

# DPS Schedule 7 (Order Procedure and Award Criteria)

## Part 1: Order Procedure

### 1. How an Order Contract is awarded

1.1 If a potential Buyer decides to source Deliverables through this Contract then it will award its Deliverables in accordance with the procedure in this Schedule and the requirements of the Regulations.

1.2 Any potential Buyer awarding an Order Contract must do so in accordance with the Order Procedure set out in Paragraph 2 below.

### 2. How a competition works

#### What the Buyer has to do

2.1 The Buyer awarding an Order Contract under this Contract through the Order Procedure shall:

- 2.1.1 develop a Statement of Requirements setting out its requirements for the Deliverables and identify the Suppliers capable of supplying them;
- 2.1.2 amend or refine the Deliverables to reflect its requirements by using the Order Form only to the extent permitted by and in accordance with the requirements of the Regulations;
- 2.1.3 invite tenders by conducting an Order Procedure for its Deliverables in accordance with the Regulations and in particular:
  - (a) if an Electronic Reverse Auction (as defined in Paragraph 3 below) is to be held, the Buyer shall notify the Suppliers and shall conduct the Order Procedure in accordance with the procedures set out in Paragraph ; or
  - (b) if an Electronic Reverse Auction is not used, the Buyer shall:
    - (i) invite the Suppliers to submit a tender in writing for each proposed Order Contract to be awarded by giving written notice by email to the relevant Supplier Representative of each Supplier;
    - (ii) set a time limit for the receipt by it of the tenders which takes into account factors such as the complexity of the subject matter of the proposed Order Contract and the time needed to submit tenders; and
    - (iii) keep each tender confidential until the time limit set out for the return of tenders has expired;
- 2.1.4 apply the Order Award Criteria to the Suppliers' compliant tenders submitted through the Order Procedure as the basis

of its decision to award an Order Contract for its Deliverables;

- 2.1.5 on the basis set out above, award its Order Contract to the successful Supplier in accordance with Paragraph 6. The Order Contract shall:
- (a) state the Deliverables;
  - (b) state the tender submitted by the successful Supplier;
  - (c) state the charges payable for the Deliverables in accordance with the tender submitted by the successful Supplier; and
  - (d) incorporate the terms of the Order Form and Contract (as may be amended or refined by the Buyer in accordance with Paragraph 2.1.2. above) applicable to the Deliverables; and
- 2.1.6 provide unsuccessful Suppliers with written feedback in relation to the reasons why their tenders were unsuccessful.

### **What the Supplier has to do**

2.2 The Supplier shall in writing, by the time and date specified by the Buyer following an invitation to tender pursuant to Paragraph 2.1.3 above, provide CCS and the Buyer with either:

- 2.2.1 a statement to the effect that it does not wish to tender in relation to the Deliverables; or
- 2.2.2 the full details of its tender made in respect of the relevant Statement of Requirements. In the event that the Supplier submits such a tender, it should include, as a minimum:
  - (a) an email response subject line to comprise unique reference number and Supplier name, so as to clearly identify the Supplier;
  - (b) a brief summary, in the email (followed by a confirmation letter), stating that the Supplier is bidding for the Statement of Requirements;
  - (c) a proposal covering the Deliverables;
  - (d) CVs of key staff – as a minimum any lead consultant, with others, as considered appropriate along with required staff levels (if necessary); and
  - (e) confirmation of discounts applicable to the Deliverables, as referenced in DPS Schedule 3 (DPS Pricing) (if applicable).
- 2.2.3 The Supplier shall ensure that any prices submitted in relation to an Order Procedure held pursuant to this Paragraph 2 shall reflect DPS Pricing where applicable and take into account any discount to which the Buyer may be entitled as set out in DPS Schedule 3 (DPS Pricing).

**2.2.4 The Supplier agrees that:**

- (a) all tenders submitted by the Supplier in relation to an Order Procedure held pursuant to this Paragraph 2 shall remain open for acceptance by the Buyer for ninety (90) Working Days (or such other period specified in the invitation to tender issued by the Buyer in accordance with the Order Procedure); and
- (b) all tenders submitted by the Supplier are made and will be made in good faith and that the Supplier has not fixed or adjusted and will not fix or adjust the price of the tender by or in accordance with any agreement or arrangement with any other person. The Supplier certifies that it has not and undertakes that it will not:
  - (i) communicate to any person other than the person inviting these tenders the amount or approximate amount of the tender, except where the disclosure, in confidence, of the approximate amount of the tender was necessary to obtain quotations required for the preparation of the tender; and
  - (ii) enter into any arrangement or agreement with any other person that he or the other person(s) shall refrain from submitting a tender or as to the amount of any tenders to be submitted.

**3. How e-auctions work**

3.1 Where indicated in the Order Form, the Buyer shall be entitled to include a reverse auction in the Order Procedure in accordance with the rules laid down by the Buyer and the Regulations.

3.2 Where Buyer wishes to undertake an electronic reverse auction, where Suppliers compete in real time by bidding as the auction unfolds ("**Electronic Reverse Auction**") then before undertaking it, the Buyer will make an initial full evaluation of all tenders received in response to its Statement of Requirements. The Buyer will then invite to the Electronic Reverse Auction only those tenders that are admissible in accordance with the Regulations. The invitation shall be accompanied by the outcome of the full initial evaluation of the relevant tenders.

3.3 The Buyer will inform the Suppliers of the specification for the Electronic Reverse Auction which shall include:

- (a) the information to be provided at auction, which must be expressed in figures or percentages of the specified quantifiable features;
- (b) the mathematical formula to be used to determine automatic ranking of bids on the basis of new prices and/or new values submitted;
- (c) any limits on the values which may be submitted;

- (d) a description of any information which will be made available to Suppliers in the course of the Electronic Reverse Auction, and when it will be made available to them;
- (e) the conditions under which Suppliers will be able to bid and, in particular, the minimum differences which will, where appropriate, be required when bidding;
- (f) relevant information concerning the electronic equipment used and the arrangements and technical specification for connection;
- (g) subject to Paragraph 3.5, the date and time of the start of the Electronic Reverse Auction; and
- (h) details of when and how the Electronic Reverse Auction will close.

3.4 The Electronic Reverse Auction may not start sooner than two (2) Working Days after the date on which the specification for the Electronic Reverse Auction has been issued.

3.5 Throughout each phase of the Electronic Reverse Auction the Buyer will communicate to all Suppliers sufficient information to enable them to ascertain their relative ranking.

3.6 The Supplier acknowledges and agrees that:

- (a) the Buyer and its officers, servants, agents, group companies, assignees and customers (including CCS) do not guarantee that its access to the Electronic Reverse Auction will be uninterrupted or error-free;
- (b) its access to the Electronic Reverse Auction may occasionally be restricted to allow for repairs or maintenance; and
- (c) it will comply with all such rules that may be imposed by the Buyer in relation to the operation of the Electronic Reverse Auction.

3.7 The Buyer will close the Electronic Reverse Auction on the basis of:

- (a) a date and time fixed in advance;
- (b) when no new prices or values meeting the minimum differences required pursuant to Paragraph 3.4.5 have been received within the prescribed elapsed time period; or
- (c) when all the phases have been completed.

#### **4. No requirement to award**

4.1 Notwithstanding the fact that the Buyer has followed a procedure as set out above in Paragraph 2, the Supplier acknowledges and agrees that the Buyer shall be entitled at all times to decline to make an award for its

Deliverables and that nothing in this Contract shall oblige the Buyer to award any Order Contract.

## **5. Who is responsible for the award**

5.1 The Supplier acknowledges that the Buyer is independently responsible for the conduct of its award of Order Contracts under this Contract and that CCS is not responsible or accountable for and shall have no liability whatsoever, except where it is the Buyer, in relation to:

5.1.1 the conduct of Buyer in relation to this Contract; or

5.1.2 the performance or non-performance of any Order Contracts between the Supplier and Buyer entered into pursuant to this Contract.

## **6. Awarding and creating an Order contract**

6.1 Subject to Paragraphs 1 to 5 above, a Buyer may award an Order Contract with the Supplier by sending (including electronically) a signed order form substantially in the form (as may be amended or refined by the Buyer in accordance with Paragraph 2.1.2 above) of the Order Form Template set out in DPS Schedule 6 (Order Form Template and Order Schedules).

6.2 The Parties agree that any document or communication (including any document or communication in the apparent form of an Order Contract) which is not as described in this Paragraph 6 shall not constitute an Order Contract under this Contract.

6.3 On receipt of an order form as described in Paragraph 6.1 from a Buyer the Supplier shall accept the Order Contract by promptly signing and returning (including by electronic means) a copy of the order form to the Buyer concerned.

6.4 On receipt of the countersigned Order Form from the Supplier, the Buyer shall send (including by electronic means) a written notice of receipt to the Supplier within two (2) Working Days and the Order Contract shall be formed with effect from the Order Start Date stated in the Order Form.

## **Part 2: Award Criteria**

1. This Part 2 lays out award criteria for an Order Contract on the basis of competition in accordance with the Order Procedure.
2. An Order Contract may be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tender ("MEAT").

## **Annex: Order Award Criteria**

The following criteria and weightings shall apply to the evaluation of each Order submitted through the Order Procedure:

	<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Relative Weighting Percentage</b> <b>[Guidance:</b> where weighting is not possible for objective reasons, list the criteria in decreasing order of importance, amend the column heading to read 'Rank order of importance where 1 = most important, 2 = second most important etc.'. The figure 1 must be in the top row, running down to the least important in the bottom row.]
	<p>Quality – Which may consist of but is not limited to any combination of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical Merit</li> <li>• Added Value / Innovation</li> <li>• Approach To Delivery Of The Services</li> <li>• Implementation and Associated Timescales</li> <li>• After sales service</li> <li>• Technical assistance</li> <li>• Supply chain partners</li> </ul>	[ 20-60 % ]
	<p>Price – Which may consist of but is not limited to any combination of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time and Materials (T&amp;M)</li> <li>• Software licence/ Subscription</li> <li>• Milestone Payment</li> <li>• Fixed Cost</li> <li>• A combination of pricing methods agreed by the parties</li> </ul>	[ 20-60 % ]



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	<p>Cultural Fit – Which may consist of but is not limited to any combination of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Supplier's approach to deliver Social Value (Central Government Buyers <b>must</b> allocate a weighting of at least 10% to Social Value)</li><li>• The Supplier's approach to delivering ethical dimensions of the tender</li><li>• How the Supplier works with other people</li><li>• How the Supplier shares knowledge and experience</li><li>• The Supplier's approach to achieving Carbon Net Zero</li></ul>	[ 10-20 % ]
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