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Contract

CEFAS25-115 Contract for liquid scintillation counter for Cefas laboratory

CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT, FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE SCIENCE

UK7: Contract details notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2026/S 000-000752

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05d585 ([view related notices](#))

Published 6 January 2026, 3:20pm

Scope

Reference

C30811

Description

The Radioanalytical team at Cefas Lowestoft has a requirement to replace some existing end-of-life equipment with a more efficient and reliable model. The Liquid Scintillation counter will have an exceptionally low background count rate to enable necessary improvements to our already low Limits of Detection to support a range of programmes, including Radioactivity in Food and the Environment (RIFE), and to help Cefas develop systems approaches and tackle complex environmental challenges.

The Supplier will provide an ultra-Low level Liquid Scintillation counter as follows:

3.1. with substantial passive shielding in addition to active methods of background count reduction (integral guard counter, electronic BGD reduction systems etc)

- 3.2. provide the lowest achievable background count rates for both alpha and beta determinations
- 3.3. be capable of alpha/beta discrimination and simultaneous detection and quantification of multiple radionuclides/ROI's (e.g. Plutonium alphas and Pu-241 beta emissions) at low environmental levels as well as the typical H-3, C-14, U-234/238, Ra-226, Rn-222, Y-90, Sr-89 etc
- 3.4. be capable of detecting beta's up to 2MeV and alpha's up to 10MeV
- 3.5. have beta efficiencies of at least 35% for samples with significant quench although much higher efficiencies would be anticipated for unquenched samples
- 3.6. have alpha efficiencies of at least 95% and Cerenkov efficiency of at least 60%
- 3.7. have in-built cooling to maintain appropriate, stable temperature
- 3.8. have internal, radioactive standard for quench correction curves
- 3.9. Power supply to be UK socket compatible.

Contract 2. CEFAS25-115 Contract for liquid scintillation counter for Cefas laboratory

Supplier

- [Southern Scientific Limited](#)

Contract value

- £228,430 excluding VAT

- £274,116 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Date signed

12 December 2025

Contract dates

- 13 December 2025 to 30 April 2027
- 1 year, 4 months, 19 days

Main procurement category

Goods

CPV classifications

- 38000000 - Laboratory, optical and precision equipments (excl. glasses)

Contract locations

- UK - United Kingdom

Other information

Applicable trade agreements

- Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Open procedure

Supplier

Southern Scientific Limited

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PXMH-3166-PNVW

Scientific House Henfield Business Park

Henfield

BN5 9SL

United Kingdom

Email: info@southernscientific.co.uk

Region: UKJ28 - West Sussex (North East)

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): Yes

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Supported employment provider: No

Public service mutual: No

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Contracting authority

CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT, FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE SCIENCE

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PPGW-5299-JGTN

Pakefield Road

Lowestoft

NR33 0HT

United Kingdom

Email: procure@cefas.gov.uk

Website: <https://defra-family.force.com/s/Welcome>

Region: UKH14 - Suffolk

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government