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Award

Voluntary Transparency Notice (VTN) for The Provision of Sub-Aqua Diving - 713253451

Army Commercial, Ministry of Defence

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-003104

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-04d759

Published 30 January 2025, 1:23pm

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

Army Commercial, Ministry of Defence

Blenheim Building, Monxton Road

Andover

Sp11 8hj

Email

scott.wallace124@mod.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKK1 - Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Bristol/Bath area

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ministry-of-defence-commercial>

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

I.5) Main activity

Defence

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Voluntary Transparency Notice (VTN) for The Provision of Sub-Aqua Diving - 713253451

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 92600000 - Sporting services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

Joint Service Adventurous Training (JSAT) seeks to improve the operational capability of Defence by developing its Service Personnel through the provision of Adventurous Leadership and Resilience Training (ALeRT). Sub-Aqua diving remains a cornerstone JSAT activity and is particularly effective at developing an individual's understanding of how they respond to stress and nurturing effective coping strategies.

The requirement objectives are;

A provision of UK-based sub-aqua diving to enable Army Adventurous Training Centre (AATC) to achieve the Statement Of Training Requirement for BSAC Ocean Diver and Sports Diver courses.

To deliver this end state safely and in accordance with BSAC, Defence Diving Regulations and AATC policies and operating procedures.

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: £850,000

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 80511000 - Staff training services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Joint Service Adventurous Training (JSAT) seeks to improve the operational capability of Defence by developing its Service Personnel through the provision of Adventurous Leadership and Resilience Training (ALeRT). Sub-Aqua diving remains a cornerstone JSAT activity and is particularly effective at developing an individual's understanding of how they respond to stress and nurturing effective coping strategies.

The requirement objectives are;

A provision of UK-based sub-aqua diving to enable Army Adventurous Training Centre (AATC) to achieve the Statement Of Training Requirement for BSAC Ocean Diver and Sports Diver courses.

To deliver this end state safely and in accordance with BSAC, Defence Diving Regulations and AATC policies and operating procedures.

Military diving is bound by strict rules and regulations and any supplier must be a Commercial MOD Approved Centre (ComMAC). JSAT Diving is also bound by JSP 286 The Defence Diving Manual, meaning that any diving that takes place whether in house or commercially must comply with the manual.

This will be a 3 year contract with 2x1 year options

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of options

2 x 1 year

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

Negotiated without a prior call for competition

- No tenders or no suitable tenders/requests to participate in response to restricted procedure
- The works, supplies or services can be provided only by a particular economic operator for the following reason:
 - absence of competition for technical reasons

Explanation:

The Authority intends to award a contract to Stoney Cove Ltd for the provision of sub-aqua diving to enable the continued delivery of the Statement of Training Requirement for Joint Service Adventurous Training (JSAT).

Military diving is bound by strict rules and regulations and any supplier must be a Commercial MOD Approved Centre (ComMAC). JSAT Diving is also bound by JSP 286 The Defence Diving Manual, meaning that any diving that takes place whether in house or commercially must comply with the manual. Stoney Cove Ltd is currently the only supplier capable of delivering the required services in line with the safety parameters set through JSP 286, having been audited by JSAT Diving.

Additionally, any prospective supplier must be situated within 10 miles of Gamecock Barracks, Nuneaton, which is where JSAT student accommodation is provided. There are no other dive schools within the area that can deliver the services required and transferring students further away is not feasible as they are on a training schedule. This leaves Stoney Cove Ltd as the only viable supplier.

The Authority considers that the contract may be awarded on the basis of the justification set out in paragraph 6 of Schedule 5 to the Procurement Act 2023:

Schedule 5, paragraph 6

The following conditions are met in relation to the public contract—

(a) due to an absence of competition for technical reasons, only a particular supplier can supply the goods, services or works required, and

(b) there are no reasonable alternatives to those goods, services or works.

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: No

Section V. Award of contract/concession

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract/concession

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

30 January 2024

V.2.2) Information about tenders

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

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire

Stoney Cove Ltd

Leicester

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

Yes

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

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £850,000

V.2.5) Information about subcontracting

The contract/lot/concession is likely to be subcontracted

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Army Commercial

Blenheim Building, Monxton Road

Country

United Kingdom