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Contract

UKRI-3918 New England Shelf Hydrogeology

UK Research & Innovation

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-002542

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-046b5f

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Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

UK Research & Innovation

Polaris House, North Star Avenue

Swindon

SN2 1FL

Contact

Kate Richardson

Email

NERCProcurement@ukri.org

Telephone

+44 7562167366

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKK14 - Swindon

Internet address(es)

Main address

www.ukri.org

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.5) Main activity

Other activity

Research

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

UKRI-3918 New England Shelf Hydrogeology

Reference number

UKRI-3918

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 76320000 - Offshore drilling services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

The British Geological Survey (BGS), acting on behalf of the European Consortium for Ocean Research Drilling (ECORD), requires a marine coring capability and suitable vessel to operate offshore New England, USA, for a scientific drilling, coring and groundwater sampling campaign for a period of between 60 – 90 days (estimated) between May and August 2025. This scientific coring project seeks to extend our understanding of the current and past states of fluid composition, pressure, and temperature in continental shelf environments. In many coastal settings worldwide, the distribution of freshwater within continental shelf sediments is far out of equilibrium with modern sea level. One of the most remarkable examples is found on the Atlantic continental shelf off New England where groundwater within shallow Pliocene-Pleistocene sand aquifers over 100 km offshore has low salinity (3000 mg/l or less). This project will test several hypotheses to help constrain rates, directions, and mechanisms of groundwater flow and chemical fluxes in continental shelf systems.

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: 25,578,242.22 USD

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 34514000 - Floating or submersible drilling or production platforms
- 43124900 - Rock-drilling equipment
- 45262422 - Subsea drilling work
- 76340000 - Core drilling

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- US - United States

Main site or place of performance

United States

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The project requires a contractor to provide a suitable platform from which to deploy coring apparatus to achieve near-continuous core samples (min. diameter 60mm) from seabed to a total depth (TD) of 550 mbsf (meters below sea floor) at each of 3 pre-determined sites. Additionally, the project requires to drill (not core) 2 boreholes at 2 of the 3 pre-determined sites for groundwater testing and sampling at specific intervals selected using the results from the cored boreholes. The contractor will be responsible for supplying the vessel and personnel; and undertaking the drilling, coring and groundwater testing/sampling requirements.

Please see the Specification for full details.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Technical / Quality / Weighting: 70

Cost criterion - Name: Price / Weighting: 30

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: No

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

Open procedure

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

IV.2) Administrative information

IV.2.1) Previous publication concerning this procedure

Notice number: [2024/S 000-025291](#)

Section V. Award of contract

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

22 January 2025

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 2

Number of tenders received from SMEs: 1

Number of tenders received from tenderers from other EU Member States: 0

Number of tenders received from tenderers from non-EU Member States: 2

Number of tenders received by electronic means: 2

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

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

Matrix Offshore Services, LLC

1661 Old Belfast Road

Lewisburg, TN

37091

Telephone

+1 9313596564

Country

United States

NUTS code

- US - United States

National registration number

001555286

Internet address

<https://matrix-offshore.com/>

The contractor is an SME

Yes

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

Initial estimated total value of the contract/lot: 25,578,242.22 USD

Total value of the contract/lot: 25,578,242.22 USD

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

The contracting authority considers that this contract may be suitable for economic operators that are small or medium enterprises (SMEs). However, any selection of tenderers will be based solely on the criteria set out for the procurement. Procurement Contract Transparency Data: Redacted contract documents will be made available within the next 30 days on the UKRI website at: <https://www.ukri.org/about-us/procurement-contract-transparency-data>

To view this notice, please click here:

<https://ukri.delta-sourcing.com/delta/viewNotice.html?noticeId=905902719>

GO Reference: GO-2025124-PRO-29220489

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

UK Research & Innovation

Swindon

SN2 1FL

Country

United Kingdom