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Tender

Metrolink Operations and Maintenance

Transport for Greater Manchester

UK4: Tender notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-044209

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-0506c2 ([view related notices](#))

Published 30 July 2025, 12:04pm

Scope

Reference

202501010

Description

The Metrolink Tram System is the backbone of the Bee Network , Greater Manchester's integrated public transport network, and is of strategic importance to the economy of Greater Manchester, providing fast and frequent links across the region for employment, leisure and tourism.

The Metrolink assets comprise a fleet of 147 trams, over 100 km of track and overhead line, 99 stops, 2 depots and growing patronage of over 46 million passenger journeys per annum (March 2025). Metrolink is the largest light rail network in the UK.

Operation and management of the system is currently undertaken via one major contract let by TfGM. The maintenance and operations obligations for Metrolink are included within the Metrolink Operations and Maintenance Agreement (MOMA) with the current contract ending in July 2027.

Selecting the best provider of operation and maintenance services is critical to TfGM's continued success in the coming decade. The value of the operations and maintenance services is expected to be in the order of £1.9 billion over 11 years, with a potential to instruct additional capital works.

This notice is intended to inform potential tenderers that TfGM are now formally commencing the procurement process to appoint an operation and maintenance provider for 2027 onwards, and provide a timeline for the procurement.

The procurement will follow a 2 stage process under the competitive flexible procedure with an initial Procurement Specific Questionnaire (PSQ) stage from which a maximum of four tenderers will be progressed to the tender stage. Full details are provided within the PSQ, draft contract and draft Invitation to Negotiate (ITN) which are freely and electronically available via the linked Pro Contract e Portal.

The successful tenderer, as an experienced operator and maintainer will also support TfGM in their procurement and delivery of Expansion Projects to the Metrolink System including new stops and new trams, new control systems and the development of future extensions. The successful tenderer will be responsible for delivering a step change in asset management that maximises the life of the existing assets and maximises the capacity of the services delivered with the existing assets.

Total value (estimated)

- £1,600,000,000 excluding VAT
- £1,920,000,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 25 July 2027 to 24 July 2034
- Possible extension to 24 July 2038
- 11 years

Description of possible extension:

Optional extension of up to three years following initial seven years. Two emergency one year extension options, one after the initial seven years or one after the three year optional extension.

Further and full detail are provided within the procurement documentation - draft ITN and draft contract .

(Total maximum 11 years)

Main procurement category

Services

Additional procurement category

Works

CPV classifications

- 45000000 - Construction work
- 50000000 - Repair and maintenance services
- 60112000 - Public road transport services
- 60130000 - Special-purpose road passenger-transport services
- 60210000 - Public transport services by railways
- 71314200 - Energy-management services
- 71540000 - Construction management services
- 71631470 - Railway-track inspection services
- 79420000 - Management-related services

- 98351000 - Car park management services

Contract locations

- UKD - North West (England)

Participation

Legal and financial capacity conditions of participation

Please refer to the procurement specific questionnaire available from the noted Pro Contract ePortal.

Technical ability conditions of participation

Please refer to the procurement specific questionnaire available from the noted Pro Contract ePortal.

Submission

Enquiry deadline

10 September 2025, 12:00pm

Submission type

Requests to participate

Deadline for requests to participate

24 September 2025, 12:00pm

Submission address and any special instructions

Via Pro Contract ePortal - Reference number DN772396

<https://procontract.due-north.com>

Tenders may be submitted electronically

Yes

Languages that may be used for submission

English

Suppliers to be invited to tender

3 to 4 suppliers

Selection criteria:

Refer to the PSQ which provides full detail of the qualitative elements to be evaluated.

Award decision date (estimated)

15 January 2027

Award criteria

Name	Description	Type	Weighting
Qualitative	Qualitative elements as fully detailed within the draft ITN documentation	Quality	60%
Quantitative	Price criterion as fully detailed with the draft ITN documentation	Price	40%

Other information

Payment terms

Details are within the draft contract

Applicable trade agreements

- Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Competitive flexible procedure

Special regime

Utilities

Competitive flexible procedure description

This competition is being conducted under the competitive flexible procedure in accordance with section 20(1) and (2) (a) of the Procurement Act 2023. This procurement is for the award of a utilities contract pursuant to section 6 and Schedule 4 to the Procurement Act 2023. The procurement process leading to the award of this MOMA2 agreement is anticipated to comprise two main stages: qualification and award. At the outcome of the first stage, qualification, TfGM will have established a shortlist of Candidates.

TfGM intends to shortlist a minimum of 3 to a maximum of 4 Candidates (provided there are sufficient suitable Candidates). The evaluation methodology to be applied during this stage of the process is fully detailed in the PSQ document. TfGM will inform all Candidates who submit a completed PSQ response whether or not they have been shortlisted to receive an ITN.

The award stage will commence with the issuing by TfGM of the ITN to each shortlisted Candidate, thereafter, referred to as "Tenderers". The documents making up the ITN will contain greater detail about the scope of services, the draft MOMA2 agreement, supporting material, and detailed information regarding the award process and award criteria.

Prior to submitting a Tender (as defined in the ITN), each Tenderer will be invited to attend plenary session(s) with TfGM. The plenary session(s) will provide an opportunity for TfGM to present key aspects of the award process and the requirements of the MOMA2 agreement to all Tenderers. Following the plenary session(s), individual Tenderers will be invited (but not obliged) to attend one-to-one sessions with TfGM to discuss and negotiate on specific topics in relation to the requirements of the ITN, and the

MOMA2 agreement. The plenary session(s) and one-to-one sessions are intended to assist Tenderers to understand the award process, and TfGM's requirements for this procurement.

Following the plenary session(s) and one-to-one sessions, each Tenderer will be invited to submit a tender for the MOMA2 agreement in accordance with the ITN (for completeness a finalised version of the ITN will be issued via the Pro Contract ePortal)

Full timeline and evaluation and moderation detail are provided within the draft ITN that will be automatically issued with the PSQ document.

TfGM reserves the right to refine the award criteria during the procurement process, pursuant to section 24 of the procurement act 2023, and following negotiation with tenderers and/or written negotiations. All tenderers will be notified of any such changes via the Pro Contract ePortal.

Documents

Associated tender documents

<https://procontract.due-north.com>

PSQ documentation

Draft ITN

Draft contract

Via Pro Contract ePortal - Reference number DN772396

Documents will be freely available following issue of this Notice

<https://procontract.due-north.com>

Technical specifications to be met

<https://procontract.due-north.com/>

<https://procontract.due-north.com>

Contracting authority

Transport for Greater Manchester

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PNJQ-2746-NWYT

2 Piccadilly Place

Manchester

M1 3BG

United Kingdom

Email: procurement@tfgm.com

Website: <https://tfgm.com>

Region: UKD33 - Manchester

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government

Other organisations

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

NORTHSTAR CONSULTANCY LIMITED

Summary of their role in this procurement: Consultancy support across all areas of the procurement and contract

- Companies House: 06172311
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PDJV-5552-NCLP

78 York Street

London

W1H 1DP

United Kingdom

Email: enquiries@northstarconsultancy.com

Website: <http://www.northstarconsultancy.com>

Region: UKI32 - Westminster

DLA PIPER UK LLP

Summary of their role in this procurement: Legal support

- Companies House: OC307847
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PMPT-8255-CHYG

160 Aldersgate Street

London

EC1A 4HT

United Kingdom

Email: GovernmentTenders@dlapiper.com

Region: UKI31 - Camden and City of London

Contact organisation

Contact Transport for Greater Manchester for any enquiries.