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Award

District Heating

ASTON UNIVERSITY

UK5: Transparency notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-082946

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05f5d6

Published 15 December 2025, 2:21pm

Scope

Reference

1193

Description

Aston University intends to award a contract for the operation and management of its new Energy Centre, which will supply heat to the campus via the existing District Heating Network. The new Energy Centre is part of the University's decarbonisation strategy and is funded through Salix PSDS. The contract will replace the existing Energy Supply Agreement with Birmingham District Energy Company (BDEC), ensuring continuity of service and technical compatibility across the network. The new agreement will support Aston's goal to achieve net-zero carbon emissions for Scope 1 and 2 by 2028, two years ahead of its strategic target.

Contract 1. District Heating

Supplier

- BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT ENERGY COMPANY LIMITED

Contract value

- £37,500,000 excluding VAT
- £45,000,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Earliest date the contract will be signed

31 December 2025

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2051
- 26 years

Main procurement category

Goods

CPV classifications

- 09323000 - District heating

Contract locations

- UKG31 - Birmingham

Other information

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Direct award

Direct award justification

- Single supplier - intellectual property or exclusive rights
- Single supplier - technical reasons

Grounds for direct award under the Procurement Act 2023 are:

-Schedule 5: The following conditions are met in relation to the public contract- (a) due to a particular supplier having intellectual property rights or other exclusive rights, only that supplier can supply the goods, services or works required, and (b) there are no

reasonable alternatives to those goods, services or works.

This is demonstrated by the current contract with BRING and the technical incompatibility of multiple suppliers operating on the same Heat Network at differing specifications.

-Schedule 7: The public contract concerns the supply of goods, services or works by the existing supplier which are intended as an extension to, or partial replacement of, existing goods, services or works in circumstances where- (a) a change in supplier would result in the contracting authority receiving goods, services or works that are different from, or incompatible with, the existing goods, services or works, and (b) the difference or incompatibility would result in disproportionate technical difficulties in operation or maintenance

This is demonstrated by technical incompatibility of operating two independent Energy Centre's operating at incompatible specifications on the same Heat Network.

Supplier

BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT ENERGY COMPANY LIMITED

- Companies House: 05988953
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PMGX-6253-TDDH

Thomas House

London

SW1V 1PX

United Kingdom

Email: rhys.major@bringenergy.com

Region: UKI32 - Westminster

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): No

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 1. District Heating

Contracting authority

ASTON UNIVERSITY

- Companies House: RC000904
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PTLB-7496-TPTR

Aston Triangle

Birmingham

B4 7ET

United Kingdom

Email: procurement@aston.ac.uk

Region: UKG31 - Birmingham

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government