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Award

Provision of license for student platform to access a range of software or applications

THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-032665

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04a7b6

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Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Edgbaston

BIRMINGHAM

B152TT

Contact

EMMA LEACH

Email

e.l.leach@bham.ac.uk

Telephone

+44 1214144508

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKG31 - Birmingham

Companies House

RC000645

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.birmingham.ac.uk>

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.5) Main activity

Education

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Provision of license for student platform to access a range of software or applications

Reference number

FRAM0534-24

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 48000000 - Software package and information systems
 - JA02 - For computer software

II.1.3) Type of contract

Supplies

II.1.4) Short description

Provision of license for student platform to access a range of software or applications.

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: £360,636

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 48000000 - Software package and information systems

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKG - West Midlands (England)

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The University intends to contract with AppsAnywhere Ltd for the provision of a software portal to facilitate learning and access to software for both students and staff. The contract will commence 01/11/2024 until 31/10/2027.

AppsAnywhere Ltd currently provide licences for access to software across various devices, on and off site, through Cloudpaging technology, eliminating the need for manual installations. It has become the primary platform for software access over the last two years, with integration into the Canvas Virtual Learning Environment.

A three (3) year contract will allow time for a comprehensive review of the University's requirements. Significant internal investment has been made in training and support for the portal, and removing it would negatively impact strategic goals and user experience. An options re-appraisal and procurement process will be initiated before the end of the renewal period to ensure the best future fit and value for money.

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: No

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Award of a contract without prior publication of a call for competition in the cases listed below

- The procurement falls outside the scope of application of the regulations

Explanation:

This is a license renewal of an existing key product used to facilitate Student Learning as well Staff. AppsAnywhere Ltd has been supplying the University of Birmingham for the past three (3) years.

The University of Birmingham uses the AppsAnywhere tool to provide a software portal to

both students and staff which is accessible on all devices including on campus machines, staff working on or off campus on their university owned or personal device and for students working on or off campus on their own personal machines.

The AppsAnywhere portal provides software to the end user depending on their scenario such as being on or off campus, using a university owned device or a personal device, and allows users to launch the software using Cloudpaging technology included with the product that allows end users to access the software without having to manually install the software onto their device. If the software cannot be launched via cloudpaging then AppsAnywhere will either signpost to other methods to access the software or advise the end user on why they cannot use the software in their current scenario, e.g. the software may be licensed to be used on campus only, or on university owned devices only.

The AppsAnywhere portal has become the primary way for staff and students to access software over the past two (2) years. Regardless of the software the ideology is you visit the software portal and either gain access to the software or be signposted to how to access/obtain the software.

AppsAnywhere can also be integrated into our Canvas Virtual Learning Environment allowing students to launch applications straight from Canvas.

The plan is to extend the current contract for a maximum period of up to three (3) years. This time will be used to fully assess and review the requirements allowing a full review.

A significant amount of internal investment in terms of developing training materials and supporting users has taken place since adoption

Removing or replacing AppsAnywhere at this stage would adversely impact our immediate strategic goals, and would directly have a detrimental impact on the staff and student experience and would require significant time and staff resourcing.

The Business Owner will need to undertake an options re-appraisal and associated procurement process eighteen (18) months before the end of this three (3) year period in order to obtain the best future fit in terms of requirements and also value for money.

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: No

Section V. Award of contract/concession

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract/concession

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

10 October 2024

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

APPSANYWHERE LIMITED

Leeds

LS25 6BH

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

Companies House

07018761

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

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

Initial estimated total value of the contract/lot/concession: £360,636

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £360,636

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

University of Birmingham

Birmingham

B15 2TT

Country

United Kingdom