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Award

## **Provision of a Research Information Management System**

Loughborough University

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-034873

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-041cd4

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### **Section I: Contracting authority/entity**

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

Loughborough University

Anna

Loughborough

LE11 3TU

#### **Contact**

Mrs Anna Elizabeth Ellis

#### **Email**

[a.ellis@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:a.ellis@lboro.ac.uk)

#### **Telephone**

+44 1509223808

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

**Region code**

UKF2 - Leicestershire, Rutland and Northamptonshire

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

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

Buyer's address

[www.lboro.ac.uk](http://www.lboro.ac.uk)

**I.4) Type of the contracting authority**

Body governed by public law

**I.5) Main activity**

Education

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## **Section II: Object**

### **II.1) Scope of the procurement**

#### **II.1.1) Title**

Provision of a Research Information Management System

Reference number

LU00892

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

- 48100000 - Industry specific software package

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

Supplies

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

The proposed contract is for an off-the-shelf Research Management System that will support end-to-end processes for pre-award (bid development, costing and internal approval workflows), award set up, contracts management and post-award monitoring for research, innovation and consultancy projects within a single platform. The system implementation will include integration with Loughborough University's Finance and HR system. The system will provide a suite of user-friendly tools that enable appropriate access for different user groups at the University to be able to monitor progress, manage and report on research and innovation applications (both in-development and submitted), awards and projects.

#### **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: £2,500,000

### **II.2) Description**

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

NUTS codes

- UKF2 - Leicestershire, Rutland and Northamptonshire

Main site or place of performance

Leicestershire, Rutland and Northamptonshire

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

Supply and implementation of a Research Management System to support end-to-end application and award processes (from bid development to project closure), comprised of the following products: Pre-award, Post-award, Reporting, and Contracts modules. The University has an ambitious new strategy for Research and Innovation and requires a system solution that will enable us to handle the increasing size and complexity of our research and innovation project portfolio. In pursuit of our strategic aims, the system will transform the way we manage research and innovation projects by, among many other things, streamlining and standardising our processes

#### **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 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:

Negotiated procedure without prior publication Through review of frameworks, soft market testing and informal discussions with staff at other institutions, we have concluded that Worktribe is the only proven solution available in the market that meets LU's requirements. Other products were considered but ruled out as they did not offer functionality that addressed the full scope of the project requirements, and only delivered

functionality to support some aspects. This would result in the need for use of multiple systems and complex integrations to deliver our requirements, which would inevitably increase complexity and implementation time required, and is inconsistent with our vision for a coherently integrated suite of digital tools and a reduction in the use of disparate technology. Use of multiple different systems would be to the detriment of user experience for our staff and would likely result in inefficiencies such as the re-keying of data across multiple systems. LU requires a solution that:

- offers comprehensive end-to-end functionality for managing pre-award applications, costings, approval workflows, contracts, project set-up and post-award management for research, innovation and consultancy projects, as well as data and reporting capability for all information held within the system.
- is a mature, tried and tested product that does not require any significant capability development
- is recommended by multiple HEIs with similar integration requirements and research portfolio complexity
- has proven integration capability with LU's Finance system (Unit4 ERP – Agresso) and HR System (iTrent) for seamless transition of information for the purposes of costing project proposals, setting up budget codes and managing project budgets.
- enables user groups to access information that is relevant to their roles through a user-friendly interface
- is offered off-the-shelf and the supplier must be in a position to meet LU's ambitious desired implementation timescales in support of the University's strategic goals.

Concerns raised about other system solutions included:

- Primary capabilities of the system were either as a Current Research Information System (CRIS) or as an Ethics system. Ethics processes and management of research outputs / institutional repository are outside of scope for this project and not currently of interest.
- Solution did not include an established Full Economic Costing tool for research and innovation projects.
- Solution did not offer tools to manage the contracts aspect of the requirement.
- Complex, un-proven integrations with other systems would be required to deliver the full requirement.
- Not widely proven in the sector by other HEIs with similar integration requirements and research portfolio complexity that is in line with LU's ambitions.

Worktribe is the only vendor that offers an off-the-shelf, ready-to-use solution with end-to-end functionality and fully integrated workflows for Pre-Award, Post-Award, Contracts management and reporting within a single, user-friendly platform. Worktribe is therefore the only practical solution to meet LU's requirements.

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

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## **Section V. Award of contract/concession**

### **Contract No**

LU00892

## **Title**

Provision of a Research Information Management System

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

## **V.2) Award of contract/concession**

### **V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract**

23 November 2023

### **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**

Worktribe Ltd

Engineers House, The Promenade, Clifton Down

Bristol

BS8 3NB

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKF2 - Leicestershire, Rutland and Northamptonshire

National registration number

04576074

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

Yes

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

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £2,500,000

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## **Section VI. Complementary information**

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

To view this notice, please click here:

<https://www.delta-esourcing.com/delta/viewNotice.html?noticeId=825934526>

GO Reference: GO-20231124-PRO-24617859

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

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

Loughborough University

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+44 1509228186

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United Kingdom