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Planning

Concession for Printing and Marketing of the British Pharmacopoeia

MHRA

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2021/S 000-031824

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-0303c7

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Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

MHRA

10 South Colonnade, Canary Wharf

London

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Contact

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Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKI31 - Camden and City of London

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/medicines-and-healthcare-products-regulatory-agency>

Buyer's address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/medicines-and-healthcare-products-regulatory-agency>

I.3) Communication

Additional information can be obtained from 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

<http://health.atamis.co.uk>

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

I.5) Main activity

Health

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Concession for Printing and Marketing of the British Pharmacopoeia

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 79970000 - Publishing services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (the Agency) is an Executive Agency of the Department of Health. We protect and improve the health of millions of people every day through the effective regulation of medicines and medical devices, underpinned by science and research.

The British Pharmacopoeia (BP) is the official collection of standards for UK medicinal products and pharmaceutical substances. It is produced by the British Pharmacopoeia Commission Secretariat of the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency, in accordance with regulation 317(1) of the Human Medicines Regulations 2012, and makes an important contribution to public health by setting publicly available standards for the quality of medicines.

The Agency requires the appointment of a Concessionaire to be responsible for the printing, publishing, distribution, marketing and selling of the BP and BAN publications.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 79824000 - Printing and distribution services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The British Pharmacopoeia (BP) is the official collection of standards for UK medicinal products and pharmaceutical substances. It is produced by the British Pharmacopoeia Commission Secretariat of the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency, in accordance with regulation 317(1) of the Human Medicines Regulations 2012 and makes an important contribution to public health by setting publicly available standards for the quality of medicines.

Since 1864, the BP has been providing authoritative standards for medicinal products and pharmaceutical substances and it continues to play an important role in the standard-setting process worldwide. Now used in over 100 countries, the BP remains an essential reference for all individuals and organisations working within pharmaceutical research and development, manufacture and testing around the globe. All monographs and requirements of the European Pharmacopoeia (Ph. Eur.) are also reproduced in the BP.

The BP is published annually with three in-year updates, currently in both hardcopy and electronic formats; the latter being available as a download product as well as an online publication accessed via a single-user license or a multi-user license arrangement. In addition, there is the requirement for the publication of the British Approved Names (BAN) which provides the official, non-proprietary, or generic names given to pharmaceutical substances, published annually.

The Agency requires the appointment of a service provider to be responsible for all Publishing activities as well as Printing, Distribution, Marketing and Selling of the BP and BAN publications. A core part of the requirement is the provision and maintenance of a website, which operates as a portal to access the electronic formats of the BP, a source of added value material and a sales platform for the BP chemical reference standards, orders for which are fulfilled by the Agency. The link to the current website is <https://www.pharmacopoeia.com/>, and this web address is owned by the Agency. The legacy publication content is available as an XML dataset with associated schema and shall be provided to the service provider.

The service provider would have responsibility for business development and marketing of the product, with the strategic approval of the Agency, and also shall be expected to invest in the services to deliver continuous improvement and innovation throughout the life of the contract. The service provider will also need to carefully manage sales and distribution of BP publications to our global user base which is currently conducted through established reseller networks.

The Agency expects to publish this tender late January 2022 for the award of a concession contract to one service provider to provide these services as a concessionaire; collaborations with other organisations to bring together the range of expertise (sub-

contracting arrangements) would be acceptable, with the service provider ensuring effective and seamless delivery. The appointed concessionaire shall retain the revenue from the service/sales as its fees minus the payment of agreed royalty share to the Agency. The concessionaire shall have exclusivity on the sales of the BP and BAN during the term of the contract. Pricing strategies shall be reviewed and agreed by both parties.

This contracting approach is the same as the current set-up and the Agency will share some of its historic sales data and trends at its supplier event and in the tender documentation. We expect to award the contract in April 2022 and agree a contract with mobilisation in September 2022 to facilitate sufficient lead time for implementation and the publication of the BP 2024 in August 2023.

We will be holding a supplier engagement event on 18th January 2022 13.30 - 15.30 via a MS Teams video conference to discuss with potential suppliers the requirement and service expectations, and further considerations for the future contract.

II.2.14) Additional information

If interested in attending or if you have a question you would specifically like to be addressed in session, please email purchasing@mhra.gov.uk with your details (quoting BP Event).

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

24 January 2022

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes