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Tender

ID 5449059 - Invest NI - Graduate to Export Development programme

Invest Northern Ireland

F02: Contract notice

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-037917

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04be3b

Published 22 November 2024, 5:33pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Invest Northern Ireland

303 Airport Road West

BELFAST

BT3 9ED

Contact

SSDAdmin.CPDfinance-ni.gov.uk

Email

SSDAdmin.CPD@finance-ni.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKN - Northern Ireland

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

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

ID 5449059 - Invest NI - Graduate to Export Development programme

Reference number

5449059

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 80000000 - Education and training services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

Invest NI's Graduate to Export Development Programme (G2E Programme) launched in February 2019, and targets SMEs in Northern Ireland to help expand their business internationally with the assistance of a supported graduate. As part of the programme, participating companies will develop their international business capabilities, gained from having a dedicated market research resource and on completion of the graduate intervention, they will have an export development / market entry plan for their chosen market. The Programme, in turn, will provide graduates with a valuable opportunity to gain practical experience and business skills in international business development in addition to obtain academic qualifications. Invest NI is seeking to engage a Contractor for the development, delivery, and management of future G2E cohorts with an anticipated launch date of March/April 2025. The Contractor shall design and deliver a Post Graduate Diploma for participating graduates which will have a commercial focus and a meaningful accreditation focusing on global best practice in international business development. The Contractor shall also work with the participating companies to assist them develop / refine their market research projects and oversee their execution by the programme graduates. The completion of these projects by the graduates should be a prerequisite of academic accreditation. The G2E Programme will comprise of up to 3 cohorts of 201 graduates per cohort all of whom are employed by Invest NI client companies (primarily SME's). It is anticipated that the contract will be for an initial period of 5 years with each cohort lasting 18 months. Invest NI reserve the option to extend the contract for a further period of 12 months. Each cohort is subject to budgetary approval and to satisfactory Contractor performance.

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £444,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 79000000 - Business services: law, marketing, consulting, recruitment, printing and security
- 80430000 - Adult-education services at university level
- 80510000 - Specialist training services
- 80570000 - Personal development training services
- 79310000 - Market research services
- 79342000 - Marketing services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKN - Northern Ireland
- UKN0 - Northern Ireland

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Invest NI's Graduate to Export Development Programme (G2E Programme) launched in February 2019, and targets SMEs in Northern Ireland to help expand their business internationally with the assistance of a supported graduate. As part of the programme, participating companies will develop their international business capabilities, gained from having a dedicated market research resource and on completion of the graduate intervention, they will have an export development / market entry plan for their chosen market. The Programme, in turn, will provide graduates with a valuable opportunity to gain practical experience and business skills in international business development in addition to obtain academic qualifications. Invest NI is seeking to engage a Contractor for the development, delivery, and management of future G2E cohorts with an anticipated launch date of March/April 2025. The Contractor shall design and deliver a Post Graduate Diploma for participating graduates which will have a commercial focus and a meaningful accreditation focusing on global best practice in international business development. The

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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: £444,000

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 tender 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 this contract will be awarded in February 2025 for a period of 5 years. Invest NI reserve the option to extend the contract for a further period of 12 months.

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.

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

15 January 2025

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: 15 April 2025

IV.2.7) Conditions for opening of tenders

Date

15 January 2025

Local time

3:30pm

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.