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Award

## **Watchkeeper In-Service Support 2024 - 2027**

Ministry of Defence

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-003519

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-0436c5

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### **Section I: Contracting authority/entity**

#### **I.1) Name and addresses**

Ministry of Defence

Bristol

##### **Email**

[nicholas.clark125@mod.gov.uk](mailto:nicholas.clark125@mod.gov.uk)

##### **Country**

United Kingdom

##### **Region code**

UKK11 - Bristol, City of

##### **Internet address(es)**

Main address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-defence>

#### **I.4) Type of the contracting authority**

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

## **I.5) Main activity**

Defence

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## **Section II: Object**

### **II.1) Scope of the procurement**

#### **II.1.1) Title**

Watchkeeper In-Service Support 2024 - 2027

#### **II.1.2) Main CPV code**

- 35613000 - Unmanned aerial vehicles

#### **II.1.3) Type of contract**

Supplies

#### **II.1.4) Short description**

The Thales Watchkeeper is an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) for all weather, intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition, and reconnaissance (ISTAR) used by the British Army. Watchkeeper In-Service Support has been provided since the AV came into service in the 2010s.

#### **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: £90,000,000

### **II.2) Description**

#### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UKJ11 - Berkshire

#### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

Continued Watchkeeper Air Vehicle In-Service Support. 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2027.

This consists of;

- Provision of service management
- Asset Management
- Obsolescence Management
- Training
- Engineering and Safety
- Management of the Sustainment Fleet

#### **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Price

#### **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

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### **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 procurement falls outside the scope of application of the regulations

Explanation:

Short description of the contract or purchase(s):

To extend the existing scope of the extant Watchkeeper In-Service Support (ISS) Contract UAS/00096 including delivery of continued Test and Evaluation (T & E) and activities to address known WK system obsolescence.

Reason For Award of Contract:

To enable the Watchkeeper Air Vehicle to operate at numerous Units of Action and Points of Presence in the UK and overseas for a further three-year period until 2027.

Justification for Non-Competitive Decision:

Technical Reasons

In accordance with Regulation 4 of The Defence and Security Public Contracts (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (SI 2019/697) this procurement falls to be regulated under the provisions of the Defence and Security Public Contracts Regulations 2011 as amended (in particular by SI 2019/697 and SI 2020/1450). Prior publication of a contract notice in the Official Journal of the European Union is no longer appropriate.

Thales UK (ISR) are the platform Design Authority Approved Organisation Scheme (DAOS) and Military Airworthiness Organisation Scheme (MAOS) accredited Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM), in conjunction with other equipment OEMs within the supply chain. Therefore, only Thales have the technical documents and proprietary information (including software), equipment, infrastructure, skills, knowledge and authority (via the MAA) required in order to safely carry out this work. No other contractor would be able to safely perform this requirement as no other contractor would have access to the required technical and proprietary information.

Main Place of Performance or Delivery:

Thales Intelligence Surveillance Reconnaissance (ISR), Crawley, Manor Royal, Crawley, Sussex RH10 9HA, United Kingdom

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: No

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## **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**

2 February 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**

Thales UK

Crawley

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKJ11 - Berkshire

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

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

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £90,000,000

#### **V.2.5) Information about subcontracting**

The contract/lot/concession is likely to be subcontracted

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## **Section VI. Complementary information**

### **VI.4) Procedures for review**

#### **VI.4.1) Review body**

Ministry of Defence

Bristol

Country

United Kingdom