

## PROCUREMENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE STUDENT LIFE CYCLE PROJECT

The University tendered this project through the European Journal under the Competitive Dialogue procedure details of which can be found at the link below.

[http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/competitive\\_dialogue\\_procedure.pdf](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/competitive_dialogue_procedure.pdf)

An evaluation team consisting of key members of the Project Team, and the Head of Procurement were required, reduced the list to three viable applications from Tribal Solution, SungardeHE and ATOS Origin/Oracle. ATOS/Oracle were eventually chosen as the preferred supplier.



The University was then faced with a critical strategic decision given the importance of the project.

A re-tendering exercise was rejected on the grounds that the market had already and recently been tested, there were also time and resource constraints.

It was decided that the best way forward for the University was to build on the progress already made but to achieve that it was necessary to engage outside specialist help in the form of independent contractors.

This raised a further procurement question as the expenditure was likely to be significant given the expertise required was in short supply. As the University were effectively going to engage specialist staff on a longer term basis it was decided that they fell into the Part B category of the European Procurement Regulations.

In summary this category can be described as services consisting in selecting, referring and placing applicants on a permanent or temporary basis. This procedure allows a contracting authority to follow a “lighter” acquisition process than that required by the full due process of the regulations. However the principles of transparency and fairness still apply.

To achieve this the University approached four firms specialising in the provision of independent contractors proficient in Peoplesoft, which accounted for around half of the expertise and resource required. Other specialists were found by various means using the internet, LinkedIn for example, and all applicants were screened and interviewed by the Project Board before appointment. Award Notices for expenditure over the European threshold paid to any one firm or contractor will be published, satisfying one of the transparency requirements of the Part B process (the other being the selection method).

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