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Planning

The Department for Work and Pensions: Secure Card Payment Services Procurement

Department for Work and Pensions

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-037265

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-0426cd

Published 19 December 2023, 11:51am

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Department for Work and Pensions

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LONDON

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Contact

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United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions>

I.3) Communication

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

National or federal Agency/Office

I.5) Main activity

General public services

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

The Department for Work and Pensions: Secure Card Payment Services Procurement

Reference number

Project_25393

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 72000000 - IT services: consulting, software development, Internet and support

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is responsible for administering welfare, pensions, and child maintenance policy in the UK, serving around 20 million claimants. The DWP operates the largest contact centre in the UK government, providing support to customers from around 135 locations and offering specialist services such as debt recovery, card payments, and assistance for customers with complex needs.

This is a follow up to the previous PIN 2023/S 000-004912 dated 17th of February 2023 and following with the subsequent PIN 2023/S 000-032248; dated 1st of November 2023, as regards to the provision of Secure Card Payment Services (SCPS) for the DWP. Following the completion of the review of the Request for Information responses, following the February PIN, the DWP is now proceeding to procure these services. In the PIN of 1st November 2023 DWP had identified the intended issue date for the procurement as 2 January 2024. The estimated launch date is now on or around 29 January 2024. DWP's requirements for SIP Licences has also changed from 9,000 to 11,000, as set out below.

The current DWP provision allows business groups to receive customer payments in a Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS) compliant manner, including an Interactive Voice Recognition (IVR) capability to facilitate payments. The DWP service and SCPS contract currently supports approximately 9000 agents. The current SCPS contract also includes the routing of outbound calls via the PCI DSS compliant service provider.

DWP takes approximately 750,000 card payments per annum, totalling approximately

£130M per annum. This is collected by two areas of DWP and Northern Ireland's Department for Communities:

- Child Maintenance Group (CMG); and
- Debt Recovery.

DWP is planning to procure a new SCPS Contract that can meet the current and future needs of the service while providing value for money and service continuity. This contract will replace a current contract that enables Debt and Child Maintenance business groups to take customer payments using a Dual Tone Masking Frequency (DTMF) facility.

Under the new SCPS Contract the DWP has identified the following requirements, which may be subject to change before the issue of the Contract Notice:

- The ability to take customer payments using a Dual Tone Masking Frequency (DTMF) facility.
- The provision of up to 11000 SIP Licences, with an option to increase by a further 2000 SIP Licences.
- The ability to take Inbound and make Outbound (Average 170 million minutes per annum) calls for any Business Group including any systems that take card payments across the whole network.
- The availability of a customer self-service Interactive Voice Recognition (IVR) solution.
- A potential requirement to provide a 'Nailed 'Up PSTN service for up to 6 months.

The new SCPS Contract is required to ensure continuing capability for DWP to receive customer payments in a PCI DSS compliant manner and provide all Outbound Telephone calls for the department.

DWP anticipates entering into a Contract for an initial 3-year period (Estimated Value £6.1 million) with the option, exercised wholly at the discretion of DWP, to extend the Contract for a period or periods not exceeding a total of 36 months in aggregate (Estimated Value £7.2 million).

The DWP anticipates that the effective date of the Contract will be on or around 1 September 2024 following which there will be an estimated 6-month implementation period before the commencement of the delivery of the services under the Contract.

The Contract will be procured using the Restricted Process through FaTS. The form of contract will be the Cabinet Office Mid-Tier Services Contract, amended as necessary to

reflect the DWP's requirements. All dates stated above remain approximate and are subject to achieving the necessary governance approvals.

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £13,300,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 64200000 - Telecommunications services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

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The Section II.1.5 'Estimated total value' field within this PIN includes an estimated value for a fully extended term.

As part of the selection requirements, Potential Suppliers will need to confirm that they, or a key sub-contractor, are a Level 1 Service provider as prescribed under Payment Card Industry, Data Security Standards (PCI-DSS) and if required have a valid Report on Compliance (RoC) and Attestation of Compliance (AoC) in line with being a Level 1 Service provider.

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

29 January 2024

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

Suppliers Instructions:

How to Express Interest in this Tender:

1. Register on the eSourcing portal (this is only required once):

<https://dwp.bravosolution.co.uk> & click the link to register - Accept the terms & conditions & click 'continue' - Enter your correct business & user details - Note your chosen username & click 'Save'. You will receive an email with your password (keep this secure)

2. Express an Interest in the tender - Login to the portal with the username/password - Click the 'PQQs / ITTs Open To All Suppliers' link. (These are Pre-Qualification Questionnaires or Invitations to Tender open to any registered supplier) - Click on the relevant exercise to access the content. - Click the 'Express Interest' button at the top of the page. - This will move the PQQ /ITT into your 'My PQQs/ My ITTs' page. (A secure area reserved for your projects only) -You can now access any attachments by clicking 'Buyer Attachments' in the 'PQQ/ ITT Details' box

3. Responding to the tender - Click 'My Response' under 'PQQ/ ITT Details', you can choose to 'Create Response' or to 'Decline to Respond' (please give a reason if declining) - You can now use the 'Messages' function to communicate with the buyer and seek any clarification - Note the deadline for completion. Follow the onscreen instructions to complete the PQQ/ ITT - There may be a mixture of online & offline actions to complete (detailed online help available). To submit your reply use the 'Submit Response' button (top of the page).

For further assistance please consult the online help, or the eTendering help desk.

DWP expressly reserves the rights(i)to use a reverse auction; (ii)to cancel this procurement at any stage; (iii)to not award any contract as a result of the procurement process commenced by publication of this notice; (iv)and in no circumstances will DWP be liable for any costs incurred by potential suppliers.