

## **INVITATIONS TO TENDER RELATING TO THE JISC REVIEW: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

The questions and answers below provide further information to potential bidders about the following three Invitations to Tender (ITTs):

1. An analysis of the most appropriate new business and governance model for JISC as a separate legal entity
2. Systematic review of all existing JISC-funded services
3. Systematic review of JANET(UK)

### **Bidding Process**

**Q:** Should potential bidders who are interested in undertaking all three work-strands submit three separate bids (one to each strand) or one overarching bid?

**A:** Interested parties should submit one bid for each strand to ensure fairness between those submitting bids to one, two or all three strands. Each bid will be judged on its individual merits as part of the evaluation process.

**Q:** Will you accept consortia bids?

**A:** Bids from consortia will be accepted and evaluated against the published criteria in the same way as non-consortium bids.

**Q:** Will the same evaluation panel mark all bids submitted to all three ITTs?

**A:** Yes

**Q:** Is there an indicative budget for these pieces of work?

**A:** No.

**Q:** The ITTs state that "Tenders should be no longer than 10 single-sides of A4 pages (including the bid cover sheet and any confidential annex as described above) and should be typeset in Arial or a similar font at a minimum of 11-point size". Can the page-limit be extended?

**A:** No. Any bids without a bid cover sheet or that exceed the ten-page limit will be rejected prior to the evaluation stage. No additional appendices should be attached to the bid unless specifically requested in the ITT.

### **Wilson Review Recommendations**

**Q:** Has the JISC Board formally accepted the recommendations of the Wilson Review?

**A:** The JISC Board has accepted the direction for travel but the final decision on how JISC should move forward rests with JISC's funders. A Transition Group has been established to investigate the areas and recommendations of the review.

### **Information Exchange**

**Q:** How will the three work-strands be coordinated internally by the JISC Executive?

**A:** The appointed consultants will produce reports for the Transition Group, which has been established to investigate the recommendations of the Wilson Review.

Members of the JISC Executive will also be given responsibility for managing the work of the appointed consultants and providing a conduit to the Transition Group.

- Q:** The three work-strands are related and there will be a requirement for the appointed consultants to share information. How will this be managed?
- A:** One of the conditions of grant will be for the appointed consultants to hold regular meetings with each other and with the JISC Executive.
- Q:** There is a requirement within each work-strand to produce an interim report in September 2011. Will the consultants working on each strand be expected to share their interim reports with each other?
- A:** Yes. The knowledge accumulated by the interim report stage will be required to feed into all three work strands and to inform the Transition Group of progress.

### **Market Research Activity**

- Q:** JISC is undertaking a programme of market research that is relevant to the three work-strands. What is the scope of this market research?
- A:** JISC is carrying out market research for the Transition Group. An overview of this work can be found on the JISC website alongside the ITTs.
- Q:** When will the market research be completed?
- A:** The outcomes from the main phase of the market research will be available on 25 November 2011 but we will work with the appointed consultants to share information that is relevant to the activities in the three work-strands.

### **Work-strand A: An analysis of the most appropriate new business and governance model for JISC as a separate legal entity**

- Q:** Why has the work been divided into two phases?
- A:** The initial phase covers theoretical and scoping work. The outputs from work-strands B and C will be fed into that preliminary work in order for phase 2 to be carried out.
- Q:** When does JISC expect decisions to be made on its future governance?
- A:** Not until all three work-strands have been completed.
- Q:** What do you mean by “community-owned”?
- A:** The Wilson Review raised a question over who should own JISC in the future. At present, it is owned by the Funding Councils. We have not defined “community-ownership”, as there are a number of ways in which JISC could be owned in the future.
- Q:** What is the role of the Shadow Board?
- A:** The Shadow Board will oversee JISC’s transition to a new organisation. It will work alongside the current JISC Board until the new organisation is fully operational. The Shadow Board’s terms of reference are:

- To establish JISC as a new, separate legal entity and to take responsibility for the change process with the current Board in the first instance
- To receive and consider options for the governance, operation and structure of the future JISC
- To define the programme of work and budgets for JISC from academic year 2012-13 onwards (or other date to be agreed)

### **Work-strand B: Systematic review of all existing JISC-funded services**

**Q:** Is the focus of this work-strand on the current JISC services?

**A:** The focus is on what activities JISC should be doing. The JISC Executive is looking for an analysis of what JISC should be doing in the future and whether or not these activities are covered by the current range of JISC services. Individual projects and programmes funded by JISC are outside the scope of this review.

**Q:** What is the starting point for this analysis?

**A:** The appointed consultants should start from the assumption that all JISC services should be brought in-house and, if appropriate, provide clear evidence for why this should not be the case for individual services.

**Q:** Is the JISC Executive interested in extending the remit of its services?

**A:** The aim is to understand the opportunities and potential impacts without undermining JISC's core mission.

**Q:** What are JISC's services and companies?

**A:** JISC funds a number of services, which are provided by six providers: JANET(UK); JISC Advance; JISC Collections, BUFVC, Edina and Mimas. Further information about JISC's services can be found on the JISC website.

### **Work-strand C: Systematic review of JANET(UK)**

**Q:** What is the relationship between JISC and JANET(UK)?

**A:** JANET(UK) is a company limited by guarantee. It receives 90% of its funding from JISC.

**Q:** Is this work-strand related to ongoing work being undertaken by JISC?

**A:** Yes. JISC is carrying out a study of National Research and Education Networks, which will look at how other countries provide their research and education networks. The results of this study will be made available to the appointed consultants for work-strand C.