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Award

EDIS-23-002 Unified Customer Experience for EA Admissions, Transport, SEN and Free School Meals

the Education Authority

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-036525

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-055700

Published 1 July 2025, 4:15pm

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

the Education Authority

40 Academy Street

Belfast

BT1 2NQ

Email

edis.procurement@eani.org.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://etendersni.gov.uk/epps>

Buyer's address

<https://etendersni.gov.uk/epps>

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

EDIS-23-002 Unified Customer Experience for EA Admissions, Transport, SEN and Free School Meals

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 48000000 - Software package and information systems

II.1.3) Type of contract

Supplies

II.1.4) Short description

The Education Authority carried out a procurement to further develop the Unified Customer Experience for EA Admissions, Transport, SEN and Free School Meals for the period 04 September 2023 - 03 September 2025 with the option of a further 12 month extension.

This was a further competition under CCS Framework Digital Outcomes 6 Lot 1.

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: £1,250,000

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 48000000 - Software package and information systems

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKN - Northern Ireland

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The Education Authority carried out a procurement to further develop the Unified Customer Experience for EA Admissions, Transport, SEN and Free School Meals for the period 04 September 2023 - 03 September 2025 with the option of a further 12 month extension.

This was a further competition under CCS Framework Digital Outcomes 6 Lot 1.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Technical Competence / Weighting: 50

Quality criterion - Name: Cultural Fit / Weighting: 10

Quality criterion - Name: Social Value / Weighting: 10

Price - Weighting: 30

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of options

Option of a further 12 month extension.

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

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 not an award without prior notice, the purpose of this VEAT notice is to make the market aware that EA intend to modify this contract as detailed below.

This opportunity was originally awarded as a call-off contract following a further competition under Crown Commercial Services Digital Outcomes 6 Framework Lot 1.

In October 2024 the contract value was increased by 50% of the original awarded contract value under published VEAT 2024/S 000-030912 and subsequent modification notice 2025/S 000-004627.

In March 2025 the contract value was further modified to increase by 50% of the original awarded contract value under published VEAT 2025/S 000-005665 and subsequent modification notice 2025/S 000-007716.

EA now intend to further modify the contract value to increase by £625,000 i.e. 50% of the original awarded contract value. The new total contract value will be £3,125,000.

No aspect of the modification will alter the overall nature of the current contract as the scope of services will remain unaltered and any expenditure will not be permitted to exceed 50% of the original awarded contract value.

For technical reasons a change in supplier is not possible at this stage. The services must continue to be technically compatible with what has already been developed by the Contractor under this contract and to contract with a different supplier at this stage would result in significant risk to current development timeframes as well as the substantial duplication of costs which would be incurred to procure replacement services.

Regulation 72(1)(b) permits an amendment to an existing contract: for additional works, services or supplies by the original contractor that have become necessary and were not included in the initial procurement, where a change of contractor

(i) cannot be made for economic or technical reasons such as requirements of interchangeability or interoperability with existing equipment, services or installations procured under the initial procurement, or

(ii) would cause significant inconvenience or substantial duplication of costs for the contracting authority, provided that any increase in price does not exceed 50% of the value of the original contract.

Regulation 72(1)(c) also permits this modification due to unforeseen circumstances which a diligent contracting authority could not have foreseen. Particularly it could not have been foreseen that significant funding would be re-allocated to allow the further development of this platform.

The EA shall observe a period of no less than 30 days, beginning with the day after the date of

publication, before modifying the contract as set out in this notice.

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

8 August 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

Version 1 Solutions Ltd

Birmingham

Email

tendernotices@version1.com

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://www.version1.com>

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

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

Lowest offer: £1,250,000 / Highest offer: £3,125,000 taken into consideration

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

The UK does not currently have any such bodies with responsibilities for appeal/mediation procedures

Belfast

Country

United Kingdom