

**UK-Norwich: telecommunications services**

**2002/S 185-146096**

1. **Awarding authority:**

OGCbuying.solutions, Office of Government Commerce, Rosebery Court, St Andrews Business Park, UK-Norwich NR7 0HS . Att: Mr Chris Illman. Tel.: (077 69) 67 14 40. E-mail: [gslsp@ogcbs.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:gslsp@ogcbs.gsi.gov.uk). URL: [www.ogcbuyingsolutions.gov.uk](http://www.ogcbuyingsolutions.gov.uk). Fax: (016 03) 70 48 17.

2. **Category of service and description, CPC reference number, quantity, options:**

CPV: 30247000, 30248000, 30248100, 30248200, 30248300, 30249000, 32400000, 32410000, 32412000, 32412100, 32412110, 32412120, 32413000, 32417000, 32424000, 32425000, 32426000, 32427000, 32428000, 32430000, 32523000, 64200000, 64210000, 64214100, 64214400, 64216000, 64216100, 64216110, 64216120, 64216200, 64216210, 64220000, 64221000, 64222000, 64223000, 64224000, 64225000, 64226000, 74113210, 74831530.

Government Secure Intranet (GSI) infrastructure and related telecommunications services.

Title attributed to the contract by the contracting authority: GSI Succession Project (GSISP).

The UK Government is seeking to procure a framework agreement(s) to ensure the continued provision and development of its highly successful 'Government Secure Intranet' Service (GSI), a central component of the UK's Critical National Infrastructure. This requirement has arisen due to the forthcoming expiry of the Government Telecommunications Service Framework, the previous vehicle for delivering the GSI Service. OGCbuying.solutions (an agency of the Office of Government Commerce) has recently completed a consultative exercise into the scope of the new GSI Service, and is now ready to set in place a framework agreement(s) under which any UK contracting authority, or any service provider acting on its behalf, may place orders for GSI services.

The primary objective of the services to be made available under the framework agreement(s) is provision of a coherent set of resilient, high-security, high-availability, high-bandwidth core telecommunications services primarily for the UK Central and Local Government and other Public Sector bodies, with strong support for multiple secure interconnects to a diverse and increasing range of other approved networks, including, but not limited to, the public Internet, the legacy GSI network, the Criminal Justice Extranet, EU networks and the NHSnet.

Historically the GSI has provided primarily data services, but increasingly contracting authorities are demanding support for multi-media traffic such as voice, streaming video and collaborative technologies such as 'chat', whiteboarding, SMS etc across the GSI, and consequently, proposals to support and where appropriate, provide these services are sought.

Security will be a prime factor and compliance with all UK Government Security Policies will be mandatory.

Management and operation of the service must be carried out from secure centres within the mainland UK, and be fully replicated in more than one geographically diverse location. Provision of services such as user identification and authentication, intruder detection, anti-virus and other filtering technologies, and audit and accounting are expected, as is an appropriate mechanism to ensure separation of data and communication at varying levels of classification from Unclassified to Confidential and possibly above, within the network. The use of a comprehensive directory - which is in any case required for the delivery of white, yellow and green page services - may be appropriate in this respect.

The framework agreement(s) will provide for ancillary services to be provided in conjunction with network connectivity, potentially including but not limited to, electronic mail, remote and wireless access, web-mail, central web and application provision and hosting, content delivery, central storage, search services, managed firewall, LAN-interconnect, consultancy and similar customer-side services. Strong customer-focus and a highly granular management information offering is assumed to be imbedded in a mature service management culture. The successful service provider(s) will be responsible for managing the provision of any infrastructure necessary to facilitate a contracting authority in taking these services, either as a direct service or as a wider managed service provision.

Potential tenderers must note that the successful service provider(s) will be required to pay a small management fee to OGCbuying.solutions based on the value of each discrete order placed under the framework agreement(s).

3. **Delivery to:**

Primarily within the UK, comprising of UK mainland and Northern Ireland, and inner and outer islands, though a small number of end-users may be physically based overseas.

4.(a) **Reserved for a particular profession:**

No.

4.(b)

4.(c) **Obligation to mention the names and qualification of personnel:**

Yes.

5. **Division into lots:**

No.

6. **Number of service providers which will be invited to tender:**

Minimum: 5, Maximum: 15.

7. **Variants:**

Yes.

8. **Time limits for completion or duration of the contract, for starting or providing the service:**

The framework agreement(s) will be awarded for a period of five years, with an option for OGCbuying.solutions to extend on an annual basis up to a maximum of seven years.

9. **Legal form in case of group bidders:**

A prime contractor is required to take responsibility for the provision of all the services included in any resulting framework agreement(s).

10.(a)

10.(b) **Deadline for receipt of requests to participate:**

21.10.2002 (17.00).

10.(c) **Address:**

As in 1.

10.(d) **Language(s):**

English.

11. **Deposits and guarantees:**

The contracting authority reserves the right to require deposits and guarantees.

12. **Qualifications:**

Information concerning the personal situation of the contractor, supplier or service provider and information and formalities necessary for the evaluation of the minimum economic, financial and technical capacity required.

OGCbuying.solutions requests that service providers wishing to express an interest submit 2 paper copies of a statement of capability to the contact details specified in point 1 above. The statement of capability must include the information requested in section 12. Electronic submissions will not be accepted.

Legal position - means of proof required:

Confirmation that none of the circumstances described in Article 29 (a)-(g) of Directive 92/50/EEC apply.

Economic and financial capacity - means of proof required:

The following information is to be provided:

(i) the most recent audited accounts that cover the last two years of trading, or for the period that is available if trading for less than two years;

(ii) a statement of the organization's turnover, profit and loss and cash flow position for the most recent full year of trading (or part year if full year not applicable) and an end period balance sheet, where this information is not available in an audited form at (i);

(iii) where (ii) cannot be provided, a statement of the organisation's cash flow forecast for the current year and a bank letter outlining the current cash and credit facility position;

(iv) if applicable, the above financial information (i to iii) must also be provided in respect of the organisation's ultimate parent company.

Parent company and/or other guarantees of performance and financial liability may be required if considered appropriate.

Technical capacity - means of proof required:

(v) details of experience in providing the required services during the last two years, including the value of the services and the details of the recipients;

(vi) an indication of the elements of any resulting framework agreement(s) that the service provider would seek to subcontract;

(vii) details of resources and skills available to support the delivery of the services;

(viii) a statement of technical facilities available, methodologies used, and project management skills;

(ix) details of the measures used for ensuring quality, copies of external quality audit reports, and certification awarded by official quality control organizations relevant to the provision of GSI and similar services.

Contacts: Name of key contact, position, official address, telephone number and e-mail address.

13. **Providers already selected:**

No.

14. **Other information:**

Address from which further information can be obtained: as in 1.

Address from which documentation may be obtained: as in 1.

Type of contracting authority: central level.

Is it a framework agreement? Yes.

Type of procedure: negotiated procedure.

Award criteria: The most economically advantageous tender in terms of criteria as stated in contract documents.

Reference number attributed to the file by the contracting authority: OGC/008339.

Dispatch of invitations to tender to selected candidates: Estimated date: 4.11.2002.

Is this notice a non-mandatory one? No.

Does the contract relate to a project / programme financed by EU-funds? No.

Service providers' responses to point 12 of this notice will be assessed to determine a longlist of suitable service providers within the range of this notice to whom a Statement of Service Requirements (SSR) document and an accompanying draft contract will be issued requesting the submission of written proposals, together with comments on the draft contract.

Following the issue of the SSR it is the intention of the contracting authority to hold an Open Suppliers' Meeting (OSM) at which further details of the requirement will be presented to the longlist, and at which longlisted service providers' questions will be addressed. Details of the OSM will be included within the contract documentation.

Service providers' proposals as referred above of this notice will be assessed to determine a shortlist of suitable service providers with whom contract negotiations will be conducted and technical demonstrations will be undertaken.

Following the successful conclusion of above of this notice, service providers will be invited to submit firm costs for the provision of the agreed services. Following the evaluation of such costs and all other aspects of their bids, a successful service provider(s) will be selected and a framework agreement(s) will be set in place.

GO reference: GO 02091312/01.

15. **Notice postmarked:**

16.9.2002.

16. **Notice received on:**

16.9.2002.

17.

18. **Covered by the &quot;GPA&quot; agreement:**

Yes.