Request for Quotation



**Business Support Services for the Create Growth Programme**

Closing date for return of RFQ

5pm on Thursday 20 October 2022

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**PART A - GENERAL INFORMATION**

#### 1. DEFINITION OF TERMS

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Bid | means a Bidder’s response to this RFQ |
|  | Bidder | means the entity responding to this Request for Quotation. |
|  | Bidder’s Representative | means the Bidder’s representative who will coordinate all communications with OxLEP’s Representative in relation to this Request for Quotation. |
|  | Method Statement | means the outline description of how the Bidder proposes to perform or deliver the Service. |
|  | OxLEP | means Oxfordshire Local Economic Partnership |
|  | OxLEP’s Representative | means the Compliance Manager or Growth Hub Manager at OxLEP, who will coordinate all communications with the Bidder in relation to this Request for Quotation. |
|  | Request for Quotation  (RFQ) | means this document and all its appendices which have been sent to all Bidders. |
|  | Service | means the goods, works and/or services sought by OxLEP in accordance with the provisions of this Request for Quotation. |
|  | Specification | means the description of the Service contained in Appendix 1 to this Request for Quotation. |

2. BACKGROUND TO THE PROCUREMENT

2.1 Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP) requires a supplier to deliver business support services for the Create Growth Programme, for which OxLEP has applied for funding. This will involve providing business support directly to eligible SMEs from within the creative industries and will include one-to-one direct support and mentoring, workshop support and peer networks. Business support is expected to lead to creative businesses becoming investment ready and increasing their chances of accessing external investment. Please note: this procurement is dependent on our successful application for funding for this programme.

2.2 Bidders are invited to quote for the provision of the Services described at Appendix 1 - Specification for a term of 30 months (to the 31st March 2025), anticipated to commence in November 2022. This assumes OxLEP receives confirmation of the funding in September 2022.

2.2 Bidders may potentially be called for a clarification interview.

**3. INSTRUCTONS FOR COMPLETION AND RETURN OF RFQ**

1. Please e-mail any question(s) regarding this document and/or the RFQ process to [helen.brind@oxfordshirelep.com](mailto:tracy.james@ocfordshirelep.com) and [james.ruel@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:james.ruel@oxfordshire.gov.uk) . Questions and answers will be added to the OxLEP website. All questions must be received by midday on Friday 7th October 2022 and we aim to have answered them all by close of business on Monday 9th October 2022. No questions will be answered after that date. All answers will be published on the OxLEP website.
2. The documentation to be returned to OxLEP is listed as Sections A, B, C, and D of this RFQ. Failure to submit all documentation may result in your Bid being discounted.
3. Additional attachments should be clearly labelled in relation to the Section and question. In addition, please indicate under the relevant question that this has been done.
4. Bids must be in English.
5. If you reproduce the RFQ, the paragraph numbering, content or wording of the questions must not be changed in any way.
6. Where a question is not relevant to your organisation, you should respond “Not Applicable”.
7. Please do not supply general marketing, promotional or similar material in response to a question, unless such material is specifically requested, or the material supplied is particularly relevant to the question. In either event, the material should be marked clearly to show your name, the number of the question to which it relates and, if appropriate, the page number or the section of the material which is relevant.
8. OxLEP may require you to clarify any part of your Bid or to supply additional information if it considers this appropriate.
9. Where this RFQ refers to UK legislation, qualifications, codes or similar matters you should, if you are established outside the UK, base your response on the equivalent legislation, qualifications or codes that apply in the relevant domestic jurisdiction.
10. If you are a member of a group of companies (e.g. sister organisation, subsidiary etc.), the Bid should be completed on behalf of your organisation only and not on behalf of the group as a whole (except where group information is specifically requested).
11. OxLEP will not accept a Bidder’s terms of business in lieu of or in addition to the conditions included at Appendix 2. By submitting a Bid, Bidders are agreeing to be bound by the conditions at Appendix 2 without further negotiation or amendment should their Bid be accepted, unless changes are agreed by OxLEP and such changes notified to all Bidders prior to Bid submission.

1. Please return an electronic copy of your Bid including any supporting material by e-mail to:

[helen.brind@oxfordshirelep.com](mailto:tracy.james@ocfordshirelep.com) or [james.ruel@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:james.ruel@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

1. Please use a delivery and read receipt on your email to confirm it has been delivered. OxLEP will confirm receipt of your Bid but this may not be until after the deadline.
2. Failure to submit your Bid by the closing time and date may result in your Bid not being evaluated.
3. Bids must remain valid and open for acceptance for three months from the closing date for return of the RFQ.

###### 4. AWARD CRITERIA

4.1 Each Bid received will be evaluated against a range of scored and mandatory

criteria.

* The grounds for mandatory rejection as set out in Part B Section A2 (this section is Pass/Fail)
* The grounds for discretionary rejection as set out in Part B Section A3 (your Bid may be rejected at OxLEP’s discretion)
* The financial information requested in Part B Section A4 (this section is Pass/Fail. N.B. No specific financial standing requirement is in place for this RFQ.)
* The insurance information requested in Part B Section A5 (this Section is Pass/Fail)
* The scored criteria using the mechanism for scoring set out in Tables 1 and 2 respectively
* The mechanism for scoring Price set out in Table 3

Table 1 Scored criteria for this RFQ and respective weightings:

| **Criteria** | **Weighting (%)** | **Sub-Criteria** | **Weighting (%)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Price** | 25% |  | 25% |
| **Experience** | 30% | Relevant Skills & knowledge | 10% |
| Evidence of delivering the different elements of the service (specialist 1-1 support, workshop support and peer networks to businesses) | 20% |
| **Methodology** | 35% | Initial understanding of needs of creative industries SMEs | 20% |
| Approach to service and to giving advice to SMEs | 5% |
| Knowledge of the Oxfordshire creative industries sector | 10% |
| **Social Value** | 10% | Social Value offered by the supplier | 10% |

**Please note that if there are any mandatory requirements in the Specification which are not met, OxLEP will treat your Bid as non-compliant.**

Table 2 Scoring mechanism for the scored criteria of this RFQ:

| **Score** | **Definition** |
| --- | --- |
| **10** | **Very Good (fulfils the requirement)** |
| The response meets all that is expected for the criteria. It leaves the Contract Participants in no doubt as to the capability and commitment to deliver what is required. The response therefore shows: |
| * Very good understanding of the requirements * Considerable competence demonstrated through relevant evidence * Considerable insight into the relevant issues |
| Where the response relates to the development of a product or service, it is considered to be viable and that it will meet expectations in full. |
|  |
| **8** | **Good (provides the requirement with limited minor issues)** |
| The response broadly meets what is expected for the criteria. There are no significant areas of concern, although there may be limited minor issues that need further exploration or attention later in the procurement process. The response therefore shows: |
| * Good understanding of the requirements |
| * Sufficient competence demonstrated through relevant evidence |
| * Some insight demonstrated into the relevant issues. |
| Where the response relates to the development of a product or service, it has demonstrated a good and sound proposal which is likely to meet expectations, with limited minor issues. |
| . |
| **6** | **Fair (provides a basic measure of the requirement)** |
| The response meets most of the requirement but there is at least one significant issue of concern, or several smaller issues. These would require some further clarification or attention later in the procurement process, and may arise through lack of demonstrated capability and/or appropriate evidence. The response therefore shows: |
| * Basic understanding of the requirements |
| * Basic competence demonstrated through relevant evidence |
| * Some areas of concern that require attention. |
| Where the response relates to the development of a product or service, it is likely to meet most of the requirement, although there are areas of concern or shortfalls that require attention. |
| . |
| **4** | **Poor (provides some of the requirement with significant issues)** |
| The response meets elements of the requirement but gives concern in a number of significant areas. There are reservations because of one or all of the following: |
| * There are significant issues needing considerable attention |
| * There is insufficient evidence to demonstrate competence or understanding |
| * The response is light and unconvincing. |
| Where the response relates to the development of a product or service, it has met a limited amount of the requirement, but is light and unconvincing and has fallen short of expectations. |
| . |
| **2** | **Very Poor (provides very little of the requirement)** |
| The response meets very little of what would be expected. |
| Where the response relates to the development of a product or service, it has met very little of the requirement. |
| . |
| **0** | **No Answer given or Non-Compliant** |

Table 3 Scoring mechanism for Price

|  |
| --- |
| Lowest submitted tender will obtain a score of 100. The other tenders will be scored as a percentage variance (divide the lowest price by the next offer and multiply by 100 to work out score out of 100). |

4.2 OxLEP reserves the right to:

4.2.1 waive or change the requirements of this RFQ from time to time without prior (or any) notice;

4.2.2 withdraw this RFQ at any time, or to re-invite Bids on the same or any alternative basis;

4.2.3 choose not to award any contract as a result of the current procurement process, or to award the contract in part.

4.3 OxLEP will not be liable for any bid costs, expenditure, work or effort incurred by a Bidder in proceeding with or participating in this RFQ process including if the process is terminated or amended by OxLEP.

**5. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Freedom of Information

All information provided by you in your response to this RFQ will remain confidential and will not be disclosed to any other party except where required for official audit purposes or to the extent that OxLEP considers that disclosure is required pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or any other applicable legislation, legal requirement or code of practice.

Confidentiality

By receiving this RFQ you agree to keep confidential the information contained in the RFQ or made available in connection with further enquiries and questions. Such information may be made available to your employees and professional advisers for the purpose only of responding to this RFQ.

Material Changes

At any time before the award of the contract, OxLEP reserves the right to disqualify any organisation whose circumstances change to the extent that it ceases to meet the selection criteria or makes a material change in respect of its Bid unless substantial justification can be provided to the satisfaction of OxLEP. Where a Bidder becomes aware after having submitted a Bid of a change in circumstances or information supplied, it should notify OxLEP of this as soon as possible.

**6. INDICATIVE RFQ TIMETABLE**

The deadline for the return of the RFQ is as set out here unless otherwise notified by OxLEP. All other dates are indicative only and subject to change.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Timetable for proposals** | |
| **Activity** | **Date** |
| Advertised on CF and OxLEP website | 20/09/2022 |
| Deadline for questions in respect of this RFQ (midday) | 7/10/2022 |
| Latest date by which responses to questions will be published | 9/10/2022 |
| Closing date for proposals - 5pm | 20/10/2022 |
| If required, bidders invited for a clarification interview | 26/10/2022 |

**Proposals must be submitted by 5pm on the 20/10/2022**

**Appendix 1**

**Specification**

**About OxLEP**

The Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP), formally launched by the Business Minister, Mark Prisk MP in March 2011, is responsible for championing and developing the Oxfordshire economy. Now in its tenth year of operation, OxLEP has made considerable progress in strengthening Oxfordshire's economy by establishing robust and effective relationships between businesses, academia and the public sector.

This strong partnership is reflected within our Board - a body of Non-Executive Directors who are leaders within education, business and local authorities across Oxfordshire. With their support OxLEP can act as an informed, independent advocate for those driving innovation and growth across the county. In addition, we are also able to prioritise the key programmes needed to address priority deficiencies identified in Oxfordshire.

**Background**

OxLEP in collaboration with Buckinghamshire Business First has applied for funding from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) to deliver the Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Create Growth programme (BOXCGP). The programme is designed to support high-growth potential businesses from within the creative industries with the aim of building their management skills and understanding of the different finance routes to support business growth and investment readiness.

**Requirement**

OxLEP is looking to procure a supplier to deliver the Oxfordshire focused business support elements of the programme. If we are successful in obtaining funding for the programme, the intention is to commence delivery in October 2022 and completed on 31st March 2025 (approximately 30 months).

Following development of an initial bespoke report / action plan for each business following completion of an on-line diagnostic tool, OxLEP is requesting proposals from organisations to pprovide in depth support to Oxfordshire’s creative industry SMEs and signpost them to other support and assets available in the innovation and business support eco-system. The supplier will deliver the following elements of business support:

* One-to-one support / Mentoring
  + Regular follow up engagements, working with each business to ensure that knowledge gained can be effectively put into practice as appropriate within the organisation
  + Act as a listening ear, helping the businesses to deliver against their growth strategies
  + Work with businesses to tackle challenges and opportunities to grow and scale
  + Provide mentors from across the CI sector
  + Provide mentors with a tailored session at which the mentoring team can run through the entire programme, work on any CI specific elements and help develop their mentoring skills
  + Provide a matching service to compare the mentees’ needs and the mentors’ knowledge and experience and so find the right fit between the two
* Peer networking
  + Provide 9-10 peer mentoring sessions, delivered online, focusing on key issues and challenges shared across each cohort
  + Assemble cohorts of up to 10 fellow managers / business owners
  + Support collaboration and building businesses’ networks with like-minded local business owners and executives
  + Act as a feeder into the ongoing one-to-one support
* Seminar and workshops (both face-to-face and virtual)
  + Deliver one-to-many sessions with topics which could include:
    - Creating a value proposition (market research)
    - Business Planning preparing and planning for growth (developing a growth strategy)
    - Managing Money / budgeting and costing, including R&D tax credits
    - Understand what an investor is looking for in a business’ finances
    - Structure and leadership for growth (building a top team for growth)
    - Understanding your Intellectual Property Assets and how to protect your IP
    - Finding and keeping Customers (social media / networking skills, digital marketing)
    - Sales and marketing skills for Creatives Industries including Intelligent Selling
    - Pitching and negotiating skills (developing a winning investment pitch)
    - Using a carbon calculator to develop plans to reduce carbon footprints (how to measure, understand and report on the journey to NetZero)

Some workshops should also feature a “Pitching Event” this will be a special investor event featuring the opportunity for a business to present a pitch for funding for further growth from a panel of investors from both local and national investor networks and other entrepreneurs.

The supplier will also:

* Support with marketing and development of a pipeline of Creative Industry SMEs into the programme
* Embed Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) issues into the service, both in terms of enabling the programme to be attractive to a diverse range of creative businesses and business owners from more disadvantage and under-represented backgrounds, but also in terms of delivery, by demonstrating the advantages and benefits of EDI to businesses and helping them to embed this
* Support the Programme Assistant to be an initial point of contact for innovation support enquires and log SMEs and enquiries on the client relationship management (CRM)
* Collect, process and input data into the team’s information management/ filing systems and databases (e.g., CRM) ensuring accuracy, confidentiality and security of data and compliance with statutory requirements
* Provide information and support to monitor performance and reporting for the service

**Budget**

The maximum budget for this service is £200,000 excluding VAT (£240,000 inc. VAT).

**Outputs**

The successful consultancy will work to contribute towards the programme target of at least 100 businesses supported to become investment ready from a nationally managed fund or private investors.

We anticipate business receiving on average at least 8 hours of support.

**Appendix 2**

**Contract Conditions**

PART B – REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

SECTION A COMMERCIAL INFORMATION – TO BE COMPLETED

A1 BIDDER INFORMATION

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **A1.1 Bidder details** | **Answer** | |
| Full name of the Bidder completing the RFQ |  | |
| Registered company address |  | |
| Registered company number |  | |
| Registered charity number |  | |
| Registered VAT number |  | |
| Name of immediate parent company |  | |
| Name of ultimate parent company |  | |
| Please mark ‘X’ in the relevant box to indicate your trading status | i) a public limited company | ▢ Yes |
| ii) a limited company | ▢ Yes |
| iii) a limited liability partnership | ▢ Yes |
| iv) other partnership | ▢ Yes |
| v) sole trader | ▢ Yes |
| vi) other (please specify) | ▢ Yes |
| Please mark ‘X’ in the relevant boxes to indicate whether any of the following classifications apply to you | i) Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE – defined as a non-governmental organisation that is value-driven and which principally reinvests its surpluses to further social, environmental or cultural objectives.) | ▢ Yes |
| ii) Small or Medium Enterprise (SME) [[1]](#footnote-1) | ▢ Yes |
| iii) Sheltered workshop | ▢ Yes |
| iv) Public service mutual | ▢ Yes |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **A1.2 Contact details** | |
| Bidder contact details for enquiries about this RFQ | |
| Name |  |
| Postal address |  |
| Country |  |
| Phone |  |
| Mobile |  |
| E-mail |  |

**A2 MANDATORY REJECTION CRITERIA**

You will be excluded from the procurement process if there is evidence of convictions relating to specific criminal offences including, but not limited to, bribery, corruption, conspiracy, terrorism, fraud and money laundering, or if you have been the subject of a binding legal decision which found a breach of legal obligations to pay tax or social security obligations (except where this is disproportionate e.g. only minor amounts involved).

If you have answered “yes” to question A2.1 on the non-payment of taxes or social security contributions, and have not paid or entered into a binding arrangement to pay the full amount, you may still avoid exclusion if only minor tax or social security contributions are unpaid or if you have not yet had time to fulfil your obligations since learning of the exact amount due. If your organisation is in that position please provide details using a separate Appendix. You may contact OxLEP for advice before completing this form.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **A2.1 Within the past five years, has your organisation (or any member of your proposed consortium, if applicable), Directors or partner or any other person who has powers of representation, decision or control been convicted of any of the following offences?** | **Please indicate your answer by marking ‘X’ in the relevant box.** | |
| **Yes** | **No** |
| 1. conspiracy within the meaning of section 1 or 1A of the Criminal Law Act 1977 or article 9 or 9A of the Criminal Attempts and Conspiracy (Northern Ireland) Order 1983 where that conspiracy relates to participation in a criminal organisation as defined in Article 2 of Council Framework Decision 2008/841/JHA on the fight against organised crime; |  |  |
| 1. corruption within the meaning of section 1(2) of the Public Bodies Corrupt Practices Act 1889 or section 1 of the Prevention of Corruption Act 1906; |  |  |
| 1. the common law offence of bribery; |  |  |
| 1. bribery within the meaning of sections 1, 2 or 6 of the Bribery Act 2010; or section 113 of the Representation of the People Act 1983; |  |  |
| 1. any of the following offences, where the offence relates to fraud affecting the European Communities’ financial interests as defined by Article 1 of the Convention on the protection of the financial interests of the European Communities: |  |  |
| (i) the offence of cheating the Revenue; |  |  |
| (ii) the offence of conspiracy to defraud; |  |  |
| (iii) fraud or theft within the meaning of the Theft Act 1968, the Theft Act (Northern Ireland) 1969, the Theft Act 1978 or the Theft (Northern Ireland) Order 1978; |  |  |
| (iv) fraudulent trading within the meaning of section 458 of the Companies Act 1985, article 451 of the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 or section 993 of the Companies Act 2006; |  |  |
| (v) fraudulent evasion within the meaning of section 170 of the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979 or section 72 of the Value Added Tax Act 1994; |  |  |
| (vi) an offence in connection with taxation in the European Union within the meaning of section 71 of the Criminal Justice Act 1993; |  |  |
| (vii) destroying, defacing or concealing of documents or procuring the execution of a valuable security within the meaning of section 20 of the Theft Act 1968 or section 19 of the Theft Act (Northern Ireland) 1969; |  |  |
| (viii) fraud within the meaning of section 2, 3 or 4 of the Fraud Act 2006; or |  |  |
| (ix) the possession of articles for use in frauds within the meaning of section 6 of the Fraud Act 2006, or the making, adapting, supplying or offering to supply articles for use in frauds within the meaning of section 7 of that Act; |  |  |
| 1. any offence listed— |  |  |
| (i) in section 41 of the Counter Terrorism Act 2008; or |  |  |
| (ii) in Schedule 2 to that Act where the court has determined that there is a terrorist connection; |  |  |
| 1. any offence under sections 44 to 46 of the Serious Crime Act 2007 which relates to an offence covered by subparagraph (f); |  |  |
| 1. money laundering within the meaning of sections 340(11) and 415 of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002; |  |  |
| 1. an offence in connection with the proceeds of criminal conduct within the meaning of section 93A, 93B or 93C of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 or article 45, 46 or 47 of the Proceeds of Crime (Northern Ireland) Order 1996; |  |  |
| 1. an offence under section 4 of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants etc.) Act 2004; |  |  |
| 1. an offence under section 59A of the Sexual Offences Act 2003; |  |  |
| 1. an offence under section 71 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 |  |  |
| 1. an offence in connection with the proceeds of drug trafficking within the meaning of section 49, 50 or 51 of the Drug Trafficking Act 1994; or |  |  |
| 1. any other offence within the meaning of Article 57(1) of the Public Contracts Directive— |  |  |
| (i) as defined by the law of any jurisdiction outside England and Wales and Northern Ireland; or |  |  |
| (ii) created, after the day on which these Regulations were made, in the law of England and Wales or Northern Ireland. |  |  |
| **Non-payment of taxes**  **A2.2 Has it been established by a judicial or administrative decision having final and binding effect in accordance with the legal provisions of any part of the United Kingdom or the legal provisions of the country in which your organisation is established (if outside the UK), that your organisation is in breach of obligations related to the payment of tax or social security contributions?**  If you have answered Yes to this question, please use a separate Appendix to provide further details. Please also use this Appendix to confirm whether you have paid, or have entered into a binding arrangement with a view to paying, including, where applicable, any accrued interest and/or fines? |  |  |

**A3 DISCRETIONARY REJECTION CRITERIA**

OxLEP may exclude any Bidder who answers ‘Yes’ in any of the following situations set out in paragraphs (a) to (j);

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **A3.1 Within the past three years, please indicate if any of the following situations have applied, or currently apply, to your organisation.** | **Please indicate your answer by marking ‘X’ in the relevant box.** | |
| **Yes** | **No** |
| 1. your organisation has violated applicable obligations referred to in regulation 56 (2) of the Public Contract Regulations 2015 in the fields of environmental, social and labour law established by EU law, national law, collective agreements or by the international environmental, social and labour law provisions listed in Annex X to the Public Contracts Directive as amended from time to time; |  |  |
| 1. your organisation is bankrupt or is the subject of insolvency or winding-up proceedings, where your assets are being administered by a liquidator or by the court, where it is in an arrangement with creditors, where its business activities are suspended or it is in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure under the laws and regulations of any State; |  |  |
| 1. your organisation is guilty of grave professional misconduct, which renders its integrity questionable; |  |  |
| 1. your organisation has entered into agreements with other economic operators aimed at distorting competition; |  |  |
| 1. your organisation has a conflict of interest within the meaning of regulation 24 of the Public Contract Regulations 2015 that cannot be effectively remedied by other, less intrusive, measures; |  |  |
| 1. the prior involvement of your organisation in the preparation of the procurement procedure has resulted in a distortion of competition, as referred to in regulation 41, that cannot be remedied by other, less intrusive, measures; |  |  |
| 1. your organisation has shown significant or persistent deficiencies in the performance of a substantive requirement under a prior public contract, a prior contract with a contracting entity, or a prior concession contract, which led to early termination of that prior contract, damages or other comparable sanctions; |  |  |
| 1. your organisation—   (i) has been guilty of serious misrepresentation in supplying the information required for the verification of the absence of grounds for exclusion or the fulfilment of the selection criteria; or  (ii) has withheld such information or is not able to submit supporting documents required under regulation 59 of the Public Contract Regulations 2015; or |  |  |
| (i) your organisation has undertaken to |  |  |
| (aa) unduly influence the decision-making process of OxLEP, or |  |  |
| (bb) obtain confidential information that may confer upon your organisation undue advantages in the procurement procedure; or |  |  |
| (j) your organisation has negligently provided misleading information that may have a material influence on decisions concerning exclusion, selection or award. |  |  |

**Conflicts of interest**

In accordance with question A3.1 (e), OxLEP may exclude the Bidder if there is a conflict of interest which cannot be effectively remedied. The concept of a conflict of interest includes any situation where relevant staff members have, directly or indirectly, a financial, economic or other personal interest which might be perceived to compromise their impartiality and independence in the context of the procurement procedure.

Where there is any indication that a conflict of interest exists or may arise then it is the responsibility of the Bidder to inform OxLEP, detailing the conflict in a separate Appendix. Provided that it has been carried out in a transparent manner, routine pre-market engagement carried out by OxLEP should not represent a conflict of interest for the Bidder.

**Taking Account of Bidders’ Past Performance**

In accordance with question (g), OxLEP may assess the past performance of a Bidder (through a Certificate of Performance provided by a Customer or other means of evidence). OxLEP may take into account any failure to discharge obligations under the previous principal relevant contracts of the Bidder responding to this RFQ. OxLEP may also assess whether specified minimum standards for reliability for such contracts are met.

In addition, OxLEP may re-assess reliability based on past performance at key stages in the procurement process (e.g. contract award stage). Bidders may also be asked to update the evidence they provide in this section to reflect more recent performance on new or existing contracts (or to confirm that nothing has changed).

**‘Self-cleaning’**

Any Bidder that answers ‘Yes’ to questions A2.1, A2.2 and A3.1 should provide sufficient evidence, in a separate Appendix, that provides a summary of the circumstances and any remedial action that has taken place subsequently and effectively “self-cleans” the situation referred to in that question. The Bidder has to demonstrate it has taken such remedial action, to the satisfaction of OxLEP in each case.

If such evidence is considered by OxLEP (whose decision will be final) as sufficient, the Bidder concerned shall be allowed to continue in the procurement process.

In order for the evidence referred to above to be sufficient, the Bidder shall, as a minimum, prove that it has;

* paid or undertaken to pay compensation in respect of any damage caused by the criminal offence or misconduct;
* clarified the facts and circumstances in a comprehensive manner by actively collaborating with the investigating authorities; and
* taken concrete technical, organisational and personnel measures that are appropriate to prevent further criminal offences or misconduct.

The measures taken by the Bidder shall be evaluated taking into account the gravity and particular circumstances of the criminal offence or misconduct. Where the measures are considered by OxLEP to be insufficient, the Bidder shall be given a statement of the reasons for that decision

**A4** All financial accounts and supporting information should wherever possible be in English and GBP Sterling. Where this is not possible, OxLEP will use an exchange rate for certain parts of its assessment of financial standing. The source of the exchange rate to be used and the rate itself will be notified to the Bidder by OxLEP at the time the assessment is made.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **FINANCIAL INFORMATION** | |
|  |  | |
| A4.1 | **Please provide one of the following to demonstrate your economic/financial standing;**  Please indicate your answer with an ‘X’ in the relevant box. | |
| 1. A copy of the audited accounts for the most recent two years |  |
| 1. A statement of the turnover, profit & loss account, current liabilities and assets, and cash flow for the most recent year of trading for this organisation |  |
| 1. A statement of the cash flow forecast for the current year and a bank letter outlining the current cash and credit position |  |
| A4.2 | Where OxLEP has specified a minimum level of economic and financial standing and/or a minimum financial threshold within the evaluation criteria for this RFQ, please self-certify by answering ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ that you meet the requirements set out here. | ▢ Yes  ▢ No  ▢ Not requested for this RFQ |
| A4.3 | **(a) Are you are part of a wider group (e.g. a subsidiary of a holding/parent company)?**  If yes, please provide the name below:   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Name of the organisation |  | | Relationship to the Bidder completing the RFQ |  |   If yes, please provide Ultimate / parent company accounts if available.  If yes, would the Ultimate / parent company be willing to provide a guarantee if necessary?  If no, would you be able to obtain a guarantee elsewhere (e.g. from a bank?) | ▢ Yes  ▢ No  ▢ Yes  ▢ No  ▢ Yes  ▢ No |

**A5** OxLEP’s minimum insurance requirements for any contract(s) awarded for the goods and/or services covered by this RFQ are set out below. Evidence in the form of valid certificates of insurance for at least the sums set out below will be required prior to contract award.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| A5.1 | Please self-certify whether you already have, or can commit to obtain, prior to the commencement of the contract, the levels of insurance cover indicated below:  Employer’s (Compulsory) Liability Insurance £5m Public Liability Insurance = £5m Professional Indemnity Insurance = £2m  \* It is a legal requirement that all companies hold Employer’s (Compulsory) Liability Insurance of £5 million as a minimum. Please note this requirement is not applicable to Sole Traders. | ▢ Yes  ▢ No |

**A6** Please provide details of up to 3 contracts performed during the past 3 years that are relevant to and demonstrate your experience in providing the Service covered by this RFQ. Although the information you provide will not be scored as part of this RFQ process, OxLEP may wish to use it in order to verify your relevant experience and capability. Please note therefore that the customer contact should be prepared to confirm the accuracy of the information provided should OxLEP wish to contact them.

**For each contract** please provide the following information:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Customer organisation name |  |
| Customer contact name, position in organisation, phone number and email address |  |
| Contract start date  Contract completion date  Estimated Contract Value |  |
| Brief description of contract (max 150 words |  |

**SECTION B METHOD STATEMENT**

Please describe how you propose to deliver the Service described in Appendix 1 Specification.

*You must:*

* *Provide evidence that you have relevant knowledge and skills for this role*
* *Provide evidence of how you go about successfully building and embedding client relationships*
* *Provide evidence that demonstrates your in depth understanding about the programme’s potential clients in Oxfordshire and Oxfordshire’s creative sector*
* *Demonstrate your approach to providing the business support to SMEs to support SMEs to be investment / funding ready*
* *Explain your plan for commencing and delivering the service*
* *Provide evidence of your understanding of the Creative Industries in Oxfordshire*
* *Demonstrate how EDI considerations will be built into all stages and elements of delivery*
* *Demonstrate a clear strategy on how you will work with OxLEP to help them deliver programme targets*
* *Demonstrate the Social Value you will bring to and deliver due to the programme*

METHOD STATEMENT

**SECTION C PRICING SCHEDULE**

METHOD STATEMENT (continued)

Please insert your quotation price for delivery of the Service set out in the Specification **excluding VAT** in GBP Sterling.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Cost per day (£)** | **Description / Assumptions** |
|  | **£** |  |
| **Total** | **£** | Please specify how many days per week have been used to calculate the budget. |

You should identify all potential cost components anticipated in your delivery of the Service described in Appendix 1 Specification within the consultancy rate. No additional costs for travel or expenses will be considered by OxLEP unless these are clearly stated in your Pricing Schedule response.

NB: This contract is within IR35 Legislation

**SECTION D FORM OF QUOTATION**

Contract for Business Support Services for the Create Growth Programme

To Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership

I/we the undersigned DO HEREBY OFFER to provide the Service upon and subject to the terms and conditions set out in such Contract Conditions, Specification, and the pricing and rates contained in the Pricing Schedule and other documents as are contained or incorporated herein. This offer remains valid and open for acceptance for three months.

The amount of my/our Bid has not been calculated by agreement or arrangement with any person other than OxLEP and that the amount of my/our Bid has not been communicated to any person until after the closing date for the submission of Bids and in any event not without the consent of OxLEP.

I/we have not and will not enter into any agreement or arrangement with any person that they shall refrain from bidding, that they shall withdraw or vary the amount of any Bid once offered or otherwise collude with any person with the intent of preventing or restricting full competition.

I/we have not canvassed and will not, before the evaluation process, canvass or solicit any member or officer, employee or agent of OxLEP in connection with the award of the Contract and that no person employed by me/us has done or will do any such act.

Signature ...............................................................

## Duly authorised for and on behalf of the Bidder

(Electronic/typed signatures are acceptable)

Position held ...............................................................

Name and Address ...............................................................

of Bidder

...............................................................

...............................................................

Dated ...............................................................

It must be clearly shown whether the Bidder is a Limited Company, Corporation, Partnership, or Single Individual, trading in his own or another name, and also if the person signing is not the actual Bidder, the capacity in which s/he signs or is employed.

**SECTION E BIDDER CHECKLIST**

Bidders should ensure that they have completed the following sections before returning their RFQ responses:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **SECTION HEADING** | **COMPLETED?** |
| **Section A Commercial Questions** | 🞏 |
| **Section B Method Statement** | 🞏 |
| **Section C Pricing Schedule** | 🞏 |
| **Section D Form of Quotation** | 🞏 |

It is important that all sections are completed as failure to do so may result in your RFQ response not being considered.

All correspondence relating to this request for proposals should be directed to:

Helen Brind and James Ruel in writing by email [helen.brind@oxfordshirelep.com](mailto:helen.brind@oxfordshirelep.com) and [james.ruel@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:james.ruel@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Any questions raised by bidders will be published on the OxLEP website so all potential respondents can view them.

1. See EU definition of SME: <http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/facts-figures-analysis/sme-definition/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)