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Award

Logistic Drone Swarm Experimentation

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2021/S 000-004495

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-0298df

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Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

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LONDON

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Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKJ3 - Hampshire and Isle of Wight

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

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Logistic Drone Swarm Experimentation

Reference number

701549389

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 48000000 - Software package and information systems

II.1.3) Type of contract

Supplies

II.1.4) Short description

The JHub team, part of the United Kingdom Ministry of Defence (MoD), intends to award a 4-month contract from March 2021 to July 2021 (with a value of £625,000) to Blue Bear Systems Research Ltd (BBSR) to supply nine micro-computers and bespoke 'swarming' software and integrate them onto existing Royal Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), which are used as logistic resupply vehicles.

It is considered that this contract can be awarded using the negotiated procedure without prior publication of a contract notice pursuant to regulation 16(1)(a)(ii) of the Defence and Security Public Contract Regulations 2011 for technical reasons.

This is because BBSR's 'swarming' system is the only system considered to have the proven ability to a) connect with any existing UAV with minimal integration; and b) control multiple UAVs to operate autonomously in 'swarms'. BBSR is also the only company to have been granted permission from the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to conduct 'swarm' flights of up to 20 UAVs in UK airspace, which is required in order to conduct the necessary flight trials.

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: £625,000

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKJ3 - Hampshire and Isle of Wight

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

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II.2.11) Information about options

Options: No

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Negotiated without a prior call for competition

- 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 JHub team, part of the United Kingdom Ministry of Defence (MoD), intends to award a 4-month contract from March 2021 to July 2021 (with a value of £625,000) to Blue Bear Systems Research Ltd (BBSR) to supply nine micro-computers and bespoke 'swarming' software and integrate them onto existing Royal Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), which are used as logistic resupply vehicles.

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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

Contract No

701549389

Title

Logistic Drone Swarm Experimentation

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract/concession

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

5 March 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

Blue Bear Systems Research

Oakley

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKH2 - Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire

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: £625,000

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Ministry of Defence

London

Country

United Kingdom