This is a recurrent procurement: No

### **VI.2) Information about electronic workflows**

Electronic ordering will be used

Electronic invoicing will be accepted

Electronic payment will be used

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

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. The figure indicated in II.1.5 represents an estimated contract value £500,000 and may increase during the life of the contract to accommodate changes. Any increases/modifications will be managed in accordance with the relevant public procurement regulations. The pricing strategy applied and the setting of cost/profit margins are a commercial decision for Economic Operators when submitting a bid for this competition. In addition, neither CPD nor the Contracting Authority can provide any guarantee as to the level of business under this contract. The successful contractor's performance on the contract will be regularly monitored. 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 will 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 twelve months from the date of issue of the Notice.

## **VI.4) Procedures for review**

### **VI.4.1) Review body**

The UK does not have any special review body with responsibility for appeal/mediation procedures in public procurement competitions. 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

United Kingdom

Country

United Kingdom

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

Precise information on deadline(s) for review procedures

CPD will comply with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and, where appropriate, will incorporate a standstill period (i.e. a minimum of 10 calendar days) at the point information on the award of contract is communicated to tenderers. That notification will provide full information on the award decision. This provides time for the unsuccessful tenderers to challenge the award decision before the contract is entered into.