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Award

Project_9906 AI Tools for Education Phase 2

Department for Education

UK5: Transparency notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-043443

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-056707

Published 28 July 2025, 12:53pm

Scope

Description

This is a Contracts for Innovation competition funded by Innovate UK and delivered by the Department for Education.

The aim of this phase is to develop tools which use generative AI to support teachers with assessing progress and providing feedback, known as formative assessment. These tools must support high quality education through evidence based teaching and learning approaches. These must align with relevant standards such as the National Curriculum or Early Years Foundation Stages (EYFS).

The Department will be procuring contracts to support Phase 2 for AI Tools for Education which will include piloting, testing and demonstration or validation of prototype genAI tools for use in operating conditions in education up to Technical Readiness Levels 7 and 8 and this will build upon the work completed in Phase 1.

The suppliers will be required to develop tools which use generative AI to support teachers with assessing progress and providing feedback, known as formative assessment.

This competition does not include the adoption, implementation, or commercial production or supply of any tools. This competition does not cover the purchase of any solution.

A total of up to £1 million inclusive of VAT is allocated to Phase 2 with up to 10 contracts awarded to successful organisations which will be selected following a mini competition.

Contracts will commence in October 2025 and must end by 30th June 2026.

Contract 1

Suppliers

Supplier not yet selected

Contract value

- £800,000 excluding VAT
- £1,000,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Earliest date the contract will be signed

30 September 2025

Contract dates (estimated)

- 10 October 2025 to 30 June 2026
- 8 months, 22 days

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 72000000 - IT services: consulting, software development, Internet and support
- 73000000 - Research and development services and related consultancy services

Participation

Particular suitability

- Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)
- Voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)

Other information

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Direct award

Direct award justification

Prototypes and development

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The DfE relies on the justification at para. 2 (Prototypes & Development) of Schedule 5 to the Procurement Act 2023 for the direct award of these contracts. This mini competition is being undertaken in accordance with section 41(3) of the Procurement Act 2023 which permits contracting authorities to carry out a selection process before awarding one or more contracts in a range of special cases including contracts for prototypes and other novel goods or services.

A total of up to £1 million inclusive of VAT is allocated to Phase 2 with up to 10 contracts awarded to successful organisations which will be selected following a mini competition. Contracts will commence in October 2025 and must end by 30th June 2026.

Contracting authority

Department for Education

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PDZG-3487-DPVD

Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Great Smith Street

London

SW1P3BT

United Kingdom

Email: PolicyAssurance.COMMERCIALQUERIES@education.gov.uk

Region: UKI32 - Westminster

Organisation type: Public authority - central government

Other organisation

These organisations are carrying out the procurement, or part of it, on behalf of the contracting authorities.

Innovate UK part of UK Research and Innovation UKRI

Summary of their role in this procurement: IUK are acting in advisory capacity on the procurement of innovation and running the competition up to collection of applications.

- Companies House: 08705643

Polaris House, North Star Avenue

Swindon

SN2 1FL

United Kingdom

Email: support@iuk.ukri.org

Region: UKK14 - Swindon

Contact organisation

Contact Department for Education for any enquiries.