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Contract

SHEDL eBook Collections - Springer Nature

APUC Limited

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-042386

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04ddd9

Published 23 July 2025, 2:02pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

APUC Limited

Unit 27, Stirling Business Centre, Wellgreen

Stirling

FK8 2DZ

Contact

Lorona Watts

Email

lwatts@apuc-scot.ac.uk

Telephone

+44 1314428950

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKM77 - Perth & Kinross and Stirling

Internet address(es)

Main address

<http://www.apuc-scot.ac.uk>

Buyer's address

https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/search/Search_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA10402

I.2) Information about joint procurement

The contract is awarded by a central purchasing body

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

SHEDL eBook Collections - Springer Nature

Reference number

LIB1026 AP

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 800000000 - Education and training services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

APUC is seeking to enter into an agreement with Springer Nature to offer Scottish Higher Education Digital Library (SHEDL) members institutions access to Springer Nature online books, free of digital rights management (DRM), for up to 4 years.

APUC will not use the content but will facilitate the purchase on behalf of the HE institutions in Scotland and the National Library of Scotland. The Contract value is estimated based on potential participation by its members

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: £2,500,000

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 800000000 - Education and training services
- 22113000 - Library books

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKM - Scotland

Main site or place of performance

Scotland

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

APUC is seeking to enter into an agreement with Springer Nature to offer Scottish Higher Education Digital Library (SHEDL) members institutions access to Springer Nature online books, free of digital rights management (DRM), for up to 4 years.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Service Delivery & Framework Management / Weighting: 30

Price - Weighting: 70

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

II.2.14) Additional information

The contract value is an estimate based on the potential aggregated subscription values over the possible term of 48 months.

APUC will not use or make payments under this contract but will facilitate the agreement on behalf of the Scottish HE Institutions and the National Library of Scotland.

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:
 - procurement aiming at the creation or acquisition of a unique work of art or artistic performance

Explanation:

The publishing service is unique to the supplier and sector. The agreement falls within the derogation contained within Regulation 33(b)(i) of the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2015, permitting APUC to enter into the direct award.

IV.1.3) Information about a framework agreement or a dynamic purchasing system

The procurement involves the establishment of a framework agreement

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.2.1) Previous publication concerning this procedure

Notice number: [2025/S 000-004610](#)

Section V. Award of contract

Contract No

LIB1026 AP

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

11 February 2025

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 1

Number of tenders received from SMEs: 0

Number of tenders received from tenderers from other EU Member States: 1

Number of tenders received from tenderers from non-EU Member States: 0

Number of tenders received by electronic means: 1

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

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

Springer Nature Customer Service Center GmbH

Europaplatz 3, 69115, Heidelberg, Germany

Heidelberg

69115

Telephone

+44 07352741062

Country

Germany

NUTS code

- DE - Germany

The contractor is an SME

No

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

Total value of the contract/lot: £2,500,000

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

The following documents should be submitted prior to award. This is for information only and will not be scored:-

Appendix B - Freedom of Information

Appendix D -Sustain Supply Chain Code of Conduct

Appendix I(a) - GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) Contractor Assessment Form

Appendix I(b) - GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) Assessment Form (AI)

Appendix J - SCM RP Section 1

Contract of Performance Condition

SUBMISSION OF MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

Prior to the commencement of the Contract, the Contractor will provide the Authority with contact details of the

Management Information contact who will be provided with a template spreadsheet/reporting schedule along with a username and password for the management information website <http://www.ucsp.ac.uk/>

The Contractors must provide the information on a quarterly basis, within 10 working days

following the start of each quarter by logging into the website and uploading the template document. If there has been no spend for the quarter, then this will still require you to log in and record a nil spend return.

(SC Ref:801915)

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Stirling Sheriff Court and Justice of the Peace Court Sheriff Court

Sheriff Court House, Viewfield Place Stirling Country

Stirling

FK8 1NH

Email

stirling@scotcourts.gov.uk

Telephone

+44 1786462191

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://www.scotcourts.gov.uk/the-courts/court-locations/stirling-sheriff-court-and-justice-of-the-peace-court>