

United Kingdom-Coleraine: Adult-education services at university level

OJ S 43/2019 01/03/2019

Contract notice

Services

Legal Basis:

Directive 2014/24/EU

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1. Name and addresses

Official name: Ulster University
Postal address: Block X Room X031, Cromore Road
Town: Coleraine
NUTS code: UKN0 Northern Ireland
Postal code: BT52 1SA
Country: United Kingdom
Contact person: Andrew Todd
E-mail: a.todd@ulster.ac.uk
Telephone: +44 2870124515
Internet address(es):
Main address: www.ulster.ac.uk

I.3. Communication

The procurement documents are available for unrestricted and full direct access, free of charge, at: <https://e-sourcingni.bravosolution.co.uk/web/login.shtml>
Additional information can be obtained from the abovementioned address
Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted electronically via: <https://e-sourcingni.bravosolution.co.uk/web/login.shtml>
Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted to the abovementioned address

I.4. Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.5. Main activity

Education

Section II: Object

II.1. Scope of the procurement**II.1.1. Title**

Global Online Education Venture
Reference number: project_24708

II.1.2. Main CPV code

80430000 Adult-education services at university level

II.1.3. Type of contract

Services

II.1.4. Short description

Ulster University (University) is undertaking a procurement exercise (in accordance with the competitive dialogue process) to select an Online Programme Management provider to participate in a Global Online Education Venture.

The venture aims to grow a substantial high quality and premium Global Online Education portfolio for the University. The objective is to accelerate to a diverse, versatile and agile portfolio at scale with bespoke design and development for targeted markets that break from the traditional academic calendar and which lower common academic and professional services barriers of curriculum design, development, recruitment, delivery and support.

II.1.5. Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: 40 000 000,00 GBP

II.1.6. Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: no

II.2. Description

II.2.2. Additional CPV code(s)

48190000 Educational software package, 80000000 Education and training services, 80300000 Higher education services

II.2.3. Place of performance

NUTS code: UKN0 Northern Ireland

II.2.4. Description of the procurement

The University currently has strong credentials in online education with a significant portfolio of courses delivered through online distance learning. The requirement from the successful economic operator for this new venture will include, inter alia, the following within an agreed portfolio of strategic development:

- market analysis,
- product development and curriculum design,
- marketing, recruitment and student retention.

The anticipated characteristics of the development are:

- postgraduate,
- English Language as the teaching medium,
- premium in the fee level,
- carousel in development approach,
- scale of the order of several thousand enrolled in steady state within a few years,
- fee income in the range 15 000 000 to 25 000 000 GBP million in steady state.

The precise arrangements on market research, programme hunt, development lift rate, targeting, enrolment growth and price point will form part of the competitive dialogue phase that will take place with shortlisted economic operators following PQQ. Strategic selection of high-quality provision will start with the University's established prospectus and will progress to new and interdisciplinary opportunities.

The contract is being procured competitively in accordance with the competitive dialogue procedure applicable under Regulation 30 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as amended).

The University anticipates shortlisting a maximum of 4 economic operators for the invitation to participate in dialogue stage, where the University will engage with shortlisted economic

operators in order to identify solutions capable of meeting the University's needs/objectives. Final tenders shall be requested by the University once the dialogue stage is closed, evaluated in accordance with the invitation to submit final tenders and the preferred bidder identified. It is envisaged that the University will enter into a long-term arrangement (an initial 10-year contract with the potential for the University, acting at its discretion, to extend up to a total further period of 60 months) with the successful economic operator.

II.2.5. Award criteria

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

II.2.6. Estimated value

Value excluding VAT: 40 000 000,00 GBP

II.2.7. Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system

Duration in months: 180

This contract is subject to renewal: no

II.2.9. Information about the limits on the number of candidates to be invited

Maximum number: 4
Objective criteria for choosing the limited number of candidates:
As stated in the procurement documents.

II.2.10. Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: no

II.2.11. Information about options

Options: yes

Description of options:

It is envisaged that the University will enter into a long-term arrangement (an initial 10-year contract with the potential for the University, acting at its discretion, to extend up to a total further period of 60 months) with the successful economic operator.

II.2.13. Information about European Union funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds:
no

II.2.14. Additional information

Section III: Legal, economic, financial and technical information

III.1. Conditions for participation

III.1.2. Economic and financial standing

Selection criteria as stated in the procurement documents

III.1.3. Technical and professional ability

Selection criteria as stated in the procurement documents

III.2. Conditions related to the contract

III.2.2. Contract performance conditions

The University reserves the right to require bonds, deposits, guarantees (including a parent company guarantee), collateral warranty or other appropriate forms of undertaking or security to ensure proper contractual performance.

III.2.3. Information about staff responsible for the performance of the contract

Obligation to indicate the names and professional qualifications of the staff assigned to performing the contract

Section IV: Procedure

IV.1. Description

IV.1.1. Type of procedure

Competitive dialogue

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

IV.1.4. Information about reduction of the number of solutions or tenders during negotiation or dialogue

Recourse to staged procedure to gradually reduce the number of solutions to be discussed or tenders to be negotiated

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 in the OJ S: [2018/S 211-482365](#)

IV.2.2. Time limit for receipt of tenders or requests to participate

Date: 02/04/2019 Local time: 15:00

IV.2.3. Estimated date of dispatch of invitations to tender or to participate to selected candidates

Date: 26/02/2019

IV.2.4. Languages in which tenders or requests to participate may be submitted

English

IV.2.6. Minimum time frame during which the tenderer must maintain the tender

Duration in months: 6 (from the date stated for receipt of tender)

Section VI: Complementary information

VI.1. Information about recurrence

This is a recurrent procurement: no

VI.2. Information about electronic workflows

Electronic ordering will be used

Electronic invoicing will be accepted

Electronic payment will be used

VI.3. Additional information

This process is being conducted competitively in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as amended). The procedure being followed for this procurement is the competitive dialogue procedure (Regulation 30).

The University published a Prior Information Notice (PIN) on 2.11.2018, with reference [2018/S 211-482365](#) in respect of this opportunity. The purpose of the PIN was to publicise this opportunity to interested parties and provide information about the forthcoming procurement exercise and did not constitute a call for competition; and (b) the University engaged in informal market testing with a proportionate and representative number of suppliers in the market in order to test its requirements and better understand market capability. Economic operators should note however that they will not be prejudiced by any participation or failure to participate in that market testing.

The University reserves the right to reject any or all PQQ responses or tender response(s) and to cancel or withdraw the procurement process at any stage; to award a contract without prior notice; to change the basis, the procedure and the timescales set out or referred to in the procurement documents; to require an economic operator to clarify its PQQ response or tender response(s) in writing and/or provide additional information; to terminate the procurement process; and/or to amend the terms and conditions of the PQQ or tender evaluation process or dialogue process.

The University does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

Economic operators remain responsible for all costs and expenses incurred by them or by any third party acting under instructions from the economic operator in connection with taking part in this procurement process, regardless of whether such costs arise as a consequence, directly or indirectly, of any amendments made to the procurement documents by the University at any time.

No legally binding contract shall arise (and an economic operator shall have no legitimate expectation that a contract will be entered into) until such time as entry into the contract has been confirmed by the University.

Economic operators should note that all dates, time periods and figures in relation to values and volumes specified in this notice and the procurement documents are approximate only and the University reserves the right to change any or all of them.

VI.4. Procedures for review

VI.4.1. Review body

Official name: High Court of Justice in Northern Ireland
Postal address: Royal Courts of Justice, Chichester Street
Town: Belfast
Postal code: BT1 3JY
Country: United Kingdom

VI.4.3. Review procedure

Precise information on deadline(s) for review procedures:

The University will incorporate a minimum 10 calendar days standstill period at the point information on award of the contract is communicated to all economic operators. The standstill period provides time for unsuccessful economic operators to challenge the award decision before the contract is entered into. The Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as amended) provide for aggrieved parties who have been harmed or are at risk of harm by a breach of the rules to take action in the High Court (Northern Ireland).

VI.5. Date of dispatch of this notice

26/02/2019