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Contract

Provision of a Telecommunications service for the Emergency Services of England, Scotland and Wales

Secretary of State for the Home Department - Home Office (Police)

Secretary of State for the Department of Health and Social Care - DHSC

Scottish Ambulance Service Board

Secretary of State for the Home Department - Home Office (Fire and Rescue Services)

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2022/S 000-001654

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-030d0f

Published 19 January 2022, 10:45pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Secretary of State for the Home Department - Home Office (Police)

2 Marsham Street

LONDON

SW1P 4DF

Contact

Airwave Commercial Team

Email

ESMCPSupplier@homeoffice.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office>

I.1) Name and addresses

Secretary of State for the Department of Health and Social Care - DHSC

39 Victoria Street

LONDON

SW1H 0EU

Contact

Ambulance Radio Programme Commercial Team

Email

commercial@arp.nhs.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-health-and-social-care>

I.1) Name and addresses

Scottish Ambulance Service Board

National Headquarters, Gyle Square, South Gyle Crescent

EDINBURGH

EH12 9EB

Contact

Scottish Ambulance Service Procurement Team

Email

sas.sasprocurement@nhs.scot

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKM - Scotland

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office>

I.1) Name and addresses

Secretary of State for the Home Department - Home Office (Fire and Rescue Services)

2 Marsham Street

LONDON

SW1P 4DF

Contact

Airwave Commercial Team

Email

ESMCPSupplier@homeoffice.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office>

I.2) Information about joint procurement

The contract involves joint procurement

In the case of joint procurement involving different countries, state applicable national procurement law

Law of England and Wales

The contract is awarded by a central purchasing body

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

I.5) Main activity

Public order and safety

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Provision of a Telecommunications service for the Emergency Services of England, Scotland and Wales

Reference number

C9265

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 64200000 - Telecommunications services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

Provision of a secure, private communications network providing telecommunications for the emergency services of England Scotland and Wales, also providing the ability for the three emergency services to talk to each other and to other public safety organisations.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.1.7) Total value of the procurement (excluding VAT)

Value excluding VAT: £1,561,919,689

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 32412000 - Communications network

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The Airwave network is the communications system used by the Emergency Services in Scotland, England and Wales, providing digital radio communications along with other functions such as telephony, text messaging and control room communication services. Airwave services are provided by Airwave Solutions Limited under a Home Office Framework Arrangement

II.2.5) Award criteria

Price

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of options

The Target National Shut Down Date of December 2026 can be extended at the discretion of the Authority.

II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Award of a contract without prior publication of a call for competition in the cases listed below

- The services can be provided only by a particular economic operator for the following reason:
 - absence of competition for technical reasons

Explanation:

The Home Office meets the regulation 32 (2) (b) (ii) test as outlined below:

The Airwave network is the communications system used by all the emergency services in Scotland, England and Wales. It is a secure private communications network, using land mobile, TETRA - TERrestrial Trunked RADio technology, which enables the three emergency services to be able to seamlessly talk to each other (interoperate) during major incidents and also enables them to interoperate with other public safety organisations such as for example the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and mountain rescue teams.

The Airwave network is a closed proprietary network owned and operated by Airwave Solutions Limited (a Motorola company). It is made available to the emergency services under four key contracts*(Contracts) made pursuant to the Home Office's PFI Framework Arrangement for the Public Safety Radio Communications Service (the FA). The Airwave network is critical national infrastructure (CNI) and Airwave is the only supplier of this network in Great Britain. No other TETRA network exists in GB nor is it possible for an alternative to TETRA to be developed, established and rolled out in the required timescales to ensure continuity of service demands and the technical and security requirements of the Emergency Services.

There is no other suitable network in Great Britain that could be used by the emergency services until the new national Emergency Services Network (ESN) is brought into service. The ESN is intended to be the replacement network for the Airwave network and was originally expected to be developed and rolled out in 2022.

There have been significant setbacks and delays in the development of the ESN, including the transition from the Airwave network to ESN. Those setbacks mean that the provision of

the Airwave network has to be continued in the interim until the ESN is ready and has been fully tested and validated. The continuity and technical requirements necessitate an extension to the Contracts until 31 December 2026.

Given that there is no other possible competitor that could provide an equivalent service to Airwave within the required timescales, trying to organise an accelerated competition would incur additional expenses/resources that would not make any difference to the outcome.

*The Contracts are between:

1. Secretary of State for the Home Department and Airwave Solutions Ltd in respect of police access to Airwave - Contract value for the four year extension period: £1,333,700,339
2. Secretary of State for the Home Department and Airwave Solutions Ltd in respect of Fire and Rescue Services access to Airwave - Contract value for the four year extension period: £141,181,120
3. Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and Airwave Solutions Ltd for the Ambulance Radio Programme - Contract value for the four year extension period: £83,947,192
4. The Scottish Ambulance Service Board and Airwave Solutions Ltd in respect of Scottish Ambulance Service access to Airwave - Contract value for the four year extension period: £3,091,038

Airwave is CNI and, as such, it must remain in place to ensure continuity and security of emergency service communications until ESN is ready to replace it. Until ESN is brought into service, no alternative or substitute network to Airwave exists nor would it be technically or financially feasible to develop a replacement for the emergency services to use in the meantime. Without Airwave, the emergency services would have no suitable communications network to use. This poses a danger to life for individuals as well as a risk to public safety and/or public security if communications between fire, police or ambulance personnel broke down or became unreliable.

Nb: Continued in additional information section due to character restrictions.

IV.1.8) Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

Section V. Award of contract

Contract No

C9265

Title

Public Safety Radio Communications Service

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

20 December 2021

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 1

Number of tenders received from tenderers from non-EU Member States: 1

Number of tenders received by electronic means: 1

The contract has been awarded to a group of economic operators: No

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

Airwave Solutions Limited

Nova South, 160 Victoria Street

LONDON

SW1E 5LB

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://www.airwavesolutions.co.uk/home/>

The contractor is an SME

No

V.2.4) Information on value of contract/lot (excluding VAT)

Total value of the contract/lot: £1,561,919,689

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

Additional Information 1: Continuation of Section Annex D1 - 3. Explanation:

The Home Office has considered the length of the extension required to ensure that it does not exceed what is necessary and is proportionate in the circumstances. It considers that the extension until 31 December 2026 is a realistic estimate of the time that will be needed to ensure that the ESN is properly tested and validated before it becomes fully operational. The Home Office will keep this situation under review so that it can adjust the time period, as it considers appropriate, in the event that the development and transition process proves better than expected or, conversely, requires additional time.

Additional Information 2: Original OJEC REF 96/S 15-6735/EN

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

ESMCP Programme - Home Office

3rd Floor, Clive House, 70 Petty France

LONDON

SW1H 9EX

Email

ESMCPSupplier@homeoffice.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office>