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Tender

FRH - AWC Train Planning Software & Services Tender

FIRST RAIL HOLDINGS LIMITED

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

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-083075

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05f622

Published 15 December 2025, 5:59pm

Scope

Description

Avanti West Coast's current train planning system is approaching end-of-contract. This project seeks to procure and implement a modern, future-proofed train planning solution that ensures continuity of service delivery, operational safety, and readiness for HS2 operations. The new system will integrate seamlessly with rostering and control platforms, enabling incremental enhancements aligned with the Digital Railway strategy.

First are seeking bidders who can support delivery of the following objectives:

- Deliver a Minimum Viable Product (MVP) replacement for a train planning solution by February 2028.
- Ensure integration with rostering and control systems to streamline operational workflows.
- Enable future development roadmaps for automation, analytics, and AI-driven decision-making.
- Have a full set of functionally rich software services, out of the box, to meet the requirements detailed in the ITT.

- Have robust and proven technologies, built using modern services, software and platforms.
- Can provide a flexible and scalable solution which can continue to operate seamlessly during peaks in demand for services.
- Provide examples of similar successful implementations to at least this scale, within the UK rail sector.
- Can demonstrate a high-level quality of service and change management delivery for similar services provided to other customers.

Total value (estimated)

- £1,443,154 excluding VAT
- £1,731,784 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 25 September 2026 to 24 September 2031
- Possible extension to 24 September 2033
- 7 years

Description of possible extension:

A five-year contract will be awarded with the option to extend for a maximum of two years, in one-year increments.

Options

The right to additional purchases while the contract is valid.

This will be additional peripheral software & services that may arise from the provision of the main train planning services.

Main procurement category

Goods

CPV classifications

- 48140000 - Railway traffic control software package

Contract locations

- UK - United Kingdom

Submission

Enquiry deadline

5 January 2026, 3:00pm

Submission type

Requests to participate

Deadline for requests to participate

19 January 2026, 3:00pm

Submission address and any special instructions

<https://s2c-uk62.waxdigital.com/FirstGroupPlc/DisplayModules/TradeModules/Negotiations/Opportunities/ViewOpportunityEvent.aspx?EventID=4990&Culture=en-GB>

Tenders may be submitted electronically

Yes

Languages that may be used for submission

English

Award decision date (estimated)

2 July 2026

Award criteria

| Name | Type | Weighting |
|---------------------------|---------|-----------|
| ITN Stage: Quality | Quality | 60% |
| ITN Stage: Price | Price | 35% |
| ITN Stage: Contract Terms | Quality | 5% |

Other information

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Competitive flexible procedure

Special regime

Utilities

Competitive flexible procedure description

Suppliers are invited to Express an Interest (EOI), Sign an mutual Non Disclosure Agreement (NDA) and complete a

Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ).

The Procurement is made up of one Lot. The four top scoring Suppliers at PQQ stage will be invited to participate in the Invitation to Negotiate stage (ITN).

All compliant submissions at ITN stage will be fully evaluated and contracts awarded to the Most Advantageous Tenderer, in line with the evaluation criteria detailed.

Documents

Associated tender documents

<https://s2c-uk62.waxdigital.com/FirstGroupPlc/DisplayModules/TradeModules/Negotiations/Opportunities/ViewOpportunityEvent.aspx?EventID=4990&Culture=en-GB>

Contracting authority

FIRST RAIL HOLDINGS LIMITED

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- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PPVJ-1479-GGLX

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Region: UKI32 - Westminster

Organisation type: Private utility