**Mandarin Expansion Programme**

China is a country of huge strategic importance to the UK and education plays a key role in developing that wider relationship with important economic, educational and diplomatic benefits. The Government firmly believes that learning other languages is important in our globalised economy, as well as helping pupils to prepare for life in modern Britain.

On 22 September the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced funding of £10 million for at least 5,000 additional pupils to be taught Mandarin in schools in England by 2020.

The purpose of the programme is to deliver a minimum of 5,000 speakers of Mandarin on their way to a high level (HSK level V[[1]](#footnote-1) ) of fluency by 2020. This does not include native Mandarin speakers.

A key requirement of the programme is to implement a rigorous programme of study to the most able students. Schools must also be equipped with the resources and teaching expertise to provide this with confidence.

The contract will include break clauses at the end of each year and an option to extend.

**Broad Aims**

The programme will:

• start in September 2016 with year 7 pupils, be demanding and intensive and focus on a relatively small number of schools;

• be rigorous and involve the study of Mandarin by the most able and motivated pupils for eight hours a week made up of a combination of class-time teaching, after school teaching and self- study;

• supply a sufficient number of teachers that are recruited and trained centrally;

• give pupils an experience of China through visits and/or online contact; and

• embed effective, sustainable teaching practices that will continue to increase Mandarin teaching beyond the funding of this project.

**Vision of success at the end of the contract**

We would expect to see evidence of the following at the end of the contract period (March 2020):

• Successful management and support of schools that have been recruited to transition their current provision to fit the programme’s rigorous model;

• A ‘bank’ of support materials, teaching resources, and CPD tools to support all schools to teach Mandarin. All newly developed resources must be freely available and accessible to all schools in England;

• A successful communications campaign that promotes the learning of Mandarin and removes barriers to the teaching of Mandarin. This will include a significant web presence;

• A growing number of students to meet the minimum target of 5,000 Mandarin learners on their way to a high level of fluency by 2020. This includes retaining students on the programme so that they reach a high level of fluency;

• A sufficient supply of teachers that have been recruited and trained centrally to support all schools that are a part of the programme;

• Availability and take-up of teacher CPD support and an increase in the knowledge, skills and confidence of teachers teaching Mandarin;

• A rigorous programme of study adopted by all schools in the programme. This must be eight hours a week made up of a combination of class-time teaching, after school teaching and self- study; and

• Excellent retention of schools and pupils in the programme so that as many pupils as possible achieve a high level of fluency.

**Indicative Timeline**

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| **Action** | **Indicative Date**  |
| Issue PIN | 23/11/2015 |
| Supplier Engagement Event  | 09/12/2015 |
| Contracts Finder and OJEU notices Issued | Earl-Mid December 2015 |
| Final day to submit bids | 31/01/2016 |
| Bids evaluated | First week of February 2016 |
| Clarification meetings held if required | Second week of February 2016 |
| Preferred Supplier announced and 10 day standstill period held | Early March 2016 |
| Contract Award | End March 2016 |

**Supplier Engagement Event**

DfE intends to hold a Supplier Engagement Event on 9 December 2015 in central London. This event will provide an opportunity for all interested suppliers to review the current iterations of the Statement of Requirements, enable dialogue with potential suppliers and to provide a Q&A forum. Information will also be available on the proposed procurement process and timetable and suppliers will be able to meet key members of the DfE project team involved in this procurement.

DfE intends to contract with either a supplier who proposes to offer the whole service (with or without subcontractors) or a consortium of suppliers who have joined together to offer the whole service. At the bidding stage a consortium must be either a legal entity or have a lead organisation which is authorised to act on behalf of its members with which DfE can contract. Suitably qualified Small and Medium Enterprises (SME’s) who consider that they have the necessary skills and experience to support the programme are encouraged to attend the Supplier Engagement Event.

The contract will be advertised in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU ). It is anticipated that the OJEU Contract notice will be advertised in December 2015.

Disclaimers and conditions: No information provided by the DfE, contained in this notice or in any communication made between DfE and any party in connection with the Mandarin Expansion Programme contract shall be relied upon as constituting a contract, or representation that any contract will necessarily be offered.

DfE reserves the right to change without notice any documents and communications, in whole or in part during the procurement process for the Mandarin Expansion Programme contract. Under no circumstances shall DfE incur any liability in respect of any documentation issued as part of this process nor shall DfE reimburse any costs incurred by any parties in connection with attendance or participation at the planned Supplier Engagement Event on 9 December 2015.

It would be appreciated if suppliers could pre-register to attend this Supplier Engagement Event by emailing: Mandarin.PROGRAMME@education.gsi.gov.uk by 8 December 2015. Suppliers must send their attendees names (no more than two per organisation attending) and the organisation name. This information will be shared with all other attendees. Venue details will be emailed to all attendees.

The supplier event will be used to help finalise requirements. It is intended that those who join the supplier event will be able to give their thoughts on the specification above and on particular issues that we will raise on the day.

DfE estimate the contract value to be in the region of 8 - 10,000,000 GBP. The contract will include break clauses at the end of each year and an option to extend.

1. The new HSK is an international standardised exam that tests and rates Chinese language proficiency. It assesses non-native Chinese speakers’ abilities in using the Chinese language in their daily, academic and professional lives. HSK consists of six levels, namely the HSK (level I), HSK (level II), HSK (level III), HSK (level IV), HSK (level V), and HSK (level VI). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)