Proof of concept for a Scottish Universities Press

SCURL (Scottish Confederation of University & Research Libraries) are seeking a consultant to scope out models for an open access press to be jointly operated and managed by the Scottish Universities who are members of SCURL. This would include investigating the following issues:

Market Research
- What might be the modes of publishing - OA monographs, OA journals, OA textbook commissioning
- What is the appetite among the academic community for an OA press in Scotland
  This would be done in collaboration with SCURL Libraries (including setting up surveys, focus groups, key interviews)
- Scope of subject matter and range of output types to be explored
- Can we establish a brand and sustain prestige?

Operational model
- Explore appropriate business & operational models (use existing examples) and recommend advantages/disadvantages of each
- Potential for commissioning items (e.g. OA e-textbooks)
- Explore staffing models and levels
- Outline timetable of feasibility to operation
- Include a risk analysis
- Explore sustainability
- Suggest an optimum outline business model

The format of the final report would include an executive summary, answers to key questions, summary of findings and recommendations. The report will be owned by SCURL, ideally in an open access format. We would aim for the appointed consultant to provide an initial presentation at the SCURL AGM in June 2019.

The budget for this piece of work is around £10k

Outline timetable
- Approved by the SCURL Business Committee on the 6th Feb
- Call for submissions early March
- Appointment of consultant beginning April
- Initial report to SCURL Task & Finish group by mid-May
- Presentation to SCURL AGM on the 5th June

Please contact the Convenor of SCURL for further details/discussion:
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