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Award

42,000,000

Maritime and Coastguard Agency

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2022/S 000-004339

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-03178f

Published 15 February 2022, 10:45pm

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

Maritime and Coastguard Agency

105 Commercial Road

Southampton

SO15 1EG

Email

Contracts@mcga.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/maritime-and-coastguard-agency>

Buyer's address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/maritime-and-coastguard-agency>

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

National or federal Agency/Office

I.5) Main activity

General public services

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

42,000,000

Reference number

TCA 3/7/3/7/1251

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 60443100 - Air-sea rescue services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

The Maritime & Coastguard Agency (MCA) is putting in place additional search capacity in its

Coastguard aviation service to provide urgently needed increased situational awareness. The contract modification will provide a dedicated supplementary search capability to support the UK Coastguard Search and Rescue Helicopter Service (UKSARH) by providing this additional situational awareness in the English Channel. This will be delivered using a combination of crewed and uncrewed planes. The aircraft will be operated from or near the existing Lydd search and rescue (SAR) base so as to be able to work closely with the SAR helicopter based there and make best use of the existing infrastructure under the UKSARH service.

The contract modification will be in effect from 01 March 2022 for three years, to align with the start of the replacement contractual arrangements to the current UKSARH service. An extension option of up to two years has been included should the arrangements that replace the current UKSARH service not be ready in time.

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: £42,000,000

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 35612500 - Search and rescue helicopters

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom
- UKJ - South East (England)

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The UK has seen a seen an increase in the number of small boats crossing the English Channel which the MCA could not have foreseen when the UKSARH contract was awarded. Aerial patrols over the Channel are crucial to our search and rescue response. The situational awareness that the UKSARH service provides enables Coastguards to determine the status of small boats crossing the Channel and to prioritise responses to those boats at most risk.

As the number of small boat crossings have increased over the course of 2021, the requirement to provide extended searches of the Channel over consecutive days, and sometimes weeks, has also increased. This has placed increased demands on HM Coastguard's existing aerial search and rescue assets. The MCA has therefore determined that a dedicated Channel search capability is needed to provide the level of situational awareness required. The new aircraft will conduct regular, sometimes extended, patrols of the Channel to provide up to date and accurate information on crossings being attempted. This information will be used by HM Coastguard to enhance the coordination of rescues using existing air and surface assets.

Given the urgency of the requirement and that the solution will be integrated with existing UKSARH assets and infrastructure, the MCA is seeking to introduce this capability as a modification to the UKSARH contract. This requirement will ultimately be met by the services provided by the supplier of the UK Second-Generation Search and Rescue Aviation programme, the procurement process for which is currently underway (FTS reference 2021/S 000-004655).

The MCA is modifying the UKSARH contract pursuant to Regulation 72 (1) (c), on the basis that the need for modification has been brought about by circumstances which a diligent contracting authority could not have foreseen. Migrants crossing the channel in significant numbers was not an issue the HM Coastguard faced in 2013 when the UKSARH contract was awarded, nor was it anticipated that it would become an issue; the problem is largely unprecedented for the UK and has increased exponentially in a short space of time.

This change does not alter the overall nature of the contract; the original specification included extensive requirements for a search capability. Moreover, this is search with a view to locating individuals in need of rescue, which fits within the overarching scope of the UKSARH contract. Finally, the price of this modification, valued at £35m ex VAT for the three years of the change and an additional £16m ex VAT if the two-year extension option is used, does not exceed 50% of the value of the UKSARH contract over its life at £1.6 billion ex VAT.

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

Negotiated without a prior call for competition

- No tenders or no suitable tenders/requests to participate in response to open 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
- Extreme urgency brought about by events unforeseeable for the contracting authority
- Additional deliveries by the original supplier
- New works/services, constituting a repetition of existing works/services

Explanation:

The MCA is modifying the UKSARH contract pursuant to Regulation 72 (1) (c), on the basis that the need for modification has been brought about by circumstances which a diligent contracting authority could not have foreseen. Migrants crossing the channel in significant numbers was not an issue the HM Coastguard faced in 2013 when the UKSARH contract was awarded, nor was it anticipated that it would become an issue; the problem is largely unprecedented for the UK and has increased exponentially in a short space of time.

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/concession

Contract No

TCA 3/7/1251

Title

Modification of UK Search and Rescue Helicopter (SARH) service 2013-2026

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract/concession

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

26 March 2013

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

Bristow Helicopters Ltd

Aberdeen

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

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

Initial estimated total value of the contract/lot/concession: £42,000,000

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £42,000,000

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

Department for Transport

London

Country

United Kingdom