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Award

Office for Students: Provision of Support Services for TRAC

Office for Students

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Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-043710

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-0567ad ([view related notices](#))

Published 29 July 2025, 10:05am

Scope

Reference

PRN2250

Description

Transparent Approach to Costing (TRAC) is an activity-based costing system developed for the UK higher education sector and implemented in UK publicly funded higher education institutions. This contract is for the Provision of TRAC technical helpdesk support to UK HE institutions required to submit TRAC returns.

Maintaining and updating the TRAC guidance and reporting requirements, including taking account of changes to financial accounting standards and meeting stakeholder needs.

Carrying out reviews of the TRAC methodology to improve data quality and utility and meet multiple stakeholder requirements.

Supporting the TRAC Development Group in its oversight of the TRAC system.

Supporting the UK Regulators and Funders, including the use of the TRAC system to inform funding policy for teaching and research, and for informing pricing of research grants and contracts.

To view this notice, please click here:

<https://www.delta-esourcing.com/delta/viewNotice.html?noticeId=968655933>

Contract 1

Supplier

- KPMG LLP

Contract value

- £530,000 excluding VAT
- £636,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Earliest date the contract will be signed

22 August 2025

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 September 2025 to 31 August 2026

- 1 year

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 79000000 - Business services: law, marketing, consulting, recruitment, printing and security

Contract locations

- UKK1 - Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Bristol/Bath area

Other information

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Direct award

Direct award justification

Single supplier - technical reasons

The TRAC support service is a specialist contract requiring expertise in the TRAC system, understanding of methodology, and capacity to provide support across the UK HE sector, to OfS, SFC, Medr, DFE(NI) and UKRI to support use of TRAC data for informing funding policy, for use by UKRI for funding research grants and contracts, and to inform government policy for DfE and the devolved administrations.

The OfS is currently implementing changes to its data platform and arrangements for collecting data from institutions (including change to the TRAC return template). Therefore, continuity of helpdesk support to the sector during the next TRAC return will be essential to avoid disproportionate burden for HE institutions during this transition period.

Additionally, continuity is required in order that important developments in the TRAC system which involve implementation of complex technical changes to the TRAC requirements that have been developed and recently piloted under the current service contract can be implemented successfully and without disruption in the helpdesk support.

Supplier

KPMG LLP

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Region: UKI42 - Tower Hamlets

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): No

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 1

Contracting authority

Office for Students

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PYZM-6681-RPZP

Westward House, Lime Kiln Close, Stoke Gifford

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United Kingdom

Contact name: Sarah Phillips

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Region: UKK12 - Bath and North East Somerset, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire

Organisation type: Public authority - central government