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Award

Higher Active Waste Thermal Treatment Research and Development Programme

Sellafield Ltd

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2022/S 000-004161

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-0316dc

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Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

Sellafield Ltd

Birchwood

Warrington

WA3 6GR

Contact

Rhyannon Harding

Email

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Telephone

+44 7850468158

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKD - North West (England)

National registration number

01002607

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/case-studies/shared-services-alliance-ssa-for-nuclear-decommissioning-estate>

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.5) Main activity

Other activity

Nuclear Decommissioning

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Higher Active Waste Thermal Treatment Research and Development Programme

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 42940000 - Machinery for the heat treatment of materials

II.1.3) Type of contract

Supplies

II.1.4) Short description

The Higher Activity Waste Thermal Treatment (HAWTT) research and development programme seeks to develop active demonstrators to consider the impact of thermal treatment technologies on specific forms of High Level Waste. Advancing on current thermal treatment technologies, Sellafield have been requested by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) to deliver active demonstrators to produce information that may underpin a strategic decision as to the most appropriate means of treating specific forms of this High Level Waste, so that it may be stored and managed safely. This will further inform the broader strategic direction across the NDA estate.

The Contract to which this VEAT relates, is for the supply of a distinct thermal treatment technology for deployment within the development of an integrated system for the purposes of research of development.

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: £17,000,000

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 42940000 - Machinery for the heat treatment of materials

- 42310000 - Furnace burners

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

Main site or place of performance

Swindon

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The manufacture and supply of the core thermal treatment technology and associated ancillary services to enable Sellafield Ltd's HAWTT research and development programme which seeks to prove the concept of the application of thermal treatment technology, in an integrated system, to specific forms of High Level Waste.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Technical, Minimum Standards, Terms and Conditions /
Weighting: 60%

Cost criterion - Name: Value for Money, Economic Standing / Weighting: 40%

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

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:

The proposed award is in conformity with Regulation 32(5)(a) of the Public Contract Regulations 2015 which permits reliance on the negotiated procedure without prior advertisement of a contract opportunity where “the products involved are manufactured purely for the purpose of research, experimentation study or development. The thermal treatment technology which is the subject of the proposed contract award will be manufactured for deployment, within an integrated system which is being developed specifically, for the purposes of the Higher Activity Waste Thermal Treatment (HAWTT) research and development programme.

The thermal technology is core to the development of the integrated active demonstrator system The integration between the thermal treatment technology and the broader

modules of the integrated system are key to proving the concept of the active demonstrator.

The proof of concept activity of this research and development programme will generate information for the potential deployment of thermal treatment solutions (not limited to those to which this proposed contract award relates), including in relation to the potential types of higher activity waste streams that could be thermally treated, implications for the scope of deployment and the potential associated costs /savings associated with the thermal treatment when considered against other forms of waste treatment and management. The generation of this pertinent information from the research and development activity will underpin a strategic policy decision for the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority.

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

Title

EQUIPMENT SUPPLY AND ANCILLARY SERVICES CONTRACT

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract/concession

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

28 February 2021

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

Tetronics

Swindon

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKJ - South East (England)

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

Yes

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

Lowest offer: £2,300,000 / Highest offer: £17,000,000 taken into consideration

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

Due to the research and development nature of the contract, the value range is a parametric estimate and takes into account that there may be various stages of the contract that rely on prior proof of concept deliverables and may not be entered into unless these are proven to be successful beforehand. The value range is an estimate which takes into account credible scenarios based on three sequential development stages. In the event that the thermal technology is found to be unsuitable through the first development stage, it is anticipated the research and development with this technology will cease (subject to the reasons for the unsuitability and the potential for this to be rectified within the system); in which case the contract value will remain limited. However, if on completion of the first stage, the thermal technology development is successful, the second stage of development will commence. Likewise, the final stage of development will commence if the technology is suitably developed after the second stage. As such the overall contract value will be informed by the success of the research and development activities associated with each stage.

Sellafield Ltd undertook a market scanning activity to explore the available thermal technologies that could support this research and development programme. The identified Technology Supplier to whom this proposed award relates was identified as meeting the requirements of the programme through an informal process. Sellafield Ltd had awarded a number of contracts to companies that had the potential to meet the requirements of the programme, with details of those prior contract awards available through Ref: 2021-467232.

In line with the requirements of Regulation 99(3) Sellafield Ltd will be observing a standstill period from the publication of this notice prior to the award of the contract to the Technology Supplier.

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

As specified within the Public Contracts Regulations 2015

N/A

Country

United Kingdom

VI.4.3) Review procedure

Precise information on deadline(s) for review procedures

Precise information on deadline(s) for review procedures:

Any appeals should be promptly brought to the attention of the contact specified in Section I above, and will be dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.