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Contract

## **Periodicals and Associated Services**

APUC Limited

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-064617

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-0416f6

Published 13 October 2025, 10:38am

### **Section I: Contracting authority**

#### **I.1) Name and addresses**

APUC Limited

Unit 27, Stirling Business Centre, Wellgreen

Stirling

FK8 2DZ

#### **Contact**

Lorona Watts

#### **Email**

[lwatts@apuc-scot.ac.uk](mailto:lwatts@apuc-scot.ac.uk)

#### **Telephone**

+44 1314428950

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

**NUTS code**

UKM77 - Perth & Kinross and Stirling

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<http://www.apuc-scot.ac.uk>

Buyer's address

[https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/search/Search\\_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA10402](https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/search/Search_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA10402)

**I.2) Information about joint procurement**

The contract is awarded by a central purchasing body

**I.4) Type of the contracting authority**

Body governed by public law

**I.5) Main activity**

Education

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**Section II: Object**

**II.1) Scope of the procurement**

**II.1.1) Title**

Periodicals and Associated Services

Reference number

LIB1022 AP

**II.1.2) Main CPV code**

- 22200000 - Newspapers, journals, periodicals and magazines

### **II.1.3) Type of contract**

Supplies

### **II.1.4) Short description**

The Authority undertook a procurement exercise to appoint a Subscription Agent to supply to manage the supply and delivery of periodicals and the associated services.

### **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: £36,000,000

## **II.2) Description**

### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 22211000 - Journals
- 22210000 - Newspapers
- 22212000 - Periodicals
- 22212100 - Serials
- 22213000 - Magazines
- 22211100 - Official journals

### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

Main site or place of performance

Scotland and Northern Ireland

### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

The Authority undertook a procurement exercise to appoint a Subscription Agent to supply to manage the supply and delivery of periodicals and the associated services.

Periodicals are defined as any domestic or foreign publication supplied in a print or electronic format.

The publication may take various formats, such as a magazine, newspaper, or journal to name a few examples, and may be issued in successive parts, at regular intervals and may continue indefinitely.

The appointed agent will be required to provide the service to:

- \* HE/FE institutions in Scotland
- \* HE institutions of Northern Ireland
- \* The members of the Scottish Confederation of University and Research Libraries(SCURL)
- \* The Scottish Government
- \* NHS Education Scotland (SHEDL deals only) acting on behalf of The Knowledge Network.

Parties eligible to use the Framework Agreement are as listed in Appendix E — List of Institutions. Members of APUC - <http://www.apuc-scot.ac.uk/>

#### **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Quality criterion - Name: Technical / Weighting: 60

Cost criterion - Name: Commercial / Weighting: 40

#### **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

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## **Section IV. Procedure**

### **IV.1) Description**

#### **IV.1.1) Type of procedure**

Open procedure

#### **IV.1.3) Information about a framework agreement or a dynamic purchasing system**

The procurement involves the establishment of a framework agreement

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

### **IV.2) Administrative information**

#### **IV.2.1) Previous publication concerning this procedure**

Notice number: [2024/S 000-017350](#)

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## **Section V. Award of contract**

### **Contract No**

LIB1022 AP

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

### **V.2) Award of contract**

#### **V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract**

28 February 2025

#### **V.2.2) Information about tenders**

Number of tenders received: 2

Number of tenders received from SMEs: 0

Number of tenders received from tenderers from other EU Member States: 0

Number of tenders received from tenderers from non-EU Member States: 2

Number of tenders received by electronic means: 2

The contract has been awarded to a group of economic operators: No

**V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor**

EBSCO INTERNATIONAL INC

6th Floor, Civic Centre, Silver Street

Enfield, London

EN1 3XA

Telephone

+44 2084474188

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

The contractor is an SME

No

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

Total value of the contract/lot: £36,000,000

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## **Section VI. Complementary information**

### **VI.3) Additional information**

Form of Tender - Tenderers were required to sign Appendix A – Form of Tender prior to award to confirm that their Tender Response is a complete, true and accurate submission.

Freedom of Information - Where applicable Tenderers were required to complete Appendix B – Freedom of Information

Sustain Supply Chain Code of Conduct - The Authority has developed Appendix D which sets out its expected standards for its supply chain in social, ethical and environmental compliance. Tenderers were required to sign Appendix D – Sustain Supply Chain Code of Conduct prior to award to confirm their commitment to assisting the Authority in achieving its objectives.

General Data Protection Regulation - Tenderers were required to sign Appendix G – GDPR Contractor Assessment Form

SCM RP Section 1 - Tenderers were required to confirm that they will commit to completing Appendix J - SCM RP Section 1 on award and review on an annual basis. It is for information only and will not be scored but is a requirement of this tender and will be included in the contractual terms.

Prompt Payment - Tenderers were required to confirm that payment of subcontractors at all stages of the supply chain will be made within a maximum of 30 days and that this will be managed.

Living Wage Status - Tenderers were required to provide details on their position on the payment of the Real Living Wage.

(SC Ref:803065)

### **VI.4) Procedures for review**

#### **VI.4.1) Review body**

Stirling Sheriff Court and Justice of the Peace Court Sheriff Court

Sheriff Court House, Viewfield Place Stirling Country

Stirling

FK8 1NH

Email

[stirling@scotcourts.gov.uk](mailto:stirling@scotcourts.gov.uk)

Telephone

+44 1786462191

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+44 1786470456

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://www.scotcourts.gov.uk/the-courts/court-locations/stirling-sheriff-court-and-justice-of-the-peace-court>