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Tender

## **ID 5448866 INVEST NI - PROVISION OF GROW BEYOND (EARLY STAGE EXPORTERS) PROGRAMME IN GREAT BRITAIN AND REPUBLIC OF IRELAND 2024-2029**

Invest Northern Ireland

F02: Contract notice

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-036624

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04b5eb

Published 12 November 2024, 4:11pm

### **Section I: Contracting authority**

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

Invest Northern Ireland

BELFAST

#### **Email**

[SSDAdmin.CPD@finance-ni.gov.uk](mailto:SSDAdmin.CPD@finance-ni.gov.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.2) Information about joint procurement**

The contract is awarded by a central purchasing body

## **I.3) Communication**

Access to the procurement documents is restricted. Further information can be obtained at

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

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted to the above-mentioned address

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

Body governed by public law

## **I.5) Main activity**

Economic and financial affairs

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## **Section II: Object**

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

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

ID 5448866 INVEST NI - PROVISION OF GROW BEYOND (EARLY STAGE EXPORTERS) PROGRAMME IN GREAT BRITAIN AND REPUBLIC OF IRELAND 2024-2029

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

- 79413000 - Marketing management consultancy services

**II.1.3) Type of contract**

Services

**II.1.4) Short description**

Invest NI is now seeking to appoint a Contractor for the delivery and management of “The Grow Beyond Programme” for a five-year period from 2024-2029, with an anticipated launch date in financial quarter 4 2024/25. The Grow Beyond Programme (Grow Beyond) is an export capability development service aimed at Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs) who are either • selling outside Northern Ireland into the RoI and/or GB for the first time or • growing export sales in RoI and GB from a limited base.

**II.1.5) Estimated total value**

Value excluding VAT: £540,000

**II.1.6) Information about lots**

This contract is divided into lots: No

**II.2) Description****II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 79400000 - Business and management consultancy and related services
- 79410000 - Business and management consultancy services
- 79310000 - Market research services
- 80532000 - Management training services
- 73210000 - Research consultancy services
- 73220000 - Development consultancy services

**II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UKN - Northern Ireland
- UKN0 - Northern Ireland

Main site or place of performance

Northern Ireland

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

Invest NI is now seeking to appoint a Contractor for the delivery and management of “The Grow Beyond Programme” for a five-year period from 2024-2029, with an anticipated launch date in financial quarter 4 2024/25. The Grow Beyond Programme (Grow Beyond) is an export capability development service aimed at Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs) who are either • selling outside Northern Ireland into the RoI and/or GB for the first time or • growing export sales in RoI and GB from a limited base.

#### **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

#### **II.2.6) Estimated value**

Value excluding VAT: £540,000

#### **II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system**

Duration in months

60

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

As per contract documents.

#### **II.2.10) Information about variants**

Variants will be accepted: No

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

Options: Yes

Description of options

It is anticipated that this contract will be awarded in financial quarter 4 2024/25. The

contract will run for an initial period of 24 months from the date of appointment with an option to extend for one further period of 24 months (First Extension Period) and one final option to extend for 12 months (Final Extension Period), subject to satisfactory performance and budgetary provision. Costs shall be fixed for the initial contract period. Any requests for uplifts during the optional extension periods shall be in accordance with CPI.

### **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.2.14) Additional information**

The figure indicated in Section II 1.5 represents an estimated contract value. This value reflects the potential scale of the contract and takes into account potential optional extension periods and the uptake of potential optional services as detailed in the tender documents. This figure does not however take into account the application of indexation or increases to charges due to increases in the Real Living Wage. Neither CPD nor the Authority can provide any guarantee as to the level of business under this contract. The Contracting Authority does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender. Economic Operators remain responsible for all costs and expenses incurred by them or by any third party acting under instructions from the Economic Operator in connection with taking part in this procurement process regardless of whether such costs arise as a consequence, directly or indirectly of any amendments made to the procurement documents by the Contracting Authority at any time. No legally binding contract shall arise (and an Economic Operator shall have no legitimate expectation that a contract will be entered into) until such time as entry into the Contract has been confirmed by the Contracting Authority. Economic Operators should note that all dates, time periods and figures in relation to values and volumes specified in this notice and the procurement documents are approximate only and the Contracting Authority reserves the right to change any or all of them.

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## **Section III. Legal, economic, financial and technical information**

### **III.1) Conditions for participation**

#### **III.1.3) Technical and professional ability**

Selection criteria as stated in the procurement documents

## **Section IV. Procedure**

### **IV.1) Description**

#### **IV.1.1) Type of procedure**

Open procedure

#### **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.2.2) Time limit for receipt of tenders or requests to participate**

Date

13 December 2024

Local time

3:00pm

#### **IV.2.4) Languages in which tenders or requests to participate may be submitted**

English

#### **IV.2.6) Minimum time frame during which the tenderer must maintain the tender**

Tender must be valid until: 13 March 2025

#### **IV.2.7) Conditions for opening of tenders**

Date

13 December 2024

Local time

3:30pm

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## **Section VI. Complementary information**

### **VI.1) Information about recurrence**

This is a recurrent procurement: Yes

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

The successful Contractor's performance on this contract will be managed as per the specification and regularly monitored. Contractors. not delivering on contract requirements is a serious matter. It means the public purse is not getting what it is paying for. If a contractor... fails to reach satisfactory levels of contract performance they will be given a specified time to improve. If, after the specified time, they. still fail to reach satisfactory levels of contract performance, the matter will be escalated to senior management in CPD for further. action. If this occurs and their performance still does not improve to satisfactory levels within the specified period, it may be regarded... as an act of grave professional misconduct and they may be issued with a notice of unsatisfactory performance and this contract may. be terminated. A central register of such notices for supplies and services contracts will be maintained and published on the CPD. website. Any Contractor in receipt of a notice of unsatisfactory performance will be required to declare this in future tender submissions... for a period of 3 years from the date of issue of the notice. It may also result in the Contractor being excluded from all procurement. competitions being undertaken by Centres of Procurement Expertise on behalf of bodies covered by the Northern Ireland Procurement... Policy. The authority expressly reserves the rights (i) not to award any contract as a result of the procurement process commenced. by. publication of this notice; (ii) to make whatever changes it may see fit to the content and structure of the tendering competition;. (iii) to... award (a) contract(s) in respect of any part(s) of the (services) covered by this notice; and (iv) to award contract(s) in stages and. in no... circumstances will the authority be liable for any costs incurred by candidates.

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

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

The UK does not have any special review body with responsibility for appeal/mediation procedures in public procurement competitions. Instead; any challenges are dealt with by the High Court, Commercial Division, to which proceedings may be issued regarding alleged breaches of the PCR2015 as amended.

Belfast

Country

United Kingdom

#### **VI.4.2) Body responsible for mediation procedures**

The UK does not have any special review body with responsibility for appeal/mediation procedures in public procurement competitions. Instead; any challenges are dealt with by the High Court, Commercial Division, to which proceedings may be issued regarding alleged breaches of the PCR2015 as amended.

Belfast

Country

United Kingdom

#### **VI.4.3) Review procedure**

Precise information on deadline(s) for review procedures

CPD will comply with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and, where appropriate, will incorporate a standstill period (i.e. a minimum of 10 calendar days) at the point information on the award of contract is communicated to tenderers. That notification will provide full information on the award decision. This provides time for the unsuccessful tenderers to challenge the award decision before the contract is entered into.