

United Kingdom-Bury St Edmunds: School catering services

OJ S 201/2013 16/10/2013

Contract notice

Services

Directive 2004/18/EC

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1. Name and addresses

Official name: Thurston Community College

Postal address: Norton Road, Thurston

Town: Bury St Edmunds

Postal code: IP31 3PB

Country: United Kingdom

Contact person: The Litmus Partnership Ltd

E-mail: pqq@litmuspartnership.co.uk

Telephone: +44 1276673880

Internet address(es):

General address of the contracting authority: <http://www.thurstoncollege.org/>

Additional information can be obtained from:

the abovementioned address

Specifications and additional documents (including documents for competitive dialogue and a dynamic purchasing system) can be obtained from:

the abovementioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted: the abovementioned address

I.2. Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.3. Main activity

Education

I.4. Contract award on behalf of other contracting authorities

The contracting authority is purchasing on behalf of other contracting authorities: no

Section II: Object of the contract

II.1. Description

II.1.1. Title attributed to the contract by the contracting authority

Provision of Catering Services.

II.1.2. Type of contract and place of performance or delivery

Services

Service category No 17: Hotel and restaurant services

Main site or place of performance: Thurston Community College

Bury St Edmunds

Suffolk

United Kingdom

NUTS code UKH14 Suffolk

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

The notice involves a public contract

II.1.4. Information about framework agreement

II.1.5. Short description of the contract or purchase(s)

Thurston Community College, located four miles outside of Bury St Edmunds, is one of the largest co-educational schools in West Suffolk. In September 2014, up to 1 065 Year 7 – 9 pupils mainly from the local middle schools at Beyton, Blackbourne and Ixworth will move to the main College site in Norton Road, Thurston and the current Sixth Form will move to the site at Beyton. The contractor selected at the conclusion of this tender process will therefore be providing a catering service for between an estimated 1 865 to 2 090 pupils across both sites and up to 200 staff.

The proportion of students entitled to free school meals is below average and the proportion of minority ethnic backgrounds well below average.

Under the leadership of the Principal, Helen Wilson, Thurston Community College is thriving. It is accredited as a National Healthy School and is a flagship school for the Food for Life Partnership.

The College serves a large rural catchment area and therefore the majority of students are bussed in. With the exception of the Sixth Form, all students have to remain on the College premises unless they live in Thurston and have a note from parents stating they are going home for lunch. When the Sixth Form moves to the Beyton Road site next year, there will be no local shops for them to buy snacks or lunch. The catering operator will therefore have a largely “captive audience” for its services on both sites and this is therefore a great opportunity for the right bidder.

At Beyton the service is managed in-house but the new contract will be for both sites and therefore TUPE is likely to apply to these staff. The catering service at the Thurston Site is outsourced but the contract ends in July 2014. The College is therefore taking this opportunity, at a moment of significant structural change, to ensure that going forward the best possible service is provided to all ages of students across both sites, and on the most competitive terms.

Students and staff at the Thurston site pay for breakfast, morning break and lunch services with a cashless biometric system. Annual paid-for meal income is currently around 166 000 GBP, with 22 000 GBP of this from Sixth Form sales. 186 students are currently entitled to a free school meal, of whom typically 115 actually take up the offer. In addition, staff who undertake a voluntary lunchtime duty are also provided with a school meal, paid for by the college. The total value of free school meals and staff meals is 37 000 GBP. The College is seeking a contractor who is able to adapt their services flexibly to the requirements of a changing student population. A healthy food offer that maximises uptake at both communities on the most economically advantageous terms is sought.

II.1.6. CPV code(s)

55524000 School catering services

II.1.7. Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: no

II.1.8. Lots

This contract is divided into lots: no

II.1.9. Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: yes

II.2. Scope of the procurement

II.2.1. Total quantity or scope

Please note that this notice covers a part B service and its inclusion using the Restricted procedure is voluntary.

II.2.2. Information about options

Options: no

II.2.3. Information about renewals

This contract is subject to renewal: no

II.3. Duration of the contract or time limit for completion

Section III: Legal, economic, financial and technical information

III.1. Conditions related to the contract

III.1.1. Deposits and guarantees required

III.1.2. Main financing conditions and payment arrangements and/or reference to the relevant provisions governing them

III.1.3. Legal form to be taken by the group of economic operators to whom the contract is to be awarded

III.1.4. Contract performance conditions

III.2. Conditions for participation

III.2.1. Suitability to pursue the professional activity, including requirements relating to enrolment on professional or trade registers

List and brief description of conditions: Tenderers will be required to complete and submit a pre-qualification questionnaire and associated documentation to The Litmus Partnership Limited website.

Minimum standards for participation are stated in the Pre-Qualification Questionnaire.

Failure to achieve a pass in any of the minimum standards will result in your exclusion from any further part in this process.

Conviction of criminal offences – questions are stated in the Pre-Qualification Questionnaire.
Business Probity – questions are stated in the Pre-Qualification Questionnaire.

III.2.2. Economic and financial ability

List and brief description of conditions: Tenderers will be required to complete and submit a pre-qualification questionnaire and associated documentation to The Litmus Partnership Limited website.

Minimum standards for participation are stated in the Pre-Qualification Questionnaire.

Failure to achieve a pass in any of the minimum standards will result in your exclusion from any further part in this process.

Minimum level(s) of standards possibly required: Economic and financial standing – Tenderers are required to have a minimum annual turnover of 500 000 GBP (one million pounds sterling).

Suppliers must be financially fluid and currently trading.

They must not be recorded at Companies House as having any negative action / event (dissolved, removed, in liquidation, etc) that calls into question their financial / corporate standing. Such action / event will be deemed to be a failure to meet minimum standards of

economic and financial standing. Additionally, suppliers must provide suitable evidence in the form of the last full year of accounts (audited and accompanied by auditors' confirmation where they are above the statutory threshold for providing audited accounts, or certified by their bank if they are below the statutory audit threshold). Non provision of such evidence to a satisfactory standard will be deemed to be a failure to meet minimum standards of economic and financial standing.

If a business has been recently set up and not audited, annual or endorsed accounts have been produced, unaudited or management accounts for the 3 (three) months prior to the application must be provided and certified by an independent Chartered Accountant or accompanied by a positive bankers reference for the bidder.

Where information is available to the contracting authority that points to concerns over financial viability, further information may be requested to evidence financial viability and non-availability of, or refusal to provide such evidence, will be deemed to be a failure to meet minimum standards of economic and financial standing.

III.2.3. Technical and professional ability

List and brief description of conditions:

Tenderers will be required to complete and submit a pre-qualification questionnaire and associated documentation to The Litmus Partnership Limited website.

Minimum standards for participation are stated in the Pre-Qualification Questionnaire.

Failure to achieve a pass in any of the minimum standards will result in your exclusion from any further part in this process.

Minimum level(s) of standards possibly required:

Health & Safety Policy – Tenderers shall have a robust Health & Safety Policy endorsed by the Company Director(s).

Tenderers shall have in place insurance cover of a minimum:

Public Liability Cover - 5 000 000 GBP (one million pounds sterling).

Employers Liability Cover - 10 000 000 GBP (one million pounds sterling).

Other questions as indicated in the Pre-Qualification Questionnaire shall be assessed and scored on a points basis.

III.2.4. Information about reserved contracts

III.3. Conditions specific to services contracts

III.3.1. Information about a particular profession

III.3.2. Information about staff responsible for the performance of the contract

Section IV: Procedure

IV.1. Type of procedure

IV.1.1. Type of procedure

Restricted

IV.1.2. Information about the limits on the number of candidates to be invited

Envisaged minimum number 5: and Maximum number 10

Objective criteria for choosing the limited number of candidates: A minimum of 5 suppliers and a maximum of 10 suppliers will be taken forward to the tender stage of the process. Where

less than 5 suppliers meet the minimum standards, only those that meet the minimum standards will be taken through to the tender stage. Where more than 5 suppliers meet the minimum standard, those suppliers with the highest scores will proceed to the tender stage.

IV.1.3. Information about reduction of the number of solutions or tenders during negotiation or dialogue

IV.2. Award criteria

IV.2.1. Award criteria

The most economically advantageous tender in terms of Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

IV.2.2. Information about electronic auction

An electronic auction will be used: no

IV.3. Administrative information

IV.3.1. File reference number attributed by the contracting authority

IV.3.2. Previous publication concerning this procedure

no

IV.3.3. Conditions for obtaining specifications and additional documents or descriptive document

IV.3.4. Time limit for receipt of tenders or requests to participate

13.11.2013 - 12:00

IV.3.5. Estimated date of dispatch of invitations to tender or to participate to selected candidates

22.11.2013

IV.3.6. Languages in which tenders or requests to participate may be submitted

English.

IV.3.7. Minimum time frame during which the tenderer must maintain the tender

IV.3.8. Conditions for opening of tenders

Section VI: Complementary information

VI.1. Information about recurrence

VI.2. Information about European Union funds

VI.3. Additional information

Interest in the pre-qualification process should be expressed via email only to pqq@litmuspartnership.co.uk, clearly stating within this email which contract / notice you are referring to. Please also provide, as a minimum, a contact name, full company postal address and telephone number.

The closing date for receipt of the Pre-Qualification Questionnaire is 13.11.2013 (12:00). Tenderers are required to ensure that documents are obtained and returned to The Litmus Partnership Limited, by email to pqq@litmuspartnership.co.uk, by the above closing date and time. Policy documents (where indicated in the Pre-Qualification Questionnaire) shall

be uploaded to The Litmus Partnership Limited pre-qualification website prior to this closing date and time.

It will be the Tenderer's responsibility to obtain any necessary documents and access to The Litmus Partnership pre-qualification website in order to submit a response by the closing date and time.

The contracting authority reserves the right not to award any or part of the contract which is the subject of this OJEU notice and reserves the right to terminate the procurement process at any time.

The contracting authority will not be liable for any costs incurred by those expressing an interest in tendering for this contract opportunity.

The contracting authority will consider variant bids, evaluating them (so far as the variant or the evaluation of the variant is in the opinion of the contracting authority practicable) on the same basis as a conforming bid, but shall not be obliged to accept any such bid in preference to a conforming bid even if the variant bid scores more highly. No variant will be considered unless the bidder simultaneously submits a conforming bid.

VI.4. Procedures for review

VI.4.1. Review body

VI.4.2. Review procedure

VI.4.3. Service from which information about the review procedure may be obtained

VI.5. Date of dispatch of this notice

14.10.2013