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**United Kingdom-Swindon: Custom software development services
2017/S 218-453278**

Prior information notice

This notice is for prior information only

Services

Directive 2014/24/EU

Section I: Contracting authority

- I.1) **Name and addresses**
UK Shared Business Services Limited
Polaris House, North Star Avenue
Swindon
SN2 1FF
United Kingdom
Contact person: Laura Lewis
Telephone: +44 1793867115
E-mail: laura.lewis@uksbs.co.uk
NUTS code: UK
Internet address(es):
Main address: www.uksbs.co.uk
Address of the buyer profile: www.uksbs.co.uk
- I.2) **Joint procurement**
- I.3) **Communication**
Additional information can be obtained from the abovementioned address
- I.4) **Type of the contracting authority**
Body governed by public law
- I.5) **Main activity**
Other activity: shared business services

Section II: Object

- II.1) **Scope of the procurement**
- II.1.1) **Title:**
PR17127 ARCHER 2 Computational Science and Engineering.
Reference number: UK SBS PR17127
- II.1.2) **Main CPV code**
72230000
- II.1.3) **Type of contract**
Services
- II.1.4) **Short description:**

Details can be found in section II.2.4) Description of the procurement.

II.1.5) **Estimated total value**

II.1.6) **Information about lots**

This contract is divided into lots: no

II.2) **Description**

II.2.1) **Title:**

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

72253000

72260000

72212000

72212980

80510000

II.2.3) **Place of performance**

NUTS code: UK

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

The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council manages the ARCHER supercomputer service on behalf of the high performance computing (HPC) scientific user communities. This multi-million pound investment, which commenced service in 2013, provides national capability for scientific research across the HEI sector requiring access to high performance computing resources. Supporting a community of academic researchers across the UK, ARCHER provides a prestigious national Tier 1 compute resource for scientific endeavour. As provider of the national HPC service supporting researchers in diverse scientific fields, EPSRC currently manages the provision and support of the ARCHER service.

A future capital investment will secure the next generation of HPC service and ensure provision of new HPC architecture capable of addressing the demands of increasing complexity in scientific research.

The overall vision for ARCHER2 is to build on the existing Tier 1 and Tier 2 investments in national HPC facilities so that the UK is a recognised leader on the international scene for computational science and engineering. In order to achieve this, UK researchers must be able to carry out internationally competitive research across the remits of EPSRC, NERC and beyond.

The benefits of the UK being world leading in computational science and engineering will be realised through:

- the enhanced reputation of the UK in science and engineering as a whole;
- the increased ability of UK researchers to make valuable contributions to the solution of complex scientific challenges and to the generation of quality scientific outputs;
- increased attractiveness of UK researchers as partners in high profile international collaborations and improved access to large HPC resources in other countries.

EPSRC, as managing agent for the national HPC facility on behalf of the other Research Councils, is looking to tender contracts for three elements of the ARCHER facility in 2018: the hardware (based in Edinburgh), the service provision which manages academic access to the facility and the helpdesk, and the computational science and engineering (CSE) support which provides training and support to users of the facility to enable their codes to run as effectively as possible.

The role of the CSE Provider in an integrated ARCHER2 Service is to provide software maintenance and development, user engagement and outreach, support and training in order to enable researchers and user communities to effectively and efficiently utilise ARCHER2 HPC resources for scientific research and enquiry.

The ARCHER CSE support will be responsible for: integration with technology (in conjunction with the hardware and service providers), supporting the user community in developing and optimising the scientific codes that

they will run on the ARCHER2 service, resolving user code problems, and providing comprehensive technical training for users across Tier 1 and integrating with the EPSRC Tier 2 HPC layer.

Procurement is provisionally estimated to commence in February 2018 with issue of a contract notice.

If you are interested in receiving further information regarding this requirement please provide contact details, company name and nature of interest to the contract point detailed in section I (I.1)

Please reference 'PR17127 Archer 2 — CSE' in your initial contact email.

II.2.14) **Additional information**

II.3) **Estimated date of publication of contract notice:**

12/02/2018

Section IV: Procedure

IV.1) **Description**

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: yes

Section VI: Complementary information

VI.3) **Additional information:**

VI.5) **Date of dispatch of this notice:**

10/11/2017