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Tender

The supply and installation of a fixed-dome planetarium at North Wales Science (trading as Xplore! Science Discovery Centre)

Wrexham University

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

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-054706

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-0595ef

Published 8 September 2025, 2:54pm

Scope

Reference

AS/JC/08/09/2025

Description

Xplore! has recently been awarded Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF)-Transition Fund capital and revenue awards. Xplore! is therefore now looking to create an immersive fixed-dome planetarium with associated AV equipment and appropriate software licenses for high quality STEAM content delivery to a minimum capacity of 30 visitors in each viewing. The planetarium will be the only fixed-dome planetarium in north-east Wales, providing a unique attraction for Wrexham. It aligns with the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act by ensuring future prosperity of Xplore!, its employees, and a cohesive community by contributing positively to STEAM capital for the people of Wrexham. In this way it will provide a platform for Xplore! to develop the personal interest of participants and connect them to the local space industries and potential careers. We have the full support of John Whalley CEO of Space Wales and Rachael Blackburn of Aerospace Wales, with our

engagement activities aligning with the needs of the local space sector and associated supply-chain. Our activities will also compliment the activities of Jeremy Howitt at Snowdonia Aerospace, providing a strong link between North West Wales and North East Wales schools, who in time will have access to space-related activities through both organisations. The planetarium will be situated on the first floor of Xplore's city centre building, which is not currently accessible to all. The project will therefore also enable the installation of a platform lift, as well as refurbishing the stairwell, and re-locating the staff offices from the ground floor to the first-floor space. The planetarium is expected to be fully operational by March 2026. It is expected that the planetarium supplier will work with the construction contractor through 2025 and early 2026 to ensure successful completion of the overall project.

Total value (estimated)

- £185,000 excluding VAT
- £222,000 including VAT

Below the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 3 November 2025 to 13 March 2026
- 4 months, 11 days

Main procurement category

Goods

CPV classifications

- 92521100 - Museum-exhibition services
- 39300000 - Miscellaneous equipment

Contract locations

- UKL23 - Flintshire and Wrexham

Participation

Conditions of participation

The Authority has set out the conditions of participation details in Appendix 1a WPSQ & Award Criteria Evaluation Methodology - WPSQ Tab and "Question Outcome" Column which refers to Pass / Fail participation criteria.

Economic and financial standing

The Authority will assess the Participant's Dun & Bradstreet (D&B) Risk of Failure score which needs to be 50 or more in order to have an initial Pass. Failure to obtain a 50 or more D&B Risk of Failure score will result in the Authority's Accountants undertaking further analysis using solvency ratios and profitability ratios etc as defined in the WPSQ Supplier Guidance. Participants are asked to provide information on their two most recent accounts, and upon request, provide copies of the most recent audited accounts or up to date financial statements where full audited accounts cannot be provided. The minimum criteria are set out in the WPSQ and Appendix 1a. The Authority may require further information from a Participant in order to consider if the Participant presents an unacceptable level of financial risk.

Participants must achieve at least the minimum pass score for all questions. Any Participant that does not achieve the minimum pass score for any WPSQ question will be excluded at Stage 1 Phase 3 and its submission will not be further considered for the award of the Contract.

Further instructions on what Participants should consider in relation to their response on financial standing is set out in the WPSQ and Appendix 1.

The WPSQ acts as a self-declaration for Participants. The Preferred Bidder will be required to provide all requested certificates and documentation before being awarded the Contract. However, the Authority can ask any Participant to submit their evidence at any point in the procurement process, if this is necessary, to ensure that the process is carried

out properly and in a timeous manner to meet with the procurement's programme requirements.

Particular suitability

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

Submission

Enquiry deadline

26 September 2025, 5:00pm

Tender submission deadline

3 October 2025, 12:00pm

Submission address and any special instructions

Sell2Wales Portal:

https://www.sell2wales.gov.wales/search/Search_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA0288

Detailed drawings available on request via email procurement@wrexham.ac.uk.

(Technical challenges in uploading to Sell2Wales.)

Tenders may be submitted electronically

Yes

Award criteria

Name	Description	Type	Weighting
Quality	Technical/Quality is divided into sub-quality weightings as per the ITT tender pack	Quality	70.00%
Price	Please provide pricing cost details for the optional requirements as detailed within the Optional Items line in technical specification. The University is not obliged to purchase these items but are optional items that MAY be purchased depending on budget availability and competitive nature of the pricing. The prices should be as follows: For any United Kingdom based Economic Operators the Pricing for Appendix 1e should be in British pound sterling and shall be inclusive of VAT @20% and include all other Taxes and Tariffs, where applicable. For any Economic Operators based outside the United Kingdom the Pricing for Appendix 1e should be in British	Price	30.00%

Name	Description	Type	Weighting
	pounds sterling and shall include all applicable Taxes and Tariffs. In order to account for VAT we may have to pay import VAT on goods. For supplies of services from outside the UK we must account for VAT under the reverse charge procedure. The University will need to add Value Added Tax @ 20% to the Total Cost of the bid submitted, which must come within the total budget disclosed.		

Procedure

Procedure type

Below threshold - open competition

Documents

Associated tender documents

https://www.sell2wales.gov.wales/Assets/NoticeBuilder_FileDownload.aspx?id=345460

Appendix 1a WPSQ Award Criteria Evaluation Methodology

https://www.sell2wales.gov.wales/Assets/NoticeBuilder_FileDownload.aspx?id=345461

Appendix 1b Sell2Wales Supplier Post Box Guidance

https://www.sell2wales.gov.wales/Assets/NoticeBuilder_FileDownload.aspx?id=345462

Appendix 1c_TechnicalSpecification

https://www.sell2wales.gov.wales/Assets/NoticeBuilder_FileDownload.aspx?id=345463

Appendix 1d General contract Terms & Conditions WU standard goods contract

https://www.sell2wales.gov.wales/Assets/NoticeBuilder_FileDownload.aspx?id=345464

Appendix 1e Planetarium pricing schedule

https://www.sell2wales.gov.wales/Assets/NoticeBuilder_FileDownload.aspx?id=345465

Invitation to Tender (ITT) Instructions

https://www.sell2wales.gov.wales/Assets/NoticeBuilder_FileDownload.aspx?id=345466

ITT Response Document PART A (WPSQ) TEMPLATE

https://www.sell2wales.gov.wales/Assets/NoticeBuilder_FileDownload.aspx?id=345467

ITT Response Document PART B

https://www.sell2wales.gov.wales/Assets/NoticeBuilder_FileDownload.aspx?id=345468

ITT Response Document Part C Other Declarations

Contracting authority

Wrexham University

- Charity Commission (England and Wales): 1142048

Plas Coch

Wrexham

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United Kingdom

Contact name: Scot Owen

Email: procurement@wrexham.ac.uk

Website: <http://www.wrexham.ac.uk>

Region: UKL23 - Flintshire and Wrexham

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government

Devolved regulations that apply: Wales