Skills Bootcamps Market Engagement PIN

This PIN is for the purpose of initiating the direct engagement with the market with regards to the Department’s Skills Bootcamps programme.

This PIN is for market engagement only. It does not signify the commencement of any procurement process and does not constitute any commitment by the Department for Education. If the Department for Education decides to commence any procurement process(es) as contemplated by this notice, a separate notice(s) will be published at the relevant time.

Suppliers wishing to do business with us should understand our expectation that they support and endorse our commitment to Equality & Diversity and take positive steps in their own organisation to demonstrate this, in compliance to the Equality Act 2010.

Suppliers should also familiarise themselves with The New Social Value Model which may form part of the evaluation for this potential opportunity, along with the Social Value Model Quick Reference Table.

DfE Skills Bootcamps

Skills Bootcamps are part of the National Skills Fund (NSF), a 2019 manifesto commitment to commit £3bn (£2.5bn after Barnett consequential) to help adults learn valuable skills and prepare the economy of the future. The fund will seek to increase skills, productivity and individuals’ resilience to better respond to a changing labour market. Overall, Skills Bootcamps will contribute to the government’s agenda to drive economic growth and contribute to The Skills for Jobs White Paper (January 21) which sets out the Government’s plans to give people the skills they need to get good jobs, empowering people to retrain throughout their careers, and putting employers at the heart of decisions to ensure that provision is responsive to the needs of the labour market.

The DfE started rolling out early testing of Skills Bootcamps in September 2020 and expanded the programme from April 2021 (Wave 1 and Wave 2 respectively), in accordance with the Public Contract Regulations 2015. The results of Wave 2 were announced in July 2021 and contracts subsequently agreed with the successful suppliers. Wave 2 Skills Bootcamps are now in delivery.

The Department is now considering the potential for a further Wave.

and this market engagement PIN marks the commencement of this process.

The aims of the Skills Bootcamps are:

To deliver flexible training programmes lasting up to 16 weeks, based on employer/sector ‘in-demand’ skills in the following areas:- Digital, Technical, and Construction , across 9 UK regions:- North East, North West, East Midlands, West Midlands, East of England, London, South West, South East and Yorkshire and the Humber. We are also exploring the potential to further test the Skills Bootcamp model through developing Skills Bootcamps in Green Skills and Skills Bootcamps which enable a learner to progress directly to an accelerated apprenticeship.

* Training may be either regulated (i.e., qualification based) or non-regulated (i.e. based on alignment with industry standards, apprenticeship standards and/or quality assured through evidenced methodology such as RARPA, SFIA or other) and will offer a guaranteed job interview for those seeking a new job on completion of the course.
* To address the needs of adults (19+) who are employed (either full-time or part-time), unemployed, returning to work or self-employed and to provide citizens with wider access to opportunities to retrain, update or formalise their skills or acquire specialist skills.
* Skills Bootcamps are targeted at NQF Level 3-5 or equivalent.
* To address the needs of employers and the wider economy, to deliver targeted interventions to meet short-medium term demand to fill medium-higher level vacancies and drive productivity.
* To bring individuals closer to better jobs, by linking them with line of sight to a job/ different role or new opportunities/contracts.

Further information about the Skills Bootcamps can be found here: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-skills-fund.

How we will engage:

The Department for Education will hold a series of market engagement events in September 2021, which will each run for between 60-90 minutes.

In line with Procurement Contract Regulation sections 40 and 41, the Department for Education will also hold 1-2-1 engagement sessions with selected market suppliers in September 2021. These initial sessions will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams and will be by invitation only.

Following these sessions, engagement events will be held in October 2021, which will be open to all interested suppliers, with the same information given at prior events shared transparently. These sessions will use Microsoft Teams and will run for up to 1hr each. There will be a limited number of engagement sessions therefore allocation to these sessions will be on a first come first served basis.

You can participate in this opportunity by sending an email to ELIPT.mailbox@education.gov.uk. with details of your attendee list for the engagement sessions, which will take place via Microsoft Teams. A meeting invitation will then be issued.