



Real Time Passenger Information — Provision of Electronic Displays – Framework Contract Award

Date of meeting 18 March 2022

Date of report 2 March 2022

Report by Chief Executive

1. Object of report

To recommend the Partnership approve the award a contract for the supply of new Real Time Passenger Information displays.

2. Background

Members will recall from an update at SPT's Operations Committee on 28 January 2022¹ that SPT's Realtime Passenger Information system has expanded considerably since its establishment in 2016. By the end of March 2022 SPT's RTPI system will encompass over 800 electronic displays at key bus stops and bus stations across all 12 Local Authority areas in the SPT area. It is anticipated that demand for new displays is likely to grow further, as future expansion is planned across the region. SPT therefore seeks to renew the contract for the purchase of new displays, for new locations across the Local Authority areas, replacement of faulty or obsolete signs, and for expansion within SPT's own estate.

3. Outline of proposals

Following the conclusion of the original sign supply contract in November 2021, a retendering exercise was undertaken in order to renew this provision.

Scope of Works

In terms of the tender, key requirements included the following:

- Supply and install various types of LED displays (number of lines and characters);
- Supply and install various sizes of Thin-Film-Transistor (TFT-LCD) displays;
- Supply display poles and brackets; and
- Design and install display foundations.

Procurement Approach

Procurement has been taken forward as a framework contract seeking a single supplier who can be SPT's display supply partner for a range of display types for a period of four years,

¹ https://www.spt.co.uk/media/mepffeh4/ops280122_agenda7.pdf

with the option of extension for a further two years. A single supplier approach has been adopted to achieve an efficient display delivery and installation process and ensure a consistent style and quality of displays across the Strathclyde area.

The advertisement notice for the RTPI (Real Time Passenger Information) — Provision of Passenger Display Signs tender was issued via Public Contracts Scotland on 21 January 2022, intimated that through an open tendering exercise, bidders would be considered on satisfactory evidence of their capability and tendered rates. The term of the initial contract is the period from award until 24 June 2026 with the optional extension of a further 2 years at SPT's sole discretion subject to satisfactory performance and available budget. The initial end date of 24 June 2026 coincides with the termination of the operating software and service agreement which runs the RTPI units, and gives SPT the future option to offer both contracts as a single tender if this is considered best value at that time.

Two bids were received for this tender. One of these was dismissed as non-compliant due to certain qualification questions not being answered by the bidder. Accordingly, the compliant bid from Ferrograph Ltd, the previous framework supplier, was progressed to the tender evaluation stage following initial assessment. The outgoing framework which ended in November 2021 was also held by Ferrograph Ltd therefore this allowed a direct price comparison.

The Framework price was based on the tenderer's rates for supply and installation of a fixed scenario of estimated quantities (338 displays in total) and types of displays (20 variants of display) that might be required over the period of the contract.

The Ferrograph Ltd, bid was for up to £1,858,240 for the framework. This compares with up to £1,911,965 for comparable price/quantity scenarios contained within the outgoing framework which ended in November 2021, and overall represents a 2.8% decrease.

The prices are fixed for the first 2 years with prices for the remaining term plus any extension being subject to change in line with the Consumer Price Index, capped at a maximum of 3% per annum. SPT has reserved the right to not purchase any type of display or a minimum quantity of displays, however has secured a discount during the tender process where multiple units are purchased on any single occasion.

As only one bid was received for this tender, the normal tender scoring methodology was not applicable. SPT officers instead assessed the Ferrograph bid in the whole, to ensure its general compliance with the specification and value for money.

It should be noted that the above assessment is based on an estimate by SPT of the likely volume of displays required; actual call off volumes required may vary depending on confirmed demand and funding availability.

4. Conclusion

Following conclusion of the tender process for the RTPI (Real Time Passenger Information) — Provision of Passenger Display Signs, it is concluded that the Ferrograph Ltd tender is compliant and offers value for money for the items contained within the pricing scenario.

5. Partnership action

The Partnership is recommended to approve the award of a framework agreement to Ferrograph Ltd for the supply and installation of RTPI passenger display signs, with an estimated contract value of up to £1,858,240 over 4 years, with the option to extend for a further two years if considered appropriate.

6. Consequences

Policy consequences	<i>None directly.</i>
Legal consequences	<i>If awarded, the contract will be subject to the terms and conditions of contract contained within the invitation to tender.</i>
Financial consequences	<i>The call-off costs for the supply and installation of RTPI display signs will be accommodated within the capital budget, under project 10244 "Expansion of Real Time Bus Information".</i>
Personnel consequences	<i>None directly.</i>
Equalities consequences	<i>None directly.</i>
Risk consequences	<i>None directly.</i>

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