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Award

Upgrade of Payment Validators (Pvals), associated software and integration services.

NORTHERN TRAINS LIMITED

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-035932

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-05557e

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Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

NORTHERN TRAINS LIMITED

George Stephenson House

York

YO16JT

Contact

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Email

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Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKE21 - York

Companies House

03076444

Internet address(es)

Main address

www.northernrailway.co.uk

I.6) Main activity

Railway services

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Upgrade of Payment Validators (Pvals), associated software and integration services.

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 30123100 - Ticket-validation machines

II.1.3) Type of contract

Supplies

II.1.4) Short description

Upgrade of Payment Validators (Pvals), associated software and integration into the into the Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) Bee Network (Phase 1).

The contract will upgrade existing Pval equipment and software to allow payment transactions to integrate into the TfGM Account-Based Ticketing (ABT) scheme.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 72212100 - Industry specific software development services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKC - North East (England)
- UKD - North West (England)
- UKE - Yorkshire and the Humber
- UKF - East Midlands (England)

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Upgrade of Payment Validators (PVals) and associated software to allow EMV (Europay, Mastercard and Visa) transactions. This will integrate into the into the Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) Bee Network (Phase 1).

The contract will upgrade existing ATG equipment and software to allow payment transactions to integrate into the TfGM Account-Based Ticketing (ABT) scheme. The activities will include as minimum:

- Software development.
- Upgrade of PVals to accept contactless EMV physical and virtual cards on devices alongside existing fare media
- Deployment of a supplier middle office.
- Integration from the supplier middle office to the TfGM Secure Middle Office (SMO).
- PCI certification.
- Commissioning of devices for use at various stations on the operating network of Northern Trains Limited 'NTL'.

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: No

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Negotiated without a prior call for competition

- The works, supplies or services can be provided only by a particular economic operator for the following reason:
 - protection of exclusive rights, including intellectual property rights

Explanation:

This approach is allowed under the UCR's where restrictions on the use of IPR do not trigger a requirement to conduct a new OJEU-compliant tender process.

We believe in this circumstance the following is applicable:

There are grounds where NTL as public body could award a subsequent contract to a third party using the exemptions in Regulation 50 of the UCR. This exemption is provided for under the UCR Regulation 50(1)(c) which allows Utilities to award a contract where the works, supplies or services can be supplied only by a particular supplier because competition is absent for technical reasons and where no reasonable alternative or substitute exists. The supplier owns copyright and the IPR in all the software. The absence of competition is not the result of an artificial narrowing down of the parameters of the procurement.

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

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

27 June 2025

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Depart for Transport

Great Minster House,

London

SW1P 4DR

Country

United Kingdom