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Award

Net Zero Accelerator (phase two) - North West

Department for Education

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-054383

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05952c

Published 5 September 2025, 3:36pm

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

Department for Education

Sanctuary Buildings, 20, Great Smith Street

London

SW1P 3BT

Email

Robert.ALEXANDER@education.gov.uk

Telephone

+44 3700002288

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education>

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

I.5) Main activity

Education

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Net Zero Accelerator (phase two) - North West

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 71000000 - Architectural, construction, engineering and inspection services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

This VEAT notice relates to the modification of a Department for Education contract for the appointment of a delivery partner in the North West to deliver the Net Zero Accelerator project to selected schools and colleges in those regions which aims to reduce carbon emissions through energy efficiency upgrades, decarbonisation planning, and sustainability engagement.

This modification will add an additional 20 schools and colleges to the North West, in addition to the 47 sites initially accommodated for in the contract and the 10 additional sites permitted within its extension option, resulting in a total of 77 sites. This notice also confirms that the Department has exercised its contractual right to add 10 additional

schools to the contract, as permitted by Regulation 72(1)(a).

Aside from the increased volume of sites, there are no changes to deliverables and outcomes of the contracts. Consequently, the total value of each contract will increase by approximately 29.03%, up to a maximum of £6,030,000, please see the Description of the procurement for further details. These modifications are permitted under Regulation 72 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, please see section D for further justification information. All values listed exclude VAT.

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: £6,030,000

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 71000000 - Architectural, construction, engineering and inspection services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKD - North West (England)

Main site or place of performance

A variety of school and college sites situated across the North West.

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

This requirement was competed compliantly via an open-procedure multi-lot tender. When the original contract award notices were published, an error occurred in which only the minimum contract value of £2,596,000 was disclosed. This figure did not reflect the full value advertised in the initial procurement documents. This VEAT notice serves in part to clarify the original maximum contract value of £4,673,189. Due to this modification, the maximum contract value is now increased to £6,030,000. All values listed exclude VAT. The Contracts Finder identifier number for the award notice is as follows:

881536e9-d00d-4521-945c-04c45db14f29 – Net Zero Accelerator (phase two) – North West

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: A high quality delivery methodology which will meet the Authority's requirements / Weighting: 31.5

Quality criterion - Name: Detailed stakeholder engagement strategy relevant to the specific Lot / Weighting: 14.0

Quality criterion - Name: Detailed and comprehensive delivery programme to meet the project timescales / Weighting: 7.0

Quality criterion - Name: Provision of quality assurance throughout the delivery period / Weighting: 10.5

Quality criterion - Name: Detailed risk management strategy to manage and mitigate risks / Weighting: 7.0

Quality criterion - Name: Social Value - Theme 2: Tackling economic inequality. Policy outcome: Create new businesses, new jobs and new skills / Weighting: 10

Price - Weighting: 20

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 overall weightings were 80% quality (as broken down in the above Quality criterion section) and 20% price.

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:

The modification to the contracts fall within the permissible grounds set out under Regulation 72(1)(e) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 in that the modifications are not substantial within the meaning of Regulation 72(8) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 because:

- a) The inclusion of the additional schools and colleges into each contract does not render any of the contracts materially different compared to when it was originally procured. The type of services originally required of the contract (the provision of school decarbonisation works and associated support services, including but not limited to procurement and behavioural change management) is the same as that which it will carry out on the previously awarded contracts, it is just a case that the number of schools receiving these services under the contracts will increase.
- b) Adding the additional schools and colleges would not have changed the outcome of the original procurement in any way. The Contract will be fully operated in accordance with their current terms;
- c) As the current contracts will be operated for the additional schools and colleges on the same terms, this does not alter the economic balance of the contract in favour of the development partners;
- d) The change does not considerably alter the scope of the contracts as the works and services provided will remain unchanged, meaning there will be no significant changes to the deliverables, and the schools and colleges which have been included are adjacent in terms of geographical scope also;
- e) This is not a change in contractor.

The modifications are also exempt under Regulation 72(1)(c) because the need for them has been brought about by circumstances the Department for Education could not have foreseen, and they do not change the overall nature of the contracts and the value

changes are below 50%. Additional and unforeseen budget for the overall project has become available which must be spent imminently and the timeframes for the spend would not allow for an additional procurement process to take place. Government rules dictate that the original procurement could not have catered for optional additional value such as budget increases as only approved budgets can be advertised to the market.

IV.1.8) Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

Section V. Award of contract/concession

Lot No

Lot 3 - North West

Title

Net Zero Accelerator (phase two) - North West

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract/concession

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

3 June 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

Barker Associates (Essex) Limited

Majesty House, Avenue West, Skyline120

Braintree

CM77 7AA

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

National registration number

11605920

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

Yes

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

Initial estimated total value of the contract/lot/concession: £2,596,000

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £6,030,000

V.2.5) Information about subcontracting

The contract/lot/concession is likely to be subcontracted

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

High Court of Justice

Judicial Office 11th floor, Thomas More Building Royal Courts of Justice, Strand

London

WC2A 2LL

Country

United Kingdom