

**UK-Blackpool: IT services: consulting, software development, Internet and support
2009/S 165-239394**

CONTRACT NOTICE

Services

SECTION I: CONTRACTING AUTHORITY

I.1) NAME, ADDRESSES AND CONTACT POINT(S):

The Department for Work and Pensions (the "Contracting Authority"), PP60 Peel Park Brunel Way, Contact: Future Contracting Strategy Application Deployment Strand, Attn: Project Management Office, UK-Blackpool FY4 5ES. E-mail: AD.FCS@dwp.gsi.gov.uk.

Internet address(es):

General address of the contracting authority: www.dwp.gov.uk.

Further information can be obtained at: As in above-mentioned contact point(s).

Specifications and additional documents (including documents for competitive dialogue and a dynamic purchasing system) can be obtained at: As in above-mentioned contact point(s).

Tenders or requests to participate must be sent to: As in above-mentioned contact point(s).

I.2) TYPE OF THE CONTRACTING AUTHORITY AND MAIN ACTIVITY OR ACTIVITIES:

Ministry or any other national or federal authority, including their regional or local subdivisions.

General public services.

Social protection.

The contracting authority is purchasing on behalf of other contracting authorities: yes.

SECTION II: OBJECT OF THE CONTRACT

II.1) DESCRIPTION

II.1.1) Title attributed to the contract by the contracting authority:

Application Deployment (Application Development, Application Delivery, Application Maintenance and Support and related IT Services).

II.1.2) Type of contract and location of works, place of delivery or of performance:
Services.

Service category: No 07.

Main place of performance: Throughout the premises of the Contracting Authority, or its agents, and other government departments or organisations, and their agents, located in the United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, but excluding the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man).

NUTS code: UK .

II.1.3) The notice involves:

A public contract.

II.1.4) Information on framework agreement:

II.1.5) Short description of the contract or purchase(s):

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) promotes opportunity and independence for all through modern, customer focussed services designed to help people achieve their potential through employment, so that they are able to provide for their children and to work and save for secure retirement. We aim to deliver the best possible service for the people who rely on us. The DWP has established a comprehensive IS/IT service

architecture to support effective delivery to our customers and utilises one of the largest IS/IT estates in Europe including in excess of one hundred major application systems. Many elements of the IS/IT estate are currently delivered to DWP under existing commercial arrangements with outsourced service providers.

A key element of the IS/IT service architecture is the provision of an Application Deployment service which involves the provision of feasibility, prototyping, design, development, integration, build, test, implementation, maintenance and management of applications, provision of technical consulting, support, and continuing development and enhancement of application functionality to support evolving business requirements. DWP is seeking to award five contracts for the delivery of the full range of Application Deployment services to the DWP and other organisations as described in VI.3.

DWP currently obtains certain Application Deployment services under a number of existing commercial arrangements which are due to expire between February 2011 to August 2014. It is expected that lead suppliers will commence take-on of Application Deployment services from the date of contract award via a phased transition process. Service providers are expected to take responsibility for the provision of an effective and seamless transition from the current service as well as delivering new and enhanced Application Deployment services as required under the terms of the contracts.

Application Deployment services must be performed in accordance with Government and DWP standards and industry standards and applicable interoperability procedures to ensure effective operation of the service within the relevant IS/IT service architecture. This will involve establishing and maintaining cooperative working relationships with third party service providers, for example to deliver and/or support effective incident, change, configuration and release management, testing and validation, security, disaster recovery, finance and vendor management.

Each service provider will be expected to leverage the development of common services, making effective use of integration technologies, 'Commercial Off The Shelf' (COTS) packages and leveraging from existing systems and assets to deliver efficient service delivery. A key requirement is that applications are capable of re-use and integration within the wider DWP service architecture and may be re-used, integrated and delivered to other organisations where this will support DWP in meeting HM Government's Transformational Government Strategy.

Service providers are also expected to have an appropriately robust supply chain of varied general and specialist suppliers that can be engaged to deliver the full range of DWP requirements and be committed to maintaining an active engagement of SMEs (Small and Medium sized Enterprises).

The Application Deployment services to be delivered under this contract notice are set out in five (5) Lots. Each Lot comprises the provision of services for an initial period of 7 years but with options to extend for further periods of up to 3 additional years.

The Lots cover the full range of DWP's Application Deployment service requirements and have been developed in support of the DWP's contracting strategy for delivery of such services through the appointment of a series of lead service providers, each having principal responsibility for a specific range of Application Deployment services as more particularly described in Annex B. The lead service providers for Lots 1, 2 and 3 shall additionally provide DWP with a reserve Application Deployment service, which DWP may activate if the lead service provider for any of those Lots fails to meet certain

specified conditions relating to expected levels of service performance, delivery standards, financial standing and capacity, value for money and/or continuity of supply. In order to support this strategy, bidders participating in Lots 1, 2 and 3 (i) must submit a tender for at least two of Lots 1, 2 and 3; and (ii) will (if awarded a contract in respect of any of those Lots) be required to perform services on a reserve basis in respect of the Lot(s) for which they have not been appointed as the relevant lead service provider but have submitted a tender which is ranked as the next highest after the tender submitted by the successful lead service provider, after disregarding any tenders submitted by supplier(s) who are not separately awarded a contract pursuant to Lot 1, 2 or 3. Whilst bidders may submit tenders in respect of each of Lots 1, 2 and 3, in order to further support this strategy (i) bidders may not be awarded a contract for more than two of those Lots; and (ii) will (if submitting a tender for each of Lots 1, 2 and 3) be required to indicate a preference during the tender stage which shall be applied in the event that their tenders are highest ranked in the evaluation of all of those Lots.

II.1.6) Common procurement vocabulary (CPV):

72000000, 72200000, 72210000, 72211000, 72212000, 72212100, 72212983, 72212984, 72212985, 72220000, 72221000, 72222000, 72222100, 72222200, 72222300, 72223000, 72224000, 72224100, 72224200, 72225000, 72226000, 72227000, 72228000, 72230000, 72232000, 72240000, 72241000, 72242000, 72243000, 72244000, 72245000, 72246000, 72250000, 72251000, 72252000, 72253200, 72254000, 72254100, 72260000, 72261000, 72262000, 72263000, 72264000, 72265000, 72266000, 72267000, 72267100, 72267200, 72268000, 72300000, 72310000, 72311000, 72311100, 72311200, 72311300, 72312000, 72312100, 72313000, 72314000, 72316000, 72317000, 72318000, 72319000, 72320000, 72321000, 72322000, 72416000, 72500000, 72514000, 72253000, 72253100.

II.1.7) Contract covered by the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA):

Yes.

II.1.8) Division into lots:

Yes.

Tenders should be submitted for: one or more lots.

II.1.9) Variants will be accepted:

No.

II.2) QUANTITY OR SCOPE OF THE CONTRACT

II.2.1) Total quantity or scope:

The total estimated value range is between 175 000 000,00 GBP and 275 000 000,00 GBP per annum excluding the value of such services provided to related and/or other organisations as are described below. This is comprised of the estimated combined value of all 5 Lots per annum.

Estimated value excluding VAT:

Range: between and EUR.

II.2.2) Options:

Yes.

Description of these options: For each Lot, DWP will require a unilateral option to extend the initial term of seven (7) years by up to a further three (3) years.

II.3) DURATION OF THE CONTRACT OR TIME-LIMIT FOR COMPLETION:

Duration in months: 84 (from the award of the contract).

INFORMATION ABOUT LOTS

LOT NO 1 TITLE: Customer Facing Systems Lead Supplier

1) SHORT DESCRIPTION:

Application Deployment Services in respect of Customer Facing Systems.

2) COMMON PROCUREMENT VOCABULARY (CPV):

72000000, 72200000, 72210000, 72220000, 72230000, 72240000, 72250000, 72260000, 72300000, 72500000.

3) QUANTITY OR SCOPE:

The range given below is per annum.

Estimated cost excluding VAT:

Range: between 50 000 000,00 and 75 000 000,00 GBP.

4) INDICATION ABOUT DIFFERENT DATE FOR DURATION OF CONTRACT OR STARTING/COMPLETION:

Duration in months: 84 (from the award of the contract).

5) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT LOTS:

The service provider will have principal responsibility for delivering the full range of Application Deployment services in respect of the applications that relate to external customer facing systems, comprising systems used by external customers to contact DWP directly (typically via telephone contact, web services etc) and the execution of transactional activities related to external customers up to the point of interface with DWP's core benefit systems ("Principal Services for Lot 1"). The Principal Services for Lot 1 may include the development of enhanced functionality to external customer facing systems for example in relation to customer relationship management and/or customer behaviours and supporting DWP in conducting feasibility assessments regarding the potential re-use of applications comprised within this Lot for the benefit of the wider customer estate and, where applicable, providing appropriate Application Deployment services to enable such re-use.

As identified in Section II.1.5, the DWP's contracting strategy anticipates the Lot 1 service provider may be required to perform the Application Deployment services identified in Lot 2 and/or Lot 3 as "Principal Services for Lot 2" and "Principal Services for Lot 3" respectively on a reserve basis, if certain conditions relating to expected levels of service performance, delivery standards, financial standing and capacity, value for money and/or continuity of supply are not met by (respectively) the service provider for Lot 2 and/or Lot 3 ("Reserve Services").

The Reserve Services applicable to this Lot 1 will include the Principal Services for Lot 2 if the successful bidder under this Lot 1 submits the highest ranked tender under Lot 2, after disregarding the tender submitted by the successful supplier for Lot 2 and any tenders submitted by bidders who are not separately awarded contracts under Lots 1, 2 or 3.

The Reserve Services applicable to this Lot 1 will include the Principal Services for Lot 3 if the successful bidder under this Lot 1 submits the highest ranked tender under Lot 3, after disregarding the tender submitted by the successful supplier for Lot 3 and any tenders submitted by bidders who are not separately awarded contracts under Lots 1, 2 or 3.

LOT NO 2 TITLE: Core Benefit System Lead Supplier

1) SHORT DESCRIPTION:

Application Deployment Services in respect of Core Benefit Systems.

2) COMMON PROCUREMENT VOCABULARY (CPV):

72000000, 72200000, 72210000, 72220000, 72230000, 72240000, 72250000, 72260000, 72300000, 72500000.

3) QUANTITY OR SCOPE:

The range given below is per annum.

Estimated cost excluding VAT:

Range: between 50 000 000,00 and 75 000 000,00 GBP.

4) INDICATION ABOUT DIFFERENT DATE FOR DURATION OF CONTRACT OR STARTING/COMPLETION:

Duration in months: 84 (from the award of the contract).

5) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT LOTS:

The service provider will have principal responsibility for delivering the full range of Application Deployment services in respect of applications which relate to benefit administration and helping people back to work. Much of the work anticipated under this Lot relates to development and maintenance of DWP's existing legacy core benefit systems ("Principal Services for Lot 2"). The Principal Services for Lot 2 may include services to support DWP in conducting feasibility assessments regarding the potential re-use of applications comprised within this Lot for the benefit of the wider customer estate and, where applicable, providing appropriate Application Deployment services to enable such re-use.

As identified in Section II.1.5, the DWP's contracting strategy anticipates the Lot 2 service provider may be required to perform the Application Deployment services identified in Lot 1 and/or Lot 3 as "Principal Services for Lot 1" and "Principal Services for Lot 3" respectively on a reserve basis, if certain conditions relating to expected levels of service performance, delivery standards, financial standing and capacity, value for money and/or continuity of supply are not met by (respectively) the service provider for Lot 1 and/or Lot 3 ("Reserve Services").

The Reserve Services applicable to this Lot 2 will include the Principal Services for Lot 1 if the successful bidder under this Lot 2 submits the highest ranked tender under Lot 1, after disregarding the tender submitted by the successful supplier for Lot 1 and any tenders submitted by bidders who are not separately awarded contracts under Lots 1, 2 or 3.

The Reserve Services applicable to this Lot 2 will include the Principal Services for Lot 3 if the successful bidder under this Lot 2 submits the highest ranked tender under Lot 3, after disregarding the tender submitted by the successful supplier for Lot 3 and any tenders submitted by bidders who are not separately awarded contracts under Lots 1, 2 or 3.

LOT NO 3 TITLE: Business Facilitating Systems Lead Supplier

1) SHORT DESCRIPTION:

Application Deployment Services in respect of Business Facilitating Systems.

2) COMMON PROCUREMENT VOCABULARY (CPV):

72000000, 72200000, 72210000, 72220000, 72230000, 72240000, 72250000, 72260000, 72300000, 72500000.

3) QUANTITY OR SCOPE:

The range given below is per annum.

Estimated cost excluding VAT:

Range: between 50 000 000,00 and 75 000 000,00 GBP.

4) INDICATION ABOUT DIFFERENT DATE FOR DURATION OF CONTRACT OR STARTING/COMPLETION:

Duration in months: 84 (from the award of the contract).

5) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT LOTS:

The service provider will have principal responsibility for delivering the full range of Application Deployment services in respect of applications which are utilised in a number of different end to end systems and support functions to other IS/IT systems in the DWP estate, including by way of example applications relating to customer payments and other payments and accounting systems, data warehousing, customer information systems, electronic document repositories and data ("Principal Services for Lot 3"). The Principal Services for Lot 3 may include services to support DWP in conducting feasibility assessments regarding the potential re-use of applications comprised within this Lot for the benefit of the wider customer estate and, where applicable, providing appropriate Application Deployment services to enable such re-use.

As identified in Section II.1.5, the DWP's contracting strategy anticipates the Lot 3 service provider may be required to perform the Application Deployment services identified in Lot 1 and/or Lot 2 as "Principal Services for Lot 1" and "Principal Services for Lot 2" respectively on a reserve basis, if certain conditions relating to expected levels of service performance, delivery standards, financial standing and capacity, value for money and/or continuity of supply are not met by (respectively) the service provider for Lot 1 and/or Lot 2 ("Reserve Services").

The Reserve Services applicable to this Lot 3 will include the Principal Services for Lot 1 if the successful bidder under this Lot 3 submits the highest ranked tender under Lot 1, after disregarding the tender submitted by the successful supplier for Lot 1 and any tenders submitted by bidders who are not separately awarded contracts under Lots 1, 2 or 3.

The Reserve Services applicable to this Lot 3 will include the Principal Services for Lot 2 if the successful bidder under this Lot 3 submits the highest ranked tender under Lot 2, after disregarding the tender submitted by the successful supplier for Lot 2 and any tenders submitted by bidders who are not separately awarded contracts under Lots 1, 2 or 3.

LOT NO 4 TITLE: Business Prototyping

1) SHORT DESCRIPTION:

Application Deployment Services in respect of Business Prototyping, Small Systems and 'Stand Alone' Systems.

2) COMMON PROCUREMENT VOCABULARY (CPV):

72000000, 72200000, 72210000, 72220000, 72240000, 72250000, 72260000, 72300000.

3) QUANTITY OR SCOPE:

The range given below is per annum.

Estimated cost excluding VAT:

Range: between 5 000 000,00 and 10 000 000,00 GBP.

4) INDICATION ABOUT DIFFERENT DATE FOR DURATION OF CONTRACT OR STARTING/COMPLETION:

Duration in months: 84 (from the award of the contract).

5) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT LOTS:

The service provider will have principal responsibility for delivering the full range of Application Deployment services in relation to the development, enhancement and support of business prototyping, small systems and 'stand alone' systems. The services are likely to comprise technical delivery of systems including by way of example, business prototyping, technical proving, specific quick mobilisation and systems which are not for national deployment.

The service provider will not be required to deliver the full scale build of any prototype applications initially developed under this Lot.

LOT NO 5 TITLE: Application Support

1) SHORT DESCRIPTION:

Enterprise Level Application Support Services.

2) COMMON PROCUREMENT VOCABULARY (CPV):

72000000, 72200000, 72250000, 72260000, 72300000, 72500000.

3) QUANTITY OR SCOPE:

The range given below is per annum.

Estimated cost excluding VAT:

Range: between 20 000 000,00 and 40 000 000,00 GBP.

4) INDICATION ABOUT DIFFERENT DATE FOR DURATION OF CONTRACT OR STARTING/COMPLETION:

Duration in months: 84 (from the award of the contract).

5) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT LOTS:

The service provider will have principal responsibility for provision of ITIL Service Management functions in respect of the live operation of a wide variety of applications in the DWP estate. These may have been developed by other Lot Providers and/or other third party application development and maintenance service providers. The successful service provider for this Lot may be required to take on the provision of certain of these services from the DWP's current application maintenance and support service provider on a transitioned basis.

SECTION III: LEGAL, ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION

III.1) CONDITIONS RELATING TO THE CONTRACT

III.1.1) Deposits and guarantees required:

Parent company guarantee or performance bond may be required from suppliers.

III.1.2) Main financing conditions and payment arrangements and/or reference to the relevant provisions regulating them:

To be discussed with bidders.

III.1.3) Legal form to be taken by the group of economic operators to whom the contract is to be awarded:

III.1.4) Other particular conditions to which the performance of the contract is subject:

No.

III.2) CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION

III.2.1) Personal situation of economic operators, including requirements relating to enrolment on professional or trade registers:

Information and formalities necessary for evaluating if requirements are met: Any provider may be disqualified if any of the circumstances listed in Article 45 of the Public Procurement Directive 2004/18/EC (Regulation 23 of each of the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 apply) and providers will be asked to complete a declaration. The matter will be addressed more fully in a separate Pre-Qualification Questionnaire ("PQQ") which will be issued to all parties who express an interest in this procurement. This PQQ will be issued following expiry of the period identified at section IV 3.4. Candidates will be assessed in accordance with Part 4 of The Public Contracts Regulations 2006 (implementing Title II Chapter VII Section 2 of Directive 2004/18/EC), on the basis of information provided in response to the PQQ.

III.2.2) Economic and financial capacity:

Information and formalities necessary for evaluating if requirements are met: The matter will be addressed in a separate PQQ which will be issued to all parties who express an interest in this procurement. This PQQ will be issued following expiry of the period identified at section IV.3.4.

III.2.3) Technical capacity:

Information and formalities necessary for evaluating if requirements are met: The matter will be addressed in a separate PQQ which will be issued to all parties who express an interest in this procurement. This PQQ will be issued following expiry of the period identified at section IV.3.4.

III.2.4) Reserved contracts:

No.

III.3) CONDITIONS SPECIFIC TO SERVICES CONTRACTS

III.3.1) Execution of the service is reserved to a particular profession:

No.

III.3.2) Legal entities should indicate the names and professional qualifications of the staff responsible for the execution of the service:

Yes.

SECTION IV: PROCEDURE

IV.1) TYPE OF PROCEDURE

IV.1.1) Type of procedure:

Competitive dialogue.

IV.1.2) Limitations on the number of operators who will be invited to tender or to participate:

Envisaged minimum number: 3. Maximum number: 6

Objective criteria for choosing the limited number of candidates: The criteria for limiting the number of candidates will be described in the PQQ which will be issued to all parties who express an interest in this procurement. The PQQ will be issued following expiry of the period identified at section IV.3.4 The Contracting Authority intends to invite to participate in a dialogue a minimum of 3 candidates and an envisaged maximum number of 6 candidates for each Lot, in each case on the basis of the order of ranking of candidates at the PQQ stage at which the criteria referred to in Part 4 of The Public Contracts Regulations 2006 (implementing Articles 45-52 inclusive of the Directive 2004/18/EC) will be assessed and marked.

IV.1.3) Reduction of the number of operators during the negotiation or dialogue:

Recourse to staged procedure to gradually reduce the number of solutions to be discussed or tenders to be negotiated yes.

IV.2) AWARD CRITERIA

IV.2.1) Award criteria:

The most economically advantageous tender in terms of the criteria stated in the specifications, in the invitation to tender or to negotiate or in the descriptive document.

IV.2.2) An electronic auction will be used:

No.

IV.3) ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

IV.3.1) File reference number attributed by the contracting authority:

IV.3.2) Previous publication(s) concerning the same contract:

Prior information notice

Notice number in OJ: [2009/S 48-069849](#) of 11.3.2009.

IV.3.3) Conditions for obtaining specifications and additional documents or descriptive document:

Payable documents: no.

IV.3.4) Time-limit for receipt of tenders or requests to participate:

28.9.2009 - 12:00.

IV.3.5) Date of dispatch of invitations to tender or to participate to selected candidates:

IV.3.6) Language(s) in which tenders or requests to participate may be drawn up:

English.

IV.3.7) Minimum time frame during which the tenderer must maintain the tender:

IV.3.8) Conditions for opening tenders:

SECTION VI: COMPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

VI.1) THIS IS A RECURRENT PROCUREMENT:

No.

VI.2) CONTRACT RELATED TO A PROJECT AND/OR PROGRAMME FINANCED BY EU FUNDS:

No.

VI.3) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

It is important to note the following qualifications and additions to the information provided elsewhere in this notice:

(A) Section I.1: The Contracting Authority will be the Department for Work and Pensions ("DWP"). Services are to be provided for the DWP and may be provided to other related organisations which are involved in the administration of social security, welfare benefits, social services and related matters, eg housing and council tax benefit. Without prejudice to the generality of the aforementioned description of related organisations, these include, inter alia, the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission; the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency, and the Department for Social Development (DSD NI) acting for the Northern Ireland Social Security Agency (NISSA). In addition, services may be provided to other organisations to whom or with which DWP delivers a shared service in accordance with HM Government's Transformational Government Strategy which includes for example G-cloud. Further information about the strategy can be found at <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/cio.aspx>. The DWP will conduct the procurement process on behalf of itself and these other organisations. Any

contract(s) awarded may be entered into by or for the benefit of any one or more of these organisations. The DWP may also act as a central purchasing body in respect of any of these organisations. These matters will be more fully addressed in descriptive documents which will be issued to all parties who are selected to participate in the dialogue.

(B) Section II.1.8: Bidders may bid for any or all of the Lots but should be aware that the DWP's contracting strategy for Application Deployment services anticipates the appointment of at least two separate lead service providers in respect of Lots 1, 2 and 3. In order to support this strategy bidders participating in Lots 1, 2 and 3 may not be awarded a contract for all of those Lots and will be required, if wishing to submit a tender for each of Lots 1, 2 and 3, to indicate a preference during the tender stage which shall be applied in the event that their tenders are highest ranked in the evaluation of all of those Lots. The contracting strategy for Application Deployment additionally anticipates that contracts awarded in respect of Lots 1, 2 and 3 shall include an option for the provision of services on a reserve basis as further described in Annex B. In order to support this strategy, bidders participating in Lots 1, 2 and 3 (i) must submit a tender for at least two of Lots 1, 2 and 3; and (ii) will (if awarded a contract in respect of any of those Lots) be required to perform services on a reserve basis in respect of the Lot(s) for which they have not been appointed as the relevant lead service provider but have submitted a tender which is ranked as the next highest after the tender submitted by the successful lead service provider, after disregarding any tenders submitted by supplier(s) who are not separately awarded a contract pursuant to Lot 1, 2 or 3. Matters relating to definitions of each of the Lots will be more fully addressed in a separate PQQ which will be issued to all parties who express an interest in this procurement.

(C) Section II.2.1: Following contract award it is expected there will be a phased take-on of work by the successful suppliers. The value of the contract will increase during a phased transition of services from existing contracts to the new contracts. The estimated value given in this section relates to the total estimated work per annum at peak demand across all Lots.

(D) Section III.3.2: Key Personnel will be identified in the contract(s).

(E) Further Relevant Information: There is no additional information available at this stage prior to the provision of the PQQ. The PQQ will be issued following expiry of the period identified at section IV.3.4. More general information regarding the DWP can be found at www.dwp.gov.uk.

The Contracting Authority expressly reserves the rights: (i) not to award any contract as a result of the procurement process commenced by publication of this notice; (ii) to make whatever changes it may see fit to the content and structure of the tendering competition; (iii) to award one or more contract(s) in relation to part only of the requirements covered by this notice; and in no circumstances will the Contracting Authority be liable for any costs incurred by candidates.

VI.4) PROCEDURES FOR APPEAL

VI.4.1) Body responsible for appeal procedures:

See VI.4.2.

VI.4.2) Lodging of appeals:

Precise information on deadline(s) for lodging appeals: The Contracting Authority will incorporate a minimum 10 calendar day standstill period at the point information on the award of the contract is communicated to tenderers. This period allows unsuccessful

tenderers to seek further debriefing from the Contracting Authority before the contract is entered into. Applicants have 2 working days from the notification of the award decision to request additional debriefing and that information has to be provided a minimum of 3 working days before the expiry of the standstill period. Such additional information should be requested from the address in section I.1. The purpose of the standstill period is to allow parties to apply to the Courts to set aside the award decision before the contract is entered into.

If a legal challenge regarding the award of a contract has not been successfully resolved the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 (SI 2006 No 5) provide for aggrieved parties who have been harmed or are at risk of harm by a breach of the rules to take action in the High Court (England, Wales and Northern Ireland). Any such action must be brought promptly (generally within 3 months). Where a contract has not been entered into the Court may order the setting aside of the award decision or order the Contracting Authority to amend any document and may award damages. If the contract has been entered into the Court may award damages.

VI.4.3) Service from which information about the lodging of appeals may be obtained:

VI.5) DATE OF DISPATCH OF THIS NOTICE:

27.8.2009.