



Invitation to Quote

Invitation to Quote (ITQ) on behalf of Innovate UK

Subject UK SBS Tender Alert Service

Sourcing reference number UK SBS IT150024

UK Shared Business Services Ltd (UK SBS)
www.uksbs.co.uk

Registered in England and Wales as a limited company. Company Number 6330639.
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UKSBS

Shared Business Services

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Section 1 – About UK Shared Business Services

Putting the business into shared services

UK Shared Business Services Ltd (UK SBS) brings a commercial attitude to the public sector; helping our customers improve efficiency, generate savings and modernise.

It is our vision to become the leading provider for our customers of shared business services in the UK public sector, continuously reducing cost and improving quality of business services for Government and the public sector.

Our broad range of expert services is shared by our customers. This allows our customers the freedom to focus resources on core activities; innovating and transforming their own organisations.

Core services include Procurement, Finance, Grants Admissions, Human Resources, Payroll, ISS, and Property Asset Management all underpinned by our Service Delivery and Contact Centre teams.

UK SBS is a people rather than task focused business. It's what makes us different to the traditional transactional shared services centre. What is more, being a not-for-profit organisation owned by its customers, UK SBS' goals are aligned with the public sector and delivering best value for the UK taxpayer.

UK Shared Business Services Ltd changed its name from RCUK Shared Services Centre Ltd in March 2013.

Our Customers

Growing from a foundation of supporting the Research Councils, 2012/13 saw Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) transition their procurement to UK SBS and Crown Commercial Services (CCS – previously Government Procurement Service) agree a Memorandum of Understanding with UK SBS to deliver two major procurement categories (construction and research) across Government.

UK SBS currently manages £700m expenditure for its Customers.

Our Procurement ambition

Our vision is to be recognised as a centre of excellence and deliver a broad range of procurement services across the public sector; to maintain and grow a procurement service unrivalled in public sector.

Procurement is a market-shaping function. Industry derived benchmarks indicate that UK SBS is already performing at or above “best in class” in at least three key measures (percentage savings, compliant spend, spend under management) and compare well against most other measures.

Over the next five years, it is the function's ambition to lead a cultural change in procurement in the public sector. The natural extension of category management is to bring about a fundamental change in the attitude to supplier relationship management.

Our philosophy sees the supplier as an asset to the business and the route to maximising value from supply. This is not a new concept in procurement generally, but it is not a philosophy which is widely employed in the public sector.

We are ideally positioned to “lead the charge” in the government’s initiative to reform procurement in the public sector.

UK SBS Procurement’s unique selling points are:

- Focus on the full procurement cycle
- Leaders in category management in common and specialised areas
- Expertise in the delivery of major commercial projects
- That we are leaders in procurement to support research
- Use of cutting edge technologies which are superior to those used generally used across the public sector.
- Use of market leading analytical tools to provide comprehensive Business Intelligence
- Active customer and supplier management

‘UK SBS’ contribution to the Government Procurement Agenda has been impressive. Through innovation and leadership UK SBS has built an attractive portfolio of procurement services from P2P to Strategy Category Management.’

John Collington

Former Government Chief Procurement Officer

Section 2 – About Our Customer

Innovate UK

Innovate UK is the UK's innovation agency – driving innovation to boost economic growth. As well as investing in programmes and projects (£1bn investment budget 2008-2011), much of the agency's work is in spreading knowledge, understanding policy, spotting opportunities and bringing people together to solve problems or make new advances. Innovate UK offer support and funding to help business develop new products and services - and bring them closer to market.

Innovate UK aim is simple – to accelerate economic growth by stimulating and supporting business-led innovation.

Success Stories

- A successful partnership with Strathclyde University has led to rapid growth at Glasgow business Clyde Space and the award of a contract by the UK Space Consortium for testing, construction and assembly of UKube-1, the UK's first CubeSat system.
- Start-up business Snap Fashion founded by 25-year-old computer science graduate has attracted £300k in private investment and launched an innovative search engine, website and iPhone app on the market after taking part in the 2011 Tech City Launchpad competition.
- With sustained support from Innovate UK, Fife company *PowerPhotonic* has perfected novel techniques for mass producing tiny lenses that get all the individual beams coming from a laser pointing in the right direction. High powered industrial lasers now have a sharper cutting edge thanks to lenses made in Scotland that focus their light into brighter beams - and the repercussions will be far-reaching.

Since January 2015, Innovate UK is the coordinator and co-funder, with the European Commission, of the Enterprise Europe Network in England, Northern Ireland and Wales. Through expert advice and guidance, the Network aims to help ambitious businesses across England, Northern Ireland and Wales commercialise their innovations, find international business partners and grow through succeeding in new markets, including the public sector market.

Section 3 - Working with UK Shared Business Services Ltd.

In this section you will find details of your Procurement contact point and the timescales relating to this opportunity.

Section 3 – Contact details		
3.1	Customer Name and address	Innovate UK, North Star House, North Star Avenue, Swindon, SN2 1UE
3.2	Buyer name	UK SBS - ICT Procurement
3.3	Buyer contact details	ICTProcurement@uksbs.co.uk 01793 867005
3.4	Estimated value of the Opportunity	Maximum £20,000 exclusive of VAT for the total possible contract duration. This contract shall initially be for a one year period with a maximum value of £10,000 exclusive of VAT. There will be an option to extend for a further one year with a further maximum budget of £10,000 exclusive of VAT. There is no guarantee that this contract will be extended.
3.5	Process for the submission of clarifications and Bids	All correspondence shall be submitted within the Emptoris e-sourcing tool. Guidance Notes to support the use of Emptoris is available here. Please note submission of a Bid to any email address including the Buyer <u>will</u> result in the Bid <u>not</u> being considered.

Section 3 - Timescales		
3.6	Date of Issue of Contract Advert and location of original Advert	18/04/2016 Contracts Finder
3.7	Latest date/time ITQ clarification questions should be received through Emptoris messaging system	28/04/2016 14.00
3.8	Latest date/time ITQ clarification	03/05/2016

	answers should be sent to all potential Bidders by the Buyer through Emptoris	11.00
3.9	Latest date/time ITQ Bid shall be submitted through Emptoris	05/05/2016 14.00
3.10	Week commencing Bidders should be available for Interview.	16/05/2016
3.11	Anticipated rejection of unsuccessful Bids date	24/05/2016
3.12	Anticipated Award date	24/05/2016
3.13	Anticipated Contract Start date	25/05/2016
3.14	Anticipated Contract End date	24/05/2017 With the option to extend for one further year until 24/05/2018.
3.15	Bid Validity Period	90 Days

Section 4 – Specification

Tenders Alerting Service for the Enterprise Europe Network in England Wales and Northern Ireland

Innovate UK require a company to provide a Tenders Alerting Service for the Enterprise Europe Network in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Details of the service to be provided are given below.

4a). Services to be provided

As part of their portfolio of services offered to SMEs to help them innovate and grow their business in Europe, the Enterprise Europe Network delivers a Tenders Alerting Service. This service alerts companies to relevant contract opportunities advertised in the Official Journal of the EU (OJEU) and other sources by public sector organisations in the UK and the rest of Europe. Tailored search profiles have been developed for each client, so that each receives just those contract opportunities that are appropriate to their business. Searches are carried out daily (or sometimes weekly, if clients prefer) and any relevant contracts are notified to clients by e-mail. Going forward, companies will access this service free of charge.

In order to improve further the efficiency and consistent delivery of this service across England, Northern Ireland and Wales, it is proposed to outsource that part of the service which relates to the regular searches of the contract opportunities and delivery of the results to clients.

Initial profile development will be carried out by the local Network partner with the SME client. From this point, the contractor would take over the setting up of search profiles and the delivery of the daily / weekly service to the client. The contractor will be required to provide regular reports to the originating Network partners and to work with them to ensure the quality of the service delivered and the measurement of customer satisfaction and impact.

4b). Ways of working with the Enterprise Europe Network

The contractor should be able to demonstrate the following in their tender response:

- (i) The contractor's service must cover, as a minimum, those notices advertised daily in the OJEU.
- (ii) Additional coverage, for e.g. of notices advertised in Contracts Finder, regional tendering portals and other sources of public sector contract opportunities would also be advantageous. Systems should be in place to add new or updated portals as appropriate.
- (iii) The contractor should be able to provide online access through the main Enterprise Europe Network UK website to a portal where companies will be able to manage their own profile and any updates of contact information. The online resource should be available via the internet through standard web browsers 24/7 and a minimum of 500 user licences / user logins must be provided.
- (iv) The contractor should be able to work with the EEN partner to accept new client profiles onto the portal with as much of the process automated as possible. Upon receipt of the client's registration from the local EEN partner, the contractor's system should allow a tailored search profile matching the interests of the client to potential tenders for

contracts to be set up.

(v) Search profiles must allow the user to set up filters using one or more of the following: Common Procurement Vocabulary (CPV) code, multiple keywords or phrases, document type (e.g. contract notice, contract award), type of procedure, nature of contract, type of authority and region.

(vi) On a periodic basis (daily or weekly, depending on the client), the contractor should provide to each subscribing SME client by email a list of tenders matching their predefined search criteria. The system must also be able to send to multiple recipients within a company or organisation if required.

(vii) The alert e-mails must clearly identify the messages as from the Enterprise Europe Network Tenders Service with appropriate Network and Innovate UK branding.

(viii) Notices should include all the published information including hyperlinks to further information or documentation.

(ix) The contractor's email system should also be customisable to allow the delivery of additional EEN content from time to time as required, e.g. details of procurement related events.

(x) The contractor must provide an archive accessible via the portal, containing tenders going back at least 1 year which, as a minimum, is searchable by CPV code, keyword and awarding authority.

(xi) The contractor should be able to demonstrate a robust delivery of service methodology, including measurable uptime and failover procedures. The portal must be secure, with appropriately secure passwords which must be regularly updated.

(xii) Ad-hoc and Quarterly Reporting on key statistics are to be provided to Innovate UK and relevant local EEN partners, for management of the contract and measurement of impact of the service. This should include a list of users (by registering Network partner) and numbers of notices sent.

4c) Volumes, Charges & Timescales

(i) It is anticipated that this service will initially be delivered to 300-500 companies per annum, including some clients transferred over from existing EEN partner services. However, Innovate UK offers no guarantee of numbers of subscribers, which may be lower or higher than this number.

(ii) The service will be free to use for subscribing companies.

4d) Contract Term

The contract Term will be for one year with the option to extend for one further year. There is no guarantee that this contract will be extended.

Section 5 – Evaluation model

The evaluation model below shall be used for this ITQ, which will be determined to two decimal places.

Where a question is 'for information only' it will not be scored.

The evaluation team may comprise staff from UK SBS, the Customer and any specific external stakeholders UK SBS deem required. After evaluation the scores will be finalised by performing a calculation to identify (at question level) the mean average of all evaluators (Example – a question is scored by three evaluators and judged as scoring 5, 5 and 6. These scores will be added together and divided by the number of evaluators to produce the final score of 5.33 ($5+5+6 = 16 \div 3 = 5.33$))

Pass / fail criteria		
Questionnaire	Q No.	Question subject
Commercial	FOI1.1	Freedom of Information Exemptions
Commercial	AW1.1	Form of Bid
Commercial	AW1.3	Certificate of Bona Fide Bid
Commercial	AW3.1	Validation check
Commercial	AW4.1	Contract Terms
Quality	AW6.1	Compliance to listed requirements of Section 4 Specification
Quality	PROJ1.5	Number of Subscribers
-	-	Invitation to Quote – received on time within e-sourcing tool

Scoring criteria

Evaluation Justification Statement

In consideration of this particular requirement UK SBS has decided to evaluate Potential Providers by adopting the weightings/scoring mechanism detailed within this ITQ. UK SBS considers these weightings to be in line with existing best practice for a requirement of this type.

Questionnaire	Q No.	Question subject	Maximum Marks
Price	AW5.2	Price	40%
Quality	PROJ1.1	Tenders Service Source Information	15%
Quality	PROJ1.2	On-line Client Registration Process	15%
Quality	PROJ1.4	Service Delivery Methodology	15%
Quality	PROJ1.6	Interview	15%

Evaluation of criteria

Non-Price elements

Each question will be judged on a score from 0 to 100, which shall be subjected to a multiplier to reflect the percentage of the evaluation criteria allocated to that question.

Where an evaluation criterion is worth 20% then the 0-100 score achieved will be multiplied by 20.

Example if a Bidder scores 60 from the available 100 points this will equate to 12% by using the following calculation: Score/Total Points available multiplied by 20 ($60/100 \times 20 = 12$)

Where an evaluation criterion is worth 10% then the 0-100 score achieved will be multiplied by 10.

Example if a Bidder scores 60 from the available 100 points this will equate to 6% by using the following calculation: Score/Total Points available multiplied by 10 ($60/100 \times 10 = 6$)

The same logic will be applied to groups of questions which equate to a single evaluation criterion.

The 0-100 score shall be based on (unless otherwise stated within the question):

0	The Question is not answered or the response is completely unacceptable.
10	Extremely poor response – they have completely missed the point of the

	question.
20	Very poor response and not wholly acceptable. Requires major revision to the response to make it acceptable. Only partially answers the requirement, with major deficiencies and little relevant detail proposed.
40	Poor response only partially satisfying the selection question requirements with deficiencies apparent. Some useful evidence provided but response falls well short of expectations. Low probability of being a capable supplier.
60	Response is acceptable but remains basic and could have been expanded upon. Response is sufficient but does not inspire.
80	Good response which describes their capabilities in detail which provides high levels of assurance consistent with a quality provider. The response includes a full description of techniques and measurements currently employed.
100	Response is exceptional and clearly demonstrates they are capable of meeting the requirement. No significant weaknesses noted. The response is compelling in its description of techniques and measurements currently employed, providing full assurance consistent with a quality provider.

All questions will be scored based on the above mechanism. Please be aware that the final score returned may be different as there may be multiple evaluators and their individual scores will be averaged (mean) to determine your final score.

Example

Evaluator 1 scored your bid as 60

Evaluator 2 scored your bid as 60

Evaluator 3 scored your bid as 40

Evaluator 4 scored your bid as 40

Your final score will $(60+60+40+40) \div 4 = 50$

Price elements will be judged on the following criteria.

The lowest price for a response which meets the pass criteria shall score 100. All other bids shall be scored on a pro rata basis in relation to the lowest price. The score is then subject to a multiplier to reflect the percentage value of the price criterion.

For example - Bid 1 £100,000 scores 100.

Bid 2 £120,000 differential of £20,000 or 20% remove 20% from price scores 80

Bid 3 £150,000 differential £50,000 remove 50% from price scores 50.

Bid 4 £175,000 differential £75,000 remove 75% from price scores 25.

Bid 5 £200,000 differential £100,000 remove 100% from price scores 0.

Bid 6 £300,000 differential £200,000 remove 100% from price scores 0.

Where the scoring criterion is worth 50% then the 0-100 score achieved will be multiplied by 50.

In the example if a supplier scores 80 from the available 100 points this will equate to 40% by using the following calculation: $\text{Score/Total Points multiplied by 50}$ $(80/100 \times 50 = 40)$

The lowest score possible is 0 even if the price submitted is more than 100% greater than the lowest price.

Section 6 – Evaluation questionnaire

Bidders should note that the evaluation questionnaire is located within the **e-sourcing questionnaire**.

Guidance on completion of the questionnaire is available at <http://www.ukpbs.co.uk/services/procure/Pages/supplier.aspx>

PLEASE NOTE THE QUESTIONS ARE NOT NUMBERED SEQUENTIALLY

Section 7 – General Information

What makes a good bid – some simple do's ☺

DO:

- 7.1 Do comply with Procurement document instructions. Failure to do so may lead to disqualification.
- 7.2 Do provide the Bid on time, and in the required format. Remember that the date/time given for a response is the last date that it can be accepted; we are legally bound to disqualify late submissions.
- 7.3 Do ensure you have read all the training materials to utilise e-sourcing tool prior to responding to this Bid. If you send your Bid by email or post it will be rejected.
- 7.4 Do use Microsoft Word, PowerPoint Excel 97-03 or compatible formats, or PDF unless agreed in writing by the Buyer. If you use another file format without our written permission we may reject your Bid.
- 7.5 Do ensure you utilise the Emptoris messaging system to raise any clarifications to our ITQ. You should note that typically we will release the answer to the question to all bidders and where we suspect the question contains confidential information we may modify the content of the question to protect the anonymity of the Bidder or their proposed solution
- 7.6 Do answer the question, it is not enough simply to cross-reference to a 'policy', web page or another part of your Bid, the evaluation team have limited time to assess bids and if they can't find the answer, they can't score it.
- 7.7 Do consider who your customer is and what they want – a generic answer does not necessarily meet every customer's needs.
- 7.8 Do reference your documents correctly, specifically where supporting documentation is requested e.g. referencing the question/s they apply to.
- 7.9 Do provide clear and concise contact details; telephone numbers, e-mails and fax details.
- 7.10 Do complete all questions in the questionnaire or we may reject your Bid.
- 7.11 Do check and recheck your Bid before dispatch.

What makes a good bid – some simple do not's ☹

DO NOT

- 7.12 Do not cut and paste from a previous document and forget to change the previous details such as the previous buyer's name.
- 7.13 Do not attach 'glossy' brochures that have not been requested, they will not be read unless we have asked for them. Only send what has been requested and only send supplementary information if we have offered the opportunity so to do.
- 7.14 Do not share the Procurement documents, they are confidential and should not be shared with anyone without the Buyers written permission.
- 7.15 Do not seek to influence the procurement process by requesting meetings or contacting UK SBS or the Customer to discuss your Bid. If your Bid requires clarification the Buyer will contact you.
- 7.16 Do not contact any UK SBS staff or Customer staff without the Buyers written permission or we may reject your Bid.
- 7.17 Do not collude to fix or adjust the price or withdraw your Bid with another Party as we will reject your Bid.
- 7.18 Do not offer UK SBS or Customer staff any inducement or we will reject your Bid.
- 7.19 Do not seek changes to the Bid after responses have been submitted and the deadline for Bids to be submitted has passed.
- 7.20 Do not cross reference answers to external websites or other parts of your Bid, the cross references and website links will not be considered.
- 7.21 Do not exceed word counts, the additional words will not be considered.
- 7.22 Do not make your Bid conditional on acceptance of your own Terms of Contract, as your Bid will be rejected.

Some additional guidance notes

- 7.23 All enquiries with respect to access to the e-sourcing tool and problems with functionality within the tool may be submitted to Crown Commercial Service (previously Government Procurement Service), Telephone 0345 010 3503.
- 7.24 Bidders will be specifically advised where attachments are permissible to support a question response within the e-sourcing tool. Where they are not permissible any attachments submitted will not be considered.
- 7.25 Question numbering is not sequential and all questions which require submission are included in the Section 6 Evaluation Questionnaire.
- 7.26 Any Contract offered may not guarantee any volume of work or any exclusivity of supply.
- 7.27 We do not guarantee to award any Contract as a result of this procurement
- 7.28 All documents issued or received in relation to this procurement shall be the property of UK SBS.
- 7.29 We can amend any part of the procurement documents at any time prior to the latest date / time Bids shall be submitted through Emptoris.
- 7.30 If you are a Consortium you must provide details of the Consortiums structure.
- 7.31 Bidders will be expected to comply with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or your Bid will be rejected.
- 7.32 Bidders should note the Government's transparency agenda requires your Bid and any Contract entered into to be published on a designated, publicly searchable web site. By submitting a response to this ITQ Bidders are agreeing that their Bid and Contract may be made public
- 7.33 Your bid will be valid for 60 days or your Bid will be rejected.
- 7.34 Bidders may only amend the Contract terms if you can demonstrate there is a legal or statutory reason why you cannot accept them. If you request changes to the Contract and UK SBS fail to accept your legal or statutory reason is reasonably justified we may reject your Bid.
- 7.35 We will let you know the outcome of your Bid evaluation and where requested will provide a written debrief of the relative strengths and weaknesses of your Bid.
- 7.36 If you fail mandatory pass / fail criteria we will reject your Bid.
- 7.37 Bidders are required to use IE8, IE9, Chrome or Firefox in order to access the functionality of the Emptoris e-sourcing tool.

- 7.38 Bidders should note that if they are successful with their proposal UK SBS reserves the right to ask additional compliancy checks prior to the award of any Contract. In the event of a Bidder failing to meet one of the compliancy checks UK SBS may decline to proceed with the award of the Contract to the successful Bidder.
- 7.39 All timescales are set using a 24 hour clock and are based on British Summer Time or Greenwich Mean Time, depending on which applies at the point when Date and Time Bids shall be submitted through Emptoris.
- 7.40 All Central Government Departments and their Executive Agencies and Non Departmental Public Bodies are subject to control and reporting within Government. In particular, they report to the Cabinet Office and HM Treasury for all expenditure. Further, the Cabinet Office has a cross-Government role delivering overall Government policy on public procurement - including ensuring value for money and related aspects of good procurement practice.

For these purposes, UK SBS may disclose within Government any of the Bidders documentation/information (including any that the Bidder considers to be confidential and/or commercially sensitive such as specific bid information) submitted by the Bidder to UK SBS during this Procurement. The information will not be disclosed outside Government. Bidders taking part in this ITQ consent to these terms as part of the competition process.

- 7.41 From 2nd April 2014 the Government is introducing its new Government Security Classifications (GSC) classification scheme to replace the current Government Protective Marking System (GPMS). A key aspect of this is the reduction in the number of security classifications used. All Bidders are encouraged to make themselves aware of the changes and identify any potential impacts in their Bid, as the protective marking and applicable protection of any material passed to, or generated by, you during the procurement process or pursuant to any Contract awarded to you as a result of this tender process will be subject to the new GSC from 2nd April 2014. The link below to the Gov.uk website provides information on the new GSC:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-security-classifications>

UK SBS reserves the right to amend any security related term or condition of the draft contract accompanying this ITQ to reflect any changes introduced by the GSC. In particular where this ITQ is accompanied by any instructions on safeguarding classified information (e.g. a Security Aspects Letter) as a result of any changes stemming from the new GSC, whether in respect of the applicable protective marking scheme, specific protective markings given, the aspects to which any protective marking applies or otherwise. This may relate to the instructions on safeguarding classified information (e.g. a Security Aspects Letter) as they apply to the procurement as they apply to the procurement process and/or any contracts awarded to you as a result of the procurement process.

USEFUL INFORMATION LINKS

- [Emptoris Training Guide](#)
- [Emptoris e-sourcing tool](#)
- [Contracts Finder](#)
- [Tenders Electronic Daily](#)
- [Equalities Act introduction](#)
- [Bribery Act introduction](#)
- [Freedom of information Act](#)