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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](mailto: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](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

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## 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

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## 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

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## **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](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