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Award

## **Provision of an Integrated Student Admissions Solution**

University of the Highlands and Islands

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-036428

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04235b

Published 11 December 2023, 4:37pm

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

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

University of the Highlands and Islands

UHI House, Old Perth Road

Inverness

IV2 3JH

#### **Email**

[ayoung@apuc-scot.ac.uk](mailto:ayoung@apuc-scot.ac.uk)

#### **Telephone**

+44 1463255000

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

#### **NUTS code**

UKM6 - Highlands and Islands

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<http://www.uhi.ac.uk>

Buyer's address

[https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/search/Search\\_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA00101](https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/search/Search_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA00101)

**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 an Integrated Student Admissions Solution

Reference number

CS-UHI-26081

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

- 72212445 - Customer Relation Management software development services

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

Services

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

The University of the Highlands and Islands have a requirement for the Provision of an Integrated Student Admissions Solution for all Academic Partners of the University of the Highlands and Islands.

It should be noted that this requirement is being procured by the University of the Highlands and Islands, on behalf of all UHI Academic Partners.

#### **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: £348,420

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

#### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 72000000 - IT services: consulting, software development, Internet and support
- 72212445 - Customer Relation Management software development services
- 72212517 - IT software development services

- 73220000 - Development consultancy services

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

NUTS codes

- UKM6 - Highlands and Islands

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

The University of the Highlands and Islands, on behalf of the UHI Academic Partnership, have a requirement for a Contractor to enhance the Tribal SITS: Vision system, which has been implemented at the University. It is proposed that this development is split into two Phases. Phase One involves:

- development of online application form template
- development of applicant portal template
- development of online application form for direct applications with dual-language capabilities
- development of applicant portal: core functionality and integration with admissions staff processes
- clearing on the internet
- review and enhancement of integration between SITS and Microsoft Dynamics (Stutalk)
- planning for future admissions office improvements

Phase Two involves:

- Improved automation within admissions staff processes and functionality
- Improved admissions data maintenance tools
- Shopping Cart for CPD Courses selection and payment
- Applicant Portal Enhanced Features and

## Additional Processes

- Early Life Support and fine tuning
- Annual Cycle Rollover

### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: Yes

Description of options

The scope of work in Phase One and Phase Two (if extension applied), may be subject to change (within stated budget for each Phase).

It is proposed that the cost of Phase One shall be roughly 170,000 GBP (excluding VAT), whilst for Phase Two, it is proposed that the cost shall be roughly 180,000 GBP (excluding VAT).

### **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:

The University previously undertook a tender exercise for the Provision of an Integrated Student Admissions System, in July 2023. However, this tender exercise was cancelled (one submission exceeded the budget, whilst another submission, within budget, was deemed to be unsuitable). Thereafter, the University explored the use of a Framework Agreement to purchase a module which could be added to the University's Student Records System. After a demonstration and discussion, the quoted cost exceeded the

budget of the University.

Consequently, the University decided an alternative route could be the development of the University's existing Student Records System. As a result of cost, the University are unable to afford an Integrated Student Admissions System, or a new module to be implemented by the University's incumbent supplier of the Student Records System. Therefore, it was deemed appropriate to discuss possible deliverables to the existing Student Records System. The University performed a search for 'Tribal SITS Integration Consultancy' on the G-Cloud 13 Framework Agreement, which resulted in one supplier being listed. This supplier was 'Stu3 Limited'. As a result, the University believe there is only one supplier who possesses the capability to deliver consultancy work, with regard to the development of SITS: Vision.

Moreover, the University has a requirement for a solution to be implemented for September 2024. In order to meet the September 2024 deadline, service delivery needs to commence at the start of January 2024. As a result of specialism and time constraints, a Direct Award is deemed to be a necessary approach.

Therefore, this VEAT Notice has been published to present the intention of UHI to enter directly into a contract with Stu3 Limited, in accordance with Regulation 33 (1) (b) (ii) of the Public Contract Regulations 2015.

The works, supplies or services can be provided only by a particular economic operator for the following reason: absence of competition for technical reasons.

#### **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**

CS-UHI-26081

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

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

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

11 December 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**

Stu3 Ltd

93 Elers Road

London

W13 9QE

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

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: £348,420

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## **Section VI. Complementary information**

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

NOTE: To register your interest in this notice and obtain any additional information please visit the Public Contracts Scotland Web Site at

[https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/Search/Search\\_Switch.aspx?ID=752944](https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/Search/Search_Switch.aspx?ID=752944).

(SC Ref:752944)

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

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

Inverness Sheriff and Justice of the Peace Court

Inverness

IV1 1AH

Country

United Kingdom