Shared Data Centre Framework
Buyers’ Guide

Copyright © 2021 Jisc Services Ltd.
Date: 24/08/2021
Document Owner: Alec Wright
Contents

1. Scope of the framework ................................................................. 3
2. Who can use the framework ............................................................ 3
3. Duration of the framework .............................................................. 3
4. Compliance under EU procurement rules .......................................... 3
5. Suppliers .......................................................................................... 3
6. How the framework operates ............................................................ 4
7. Evaluation Criteria ........................................................................... 4
8. Terms and Conditions ...................................................................... 4
9. The benefits of using the framework ................................................ 4
1. **Scope of the framework**

The framework was set up by Jisc in conjunction with a group of anchor tenants for the provisioning of co-location data centre services with power, cooling and shared facilities, including security. The framework agreement enables the long-term utilisation of a data centre environment for a range of activities including:

- High performance computing (HPC) systems with high power requirements but moderate availability requirements
- Administration, teaching and learning systems with moderate power requirements but high availability requirements
- Research systems with a requirement for high levels of data security.

2. **Who can use the framework**

The framework is available to the following types of institution:

- UK higher education institutions and further education colleges and their purchasing consortia
- establishments of the research councils and other organisations whose principal activity is the conduct of publicly or charitably funded research
- the Department of Health and arm’s length organisations including NHS England and their successor bodies for the purposes of research and education
- privately funded research and development organisations to further their collaborations with any of the above
- Jisc in the delivery of its co-location and similar services to the above and to others of its customers and beneficiaries; and for its other business purposes
- local government authorities where these are providing broadband ICT services to schools, or commissioning these services from third parties
- ‘Regional Broadband Consortia’ and any other vehicles created by local government authorities in England to aggregate the provision of broadband ICT services to schools
- the equivalent bodies in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland providing broadband ICT services to schools
- local government authorities where these are providing broadband ICT services to schools, or commissioning these services from third parties.

3. **Duration of the framework**

i) The Jisc/VIRTUS Framework Agreement commenced on 14th July 2014 and after its first five-year term was extended for a further five years to 13th July 2024. There is then an option to extend the Agreement for a final five-year term, to expire on 13th July 2029.

ii) The Jisc/AQL Framework Agreement commenced on 23rd August 2016 and after its first five-year term was extended for a further five years to 22nd August 2026. There is then an option to extend the Agreement for a final five-year term, to expire on 22nd August 2031.

4. **Compliance under EU procurement rules**

The frameworks were advertised in the OJEU and tendered using the Open Procedure. An assessment of the procurement documents was undertaken by Jisc Legal Services and Jisc Procurement Department to ensure compliance with EU and UK legislation.

5. **Suppliers**

There are two suppliers available via the Shared Data Centre (SDC) service: VIRTUS (Slough) and AQL (Leeds), both in England and directly connected to the core of the Janet network, offering connectivity with high-capacity and high availability.
6. How the framework operates

The SDC service is comprised of single-supplier Framework Agreements between the two sets of respective contracting parties: Jisc and VIRTUS; and Jisc and AQL. Eligible organisations using the framework sign a contract with the relevant data centre supplier using the pro-forma Master Services Agreement (MSA) set out in Schedule 1 of the Framework Agreement. Once an eligible organisation has signed a contract then it may place call-off contracts for the services it requires.

7. Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation of the tenders was based on the weighting described below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award Criteria</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Requirements</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pricing</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. Terms and Conditions

Initially an eligible organisation will sign the pro-forma MSA with their chosen supplier under the Jisc's Framework Agreement. Specific orders will be placed through individual call-off contract with that supplier.

9. Contacting Jisc in connection with the framework

Jisc acts as a facilitator for the framework, liaising between the customer and the data centre supplier. For more information, customers can contact their Jisc account manager, email via help@jisc.ac.uk or call 0300 300 2212.