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Contract

Pension Scheme (Defined Contribution) and Employee Benefits

North Western Universities Purchasing Consortium

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-034139

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04b383

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Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

North Western Universities Purchasing Consortium

Salford Innovation Forum, Room 210, 51 Frederick Road

Salford

M6 6FP

Contact

Sarah Dye

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Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

National registration number

04045190

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://nwupc.ac.uk/>

Buyer's address

<https://uk.eu-supply.com/ctm/Company/CompanyInformation/Index/91080>

I.2) Information about joint procurement

The contract is awarded by a central purchasing body

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Other type

Sub-central contracting authority

I.5) Main activity

Education

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Pension Scheme (Defined Contribution) and Employee Benefits

Reference number

PFB3038NW

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 66520000 - Pension services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

NWUPC in conjunction with UCEA has a requirement to establish a Framework Agreement for the provision of a Defined Contribution Master Trust Pension Scheme and Employee Benefits including Group Life Assurance, Group Income Protection and the provision of a customisable benefits platform for the management of employee benefits through a single centralised portal. NWUPC is establishing the Framework Agreement as a central purchasing body for itself and its Members (Other Contracting Bodies (OCB)). NWUPC is managing this procurement process in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (the "Regulations") on behalf of members of APUC, HEPCW, LUPC, NEUPC, NWUPC and SUPC.

The Framework Agreement will be split into three lots as follows:

Lot 1 – Defined Contribution Pension Scheme (Master Trust)

Lot 2 – Group Life Assurance & Group Income Protection

Lot 3 – Flexible Benefits Platform

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: Yes

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

Value excluding VAT: £19,000,000

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Lot 1- Pension Scheme (Defined Contribution) Master Trust

Lot No

1

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 66131100 - Pension investment services
- 66141000 - Pension fund management services
- 66522000 - Group pension services
- 66523100 - Pension fund administration services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

NWUPC is seeking to set up a section in a pre-existing authorised master trust as a tailored solution for Member Institutions of the participating consortia that can be used to meet (or exceed) automatic enrolment requirements as a minimum, to be available for H2 2025 eligibility. The scheme will be available to Member Institutions to enrol staff as defined by each Employer into the DC arrangement. This may include staff employed by the Member Institution or through a wholly owned subsidiary across both academic and academic-related posts and/or professional services. This may include new employees only or existing employees. The new DC arrangement could also be made available to staff in existing Defined Benefit schemes should they choose to opt-out of the existing scheme subject to the rules and regulations of the DB scheme.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Customer Requirements / Weighting: 85.00%

Price - Weighting: 15.00%

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) Description

II.2.1) Title

Lot 2- Group Life Assurance & Group Income Protection

Lot No

2

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 66510000 - Insurance services
- 66511000 - Life insurance services
- 66512000 - Accident and health insurance services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The provision of Group Life Assurance and Group Income Protection to staff of participating consortia Member Institutions as an employee benefit. It will be at the discretion of the Member Institution which of the available policies they elect to take-up. This lot does not include a requirement for any insurance broking services.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Customer Requirements / Weighting: 75.00%

Price - Weighting: 25.00%

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) Description

II.2.1) Title

Lot 3- Flexible Benefits Platform

Lot No

3

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 48000000 - Software package and information systems
- 75310000 - Benefit services
- 79900000 - Miscellaneous business and business-related services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The provision of a largely off the shelf flexible benefits platform for the management of employee benefits through a single centralised online platform that is customisable to the requirements of the participating consortia member institutions. The platform will offer a range of benefits that shall be available to employees who meet any relevant qualifying criteria established by the member institution. This will cover employees across the UK and may include employees overseas. The platform must be configurable and facilitate the incorporation of existing employee benefits and offer access to benefits from reputable providers. This lot covers the provision of all software and any associated licensing. Potential Services include, but are not limited to system implementation and migration, and professional services around the range of benefits the member institution may seek to make available to employees.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Customer Requirements / Weighting: 70.00%

Price - Weighting: 30.00%

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

Open procedure

IV.1.3) Information about a framework agreement or a dynamic purchasing system

The procurement involves the establishment of a framework agreement

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: [2025/S 000-005038](#)

Section V. Award of contract

Contract No

1

Title

Lot 1- Pension Scheme (Defined Contribution) Master Trust

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

29 May 2025

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 5

Number of tenders received from SMEs: 0

Number of tenders received from tenderers from other EU Member States: 0

Number of tenders received from tenderers from non-EU Member States: 5

Number of tenders received by electronic means: 5

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

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

Aviva Life & Pensions UK Limited

York

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

The contractor is an SME

No

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

Total value of the contract/lot: £19,000,000

Section V. Award of contract

Contract No

2

Title

Lot 2- Group Life Assurance & Group Income Protection

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

29 May 2025

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 2

Number of tenders received from SMEs: 0

Number of tenders received from tenderers from other EU Member States: 0

Number of tenders received from tenderers from non-EU Member States: 2

Number of tenders received by electronic means: 2

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

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

Aviva Life & Pensions UK Limited

York

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

The contractor is an SME

No

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

Total value of the contract/lot: £19,000,000

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

Please note that this notice relates only to the award of Lots 1 & 2 of this tender exercise. The award process for Lot 3 – Flexible Benefits Platform has not been concluded and, as such, will be covered in a separate contract award notice in line with the conclusion of the contract.

This framework agreement is offered on behalf of the UK Higher and Further Education Sector. The sector currently has access to a variety of Defined Benefit schemes and some institutions have existing DC Scheme provision. Engagement with the sector in scoping the agreement indicated interest in a centrally procured solution from 50 institutions. 10 have an immediate requirement to implement this within the first 12 months. The other interested institutions indicated varying degrees of readiness to implement the scheme throughout the stated duration of the agreement. Participating institutions are seeking value for money through a centralised procurement which leverages economies of scale. This is best achieved through a contract duration that facilitates scheme participation by all interested institutions, maximising assets and offering stability to the appointed provider to deliver competitive rates for the sector. The agreement duration recognises this and the lengthy governance and implementation processes that accompany the implementation of a DC Scheme in the sector. Lots 2 and 3 are complementary provisions to support the implementation of a Defined Contribution scheme within the sector and, as such, should be co-terminus. As value for money is a driver of the procurement, the Authority reserves the right to review the competitiveness of the scheme in any decision to extend.

The following organisations have committed to this procurement and intend to utilise the Framework Agreement as soon as possible after award. As such, the members and their wholly owned subsidiaries of the following Consortia may wish to utilise the Agreement and should have access at any point:

NWUPC <https://www.nwupc.ac.uk/our-members>

APUC <http://www.apuc-scot.ac.uk/#!/members>

HEPCW <https://www.hepcw.ac.uk/members/>

LUPC <https://www.lupc.ac.uk/member-list>

NEUPC <http://www.neupc.ac.uk/our-members>

SUPC <https://www.supc.ac.uk/about-us/our-members/our-members>

At some point during the life of the Framework Agreement, higher education providers registered by the Office for Students at the following link (OfS Register) may wish to utilise the Agreement and should have access at any point with the permission of NWUPC. This Agreement is not intended to replace any current Agreements that either participating or non-participating Institutions may already have in place.

The following individual Organisation (not its individual members) is also eligible to join the Framework Agreement:

Universities and Colleges Employers Association <http://www.ucea.ac.uk/>

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

NWUPC Ltd

Salford

M6 6FP

Country

United Kingdom