**Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) Hubs.**

The purpose of this Prior Information Notice (PIN) is to notify the market of the Department for Education's (DfE) intention to undertake a procurement exercise to establish a Centre of Excellence for MFL pedagogy to support the development of a network of MFL Hubs as announced in the Social Mobility Action Plan (SMAP) in December 2017.

More details of the SMAP can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/plan-to-boost-social-mobility-through-education>

MFL Hubs will be used to deliver access to high quality MFL subject teaching based on the recommendations contained in the document ‘Modern Foreign Languages Pedagogy Review - A review of modern foreign languages teaching practice in key stage 3 and key stage 4’:[*https://www.tscouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/MFL-Pedagogy-Review-Report-2.pdf*](https://www.tscouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/MFL-Pedagogy-Review-Report-2.pdf%20)

The expert hubs will support schools to implement the principles of excellent pedagogy and share best practice to enable schools to improve subject teaching.

The Centre of Excellence will oversee the work of the hubs and will identify and disseminate good practice in languages teaching.

The DfE will be seeking proposals from organisations or consortia to establish the Centre of Excellence.

ESTIMATED VALUE

The total value available for the MFL Hubs contract will be made clear during the procurement process.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

The DfE are hosting an early market engagement event on 12 March 2018. The event will enable interested organisations to gain a better understanding of our requirements for the Centre for Excellence. The event will:

* explore the capacity of the market to deliver this programme, and take on board any suggestions from the sector about how the services should be delivered
* cover the proposed commercial process / timeline
* deliver an interactive Q & A session
* provide an opportunity for networking and possible consortia discussions

Reservations to attend the early market engagement event should be made through our event page:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/modern-foreign-languages-mfl-hubs-early-market-engagement-event-tickets-43472888580>

Ticket reservation will be available until 23:59 on 11 March 2018.

Providers wanting to network or make connections with other organisations before or after the market engagement event should use Slack, a closed online forum. Please email languages.info@education.gov.uk if you would like to be added to the Slack network.

**Indicative dates for procurement:**

Please note: these timescales are indicative and are subject to change at DfE's absolute discretion.

* **March 2018** – Early Market Engagement
* **Spring 2018** – Publish Invitation To Tender (ITT)
* **Summer 2018** – Indicative contract award

The DfE intends to utilise a single stage open procedure, as per Regulation 27 of the Public Contract Regulations 2015. Further information on the procurement process will be provided during the market engagement activity.

START AND END DATES OF THE CONTRACT:

Start Date: Autumn 2018 **TBC**

End Date: Planned as Autumn 2020 **TBC**

The DfE will be administering the procurement process electronically via the DfE e-Procurement Solution portal; Bravo Solution. No hard copy documents will be issued and all communications with DfE (including final submission of tenders) will be conducted via the Bravo Solution Portal. Bidders who are not already registered on the portal can register here:

[https://education.bravosolution.co.uk](https://education.bravosolution.co.uk/)

For any assistance required in registering bidders should contact the Bravo helpdesk: help@bravosolution.co.uk