

This is a published notice on the Find a Tender service: <https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Notice/039078-2025>

Award

Content Management System

Scottish Qualifications Authority

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-039078

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-055d31

Published 10 July 2025, 4:54pm

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

Scottish Qualifications Authority

Lowden, 24 Wester Shawfair, Dalkeith

Midlothian

EH22 1FD

Contact

Elizabeth Cunningham

Email

procurement@sqa.org.uk

Telephone

+44 03452136720

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKM73 - East Lothian and Midlothian

Internet address(es)

Main address

<http://www.sqa.org.uk>

Buyer's address

https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/search/Search_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA00386

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Other type

NDBP

I.5) Main activity

Education

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Content Management System

Reference number

SQA2433CMS

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 48000000 - Software package and information systems

II.1.3) Type of contract

Supplies

II.1.4) Short description

Direct Award of Headless Content Management System on urgency grounds

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: £340,000

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 48000000 - Software package and information systems

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKM73 - East Lothian and Midlothian

Main site or place of performance

The Optima Building

58 Robertson Street

Glasgow

G2 8DQ

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

This is a VEAT notice to notify the market that SQA intends to enter into a contract following a negotiated procedure without prior publication on the grounds that for reasons of extreme urgency brought about by events unforeseeable by the contracting authority, the time limits for open procedure, restricted procedure or competitive procedure with negotiation cannot be complied with (regulation 33(1)(c)). SQA requires to receive the contract services in time for a 1 December 2025 launch date for Qualifications Scotland which is set by government following the passage of the Education Scotland Act 2025. Implementation time requirements mean that even with immediate contract award, the development timeline is at the minimum of industry standards for enterprise-level headless CMS implementations. There is accordingly no time available for a procedure following even minimum timescales under procurement regulations. The urgency arises following a failure of established procurement procedures. Specifically SQA attempted to use an established Scottish Government framework to procure the required products but this process was vitiated by supply chain failure. That failure was unforeseeable by and unattributable to SQA.

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: No

II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: 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 procurement falls outside the scope of application of the regulations

Explanation:

SQA is applying regulation 33(1)(c)

This is extremely urgent under justification 2

This is a VEAT notice to notify the market that SQA intends to enter into a contract following a negotiated procedure without prior publication on the grounds that for reasons of extreme urgency brought about by events unforeseeable by the contracting authority, the time limits for open procedure, restricted procedure or competitive procedure with negotiation cannot be complied with (regulation 33(1)(c)). SQA requires to receive the contract services in time for a 1 December 2025 launch date for Qualifications Scotland which is set by government following the passage of the Education Scotland Act 2025. Implementation time requirements mean that even with immediate contract award, the development timeline is at the minimum of industry standards for enterprise-level headless CMS implementations. There is accordingly no time available for a procedure following even minimum timescales under procurement regulations. The urgency arises following a failure of established procurement procedures. Specifically SQA attempted to use an established Scottish Government framework to procure the required products but this process was vitiated by supply chain failure. That failure was unforeseeable by and unattributable to SQA.

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

Section V. Award of contract/concession

Contract No

SQA2433CMS

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract/concession

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

10 July 2025

V.2.2) Information about tenders

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

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire

Contentful (UK) Limited

Highlands House, Basingstoke Road , Spencers Wood Reading

Aldershot

GU12 6FN

Telephone

+044 7464378410

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKJ11 - Berkshire

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

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

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £340,000

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

NOTE: To register your interest in this notice and obtain any additional information please visit the Public Contracts Scotland Web Site at

https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/Search/Search_Switch.aspx?ID=804056.

(SC Ref:804056)

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Glasgow Sheriff Court

1 Carlton Place

Glasgow

G5 9DA

Country

United Kingdom