

This is a published notice on the Find a Tender service: <https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Notice/037811-2023>

Contract

Provision of Online Graduate and Postgraduate Educational Services

Aston University

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-037811

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-04297a

Published 22 December 2023, 11:12am

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Aston University

Aston Triangle

BIRMINGHAM

B47ET

Email

legalservices@aston.ac.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKG31 - Birmingham

Companies House

RC000904

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.aston.ac.uk>

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

Provision of Online Graduate and Postgraduate Educational Services

Reference number

946

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 80300000 - Higher education services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

This is a services contract for the provision of online educational services at graduate and post graduate level.

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: £230,000,000

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKG31 - Birmingham

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

This is a services contract for the provision of online educational services at graduate and post graduate level.

These services include acting as a college of Aston University by:

- Creating and adapting Aston University materials in order to ensure that they are appropriate for online teaching;
- Delivering online teaching in respect of courses from undergraduate to doctorate level;
- Marketing the courses to prospective students;
- Providing an admissions service; and
- Providing student support services.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Price

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: 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 services can be provided only by a particular economic operator for the following reason:
 - absence of competition for technical reasons

Explanation:

The University sought to appoint a provider through which to secure its online education offering.

The University's objective requirements for its provider included (1) the provision of online education services; and (2) the ability to make a significant (multimillion pound) upfront investment in infrastructure to support the contract. The University is of the view that that there is no reasonable commercial alternative through which to achieve its online education offering. It also considers that its requirements are driven by commercial positions and are not aimed at the artificial narrowing of competition.

Recognising that its requirements were more extensive than many online education contracts, the University directly engaged with the market to ascertain the market's ability to meet the University's requirements and its appetite for doing so. Following that engagement the University identified only one party who had the capability to deliver the requirements and who was willing to contract with the University on this basis. Indeed, the engagement did not reveal any other provider with a viable solution and who would be willing to put forward the significant multi-million pound upfront investment for the infrastructure required under the contract.

Therefore, following a review of the commercial case put forward, the University has made the commercial decision to enter into the contract with OES, who satisfies all of the criteria under Regulation 57 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: No

Section V. Award of contract

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

15 December 2023

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 1

The contract has been awarded to a group of economic operators: No

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

Online Education Services Limited

Manchester

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKD34 - Greater Manchester South West

Companies House

10942893

The contractor is an SME

No

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

Total value of the contract/lot: £230,000,000

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Aston University

Birmingham

Country

United Kingdom