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Award

CORE Development Services

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY

UK5: Transparency notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-037279

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-0558b7 ([view related notices](#))

Published 4 July 2025, 8:56am

Scope

Reference

OUPA10627

Description

Service development capacity, in the form of software development and associated activities, to support the CORE project:

CORE hosts the world's largest collection of open access research outputs, which are used and referenced by people globally, including researchers, libraries, software developers, funders.

Contract 1

Supplier

- Qubit Labs OÜ

Contract value

- £450,000 excluding VAT
- £540,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Earliest date the contract will be signed

7 August 2025

Contract dates (estimated)

- 8 August 2025 to 31 July 2026
- 11 months, 24 days

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 72230000 - Custom software development services

Contract locations

- UKJ1 - Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire

Other information

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Direct award

Direct award justification

Single supplier - technical reasons

The Open University (OU) intends to award a one (1) year agreement to Qubit Labs to provide software development and associated activities, to support the CORE OU project.

The CORE code base contains more than 250k lines of code Qubit personnel have the required training, expertise and specialist knowledge to operate and develop the CORE infrastructure. The cost and time to upskill another company to the level required precludes the award of the contract to a company other than Qubit.

Supplier

Qubit Labs OÜ

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PJDT-6796-PBTZ

Sepapaja, 6

Tallinn

15551

Estonia

Email: viktor.sokolov@qubit-labs.com

Website: <https://qubit-labs.com/>

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): No

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 1

Contracting authority

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY

- Charity Commission (England and Wales): RC000391
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PYNW-6296-ZJQQ

Walton Hall

Milton Keynes

MK7 6AA

United Kingdom

Email: finance-tenders@open.ac.uk

Region: UKJ12 - Milton Keynes

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government