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Tender

Quality Assurance and Testing for IT Systems 2 (QAT2)

The Minister for the Cabinet Office acting through Crown Commercial Service (CCS)

F02: Contract notice

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-032506

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04116e

Published 2 November 2023, 5:01pm

The closing date and time has been changed to:

1 July 2025 - no time specified

See the [change notice](#).

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

The Minister for the Cabinet Office acting through Crown Commercial Service (CCS)

9th Floor, The Capital, Old Hall Street

Liverpool

L3 9PP

Email

supplier@crowncommercial.gov.uk

Telephone

+44 3454102222

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.gov.uk/ccs>

I.3) Communication

The procurement documents are available for unrestricted and full direct access, free of charge, at

<https://supplierregistration.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/dps>

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted electronically via

<https://supplierregistration.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/dps>

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted to the above-mentioned address

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

I.5) Main activity

General public services

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Quality Assurance and Testing for IT Systems 2 (QAT2)

Reference number

RM6148

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 72590000 - Computer-related professional services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

Crown Commercial Service (CCS) is setting up a dynamic purchasing system for a period of 48 months

and is inviting bidders to request to participate for the Quality Assurance and Testing for IT Systems 2

DPS. This DPS will provide central government and wider public sector departments the opportunity to

procure Quality Assurance and Testing services from a range of suppliers. The DPS filters are for

services, location, clearance and scalability. If you are successfully appointed to the DPS you will be

invited by customers (buyers) to submit tenders for relevant services through a competition. This DPS

remains open for any supplier to request to participate throughout its 48 month duration.

CCS reserve the right to reduce, extend or terminate the DPS period at any time during its lifetime in accordance with the terms set out in the DPS Agreement.

The value in section II.1.5 has been increased in line with the extension of the period of validity.

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £232,000,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The supplier shall have the ability to provide quality assurance and testing for IT systems to central government and wider public sector departments.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

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

Duration in months

19

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

Customers may enter into a contract with a supplier for a period of their determining which may exceed the RM6148 Quality Assurance and Testing for IT Systems 2 DPS Agreement, should this agreement be terminated at any time. The flexibility of the contracting period allows customers (Buyers) to determine appropriate contracting timelines required to enable the supplier to meet customer needs.

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

II.2.14) Additional information

The duration given in II.2.7 is the duration of the extension period.

This is an extension of 19 months following the initial period of 48 months.

Section III. Legal, economic, financial and technical information

III.1) Conditions for participation

III.1.1) Suitability to pursue the professional activity, including requirements relating to enrolment on professional or trade registers

List and brief description of conditions

Suppliers will be assessed on their response to the selection criteria in their request to participate for a place on the RM6148 Quality Assurance and Testing for IT Systems 2 DPS Agreement. The procurement bid pack and registration details can be accessed via the following URL address

<https://supplierregistration.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/dps>

and selecting the “Technology” link

Please read the DPS Needs document first for a full overview of the procurement process and read the instructions carefully. To register for the RM6148 Quality Assurance and Testing for IT Systems 2 DPS Agreement please select the ‘Access as a Supplier’ link which can be located at the URL address above. An example of how to register for the DPS platform can be found at the following YouTube generic guide

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1gMaIElqEyY&authuser=0>

Please note that to register you must have a valid DUNS number (as provided by Dun and Bradstreet) for the organisation which you are registering and who will be entering into a contract if invited to do so. The procurement will be managed electronically via CCS. The value provided in Section II.1.5) is only an estimate. We cannot guarantee to suppliers any business through this DPS Agreement. This procurement offering does not guarantee any minimum spend and there will be no form of exclusivity or volume guarantee under this DPS. As part of this contract notice the bid pack and the following documents can be accessed at the link provided below:

- 1) Contract notice authorised customer list;
- 2) Rights reserved for CCS DPS Agreement.
- 3) DPS Bid Pack
- 4) DPS Contract Notice Transparency Information for Crown Commercial Service Framework Agreement

As part of this contract notice the following documents can be accessed at <https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/8c87b941-6fd0-42b2-82bf-85663d995501>

III.1.2) Economic and financial standing

Selection criteria as stated in the procurement documents

III.1.3) Technical and professional ability

Selection criteria as stated in the procurement documents

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Restricted 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: [2019/S 213-523086](#)

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

Originally published as:

Date

27 May 2025

Local time

5:00pm

Changed to:

Date

1 July 2025

See the [change notice](#).

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

English

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

This DPS has been extended for 19 Months. The reasoning for this is CCS are extending this agreement to allow sufficient time to review the future design of this agreement to enable a thorough analysis and market/customer engagement to be conducted before a strategic decision can be made on the next iteration of this agreement.

The value provided in Section II.1.5) is only an estimate. The Authority cannot guarantee to suppliers any business through this DPS Agreement. The Authority expressly reserves the right:

- (i) not to award any DPS Agreement as a result of the procurement process commenced by publication of this notice; and
- (ii) to make whatever changes it may see fit to the content and structure of the tendering competition; and in no circumstances will the customer be liable for any costs incurred by the suppliers.
- (iii) to make changes to the management charge applicable to this DPS in relation to both the percentage charged and the methodology used.

We consider that the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 ("TUPE") may apply at the call for competition.

It is the Supplier's responsibility to take their own advice and consider whether TUPE is likely to apply in the particular circumstances of the contract and to act accordingly.

On 2.4.2014 Government introduced its Government Security Classifications (GSC) scheme which replaced Government Protective Marking Scheme (GPMS). A key aspect

is the reduction in the number of security classifications used. All bidders should make themselves aware of the changes as it may impact on this requirement. The link below to [Gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-security-classifications) provides information on the GSC at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-security-classifications>.

Cyber Essentials is a mandatory requirement for central government contracts which involve handling personal information or provide certain ICT products/services. Government is taking steps to reduce the levels of cyber security risk in its supply chain through the Cyber Essentials scheme. The scheme defines a set of controls which, when implemented, will provide organisations with basic protection from the most prevalent forms of threat coming from the internet. To participate in this procurement, bidders must be able to demonstrate they comply with the technical requirements prescribed by Cyber Essentials, for services under and in connection with this procurement.

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

The Minister for the Cabinet Office acting through Crown Commercial Service

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Liverpool

L3 9PP

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