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Planning

P-3265 Bus Real Time & Supporting Services

Translink

UK2: Preliminary market engagement notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-057813

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-059d6a

Published 18 September 2025, 3:37pm

Scope

Reference

P-3265

Description

Translink seek to engage with suppliers that can provide a suitable solution for a comprehensive Real-Time Bus tracking, prediction generation, operational and historical monitoring, display content and management solution across its Metro and Ulsterbus Fleet (c. 1660 buses). The solution will be used by Bus Service Operators to effectively monitor and manage Bus fleet related operations in real time as well as Passenger Information and Communication throughout Northern Ireland.

Translink require the system to be capable of interfacing with on-street and on-board non-proprietary hardware through RTIG-T047 protocol, ensuring the provision of RTPi on existing Metro, Glider, and Ulsterbus services continues without interruption. Additionally, suppliers will be required to provide all necessary maintenance services.

Before embarking on a tender process, we wish to engage with the marketplace to gather

information which will be used to inform the sourcing strategy for this contract and thus, the procurement process. We are therefore seeking to engage with experienced Real Time Passenger Information and associated providers, which are capable of fulfilling the requirements listed above.

It is anticipated that this contract will commence Q2 2027.

Our requirements include, but are not limited to the following:

- An open data approach to enable integration to ensure interoperability with other client systems to enhance data flow and automate manual processes.
- Integrate with future systems and journey planners.
- Provide comprehensive maintenance services for on-street and on-board hardware.
- Ensure minimal quantity and frequency of faults and maintain the serviceability of the system.
- Fleet Management & Live Vehicle Tracking.
- Provide a predictive analysis solution that can support decision-making for control room staff
- Driver Interface & Public Address system for Glider.
- Performance and Management Reporting.
- Provide drivers with intelligence on service performance and communication options.
- Provide accurate and timely information about bus arrivals and departures at stops.
- Provide on street display content management services.
- Facilitate automated audio-visual next stop announcements on vehicles, configurable to multiple languages and tailored branded graphics.
- Improve disruption management including passenger messaging.
- Support future methods for providing information to passengers.
- Implement a solution compatible with RTIG national standards for Traffic Signal Priority.

Commercial tool

Establishes a framework

Total value (estimated)

- £5,000,000 excluding VAT
- £6,000,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 April 2027 to 1 April 2032
- Possible extension to 1 April 2035
- 8 years, 1 day

Main procurement category

Goods

Additional procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 34121000 - Buses and coaches
- 48100000 - Industry specific software package

Contract locations

- UKN - Northern Ireland
-

Engagement

Engagement deadline

31 October 2025

Engagement process description

Translink will issue a Pre Market Engagement questionnaire and invite suitable companies to present during October 2025.

Requests to participate AND for copies of the Pre Market Engagement questionnaire please email Tori.Croft@Translink.co.uk

Submission

Publication date of tender notice (estimated)

1 September 2026

Procedure

Special regime

Utilities

Contracting authority

Translink

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PTMT-7134-NRMV

22 Great Victoria Street

Belfast

BT2 7LX

United Kingdom

Email: tori.croft@translink.co.uk

Region: UKN06 - Belfast

Organisation type: Public undertaking (commercial organisation subject to public authority oversight)

Devolved regulations that apply: Northern Ireland