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Awarded contract

SOL - Connected Autonomous Vehicle (CAV)

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF SOLIHULL

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice reference: 2021/S 000-004721

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Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF SOLIHULL

SOLIHULL

Email

procteam@solihull.gov.uk

Telephone

+44 1217047800

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKG32 - Solihull

Internet address(es)

Main address

www.solihull.gov.uk

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Regional or local authority

I.5) Main activity

General public services

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

SOL - Connected Autonomous Vehicle (CAV)

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 34120000 - Motor vehicles for the transport of 10 or more persons

II.1.3) Type of contract

Supplies

II.1.4) Short description

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC) is delivering the Low Carbon Future Mobility (LCFM) project within the UK Central Infrastructure Programme. The project is assessing a breadth of new solutions to delivering low / zero carbon active and mass transport solutions.

Working closely with Borough and regional stakeholders there is an identified desire to learn how Connected Autonomous Vehicle (CAV) technology may in the future be incorporated into both the Council's and private company's operations, as a way of providing an increased number of mass transport options to the public, addressing the over-reliance on privately-owned single-occupancy motor vehicles. Current trends indicate that if car sales continue along existing trajectories then moving in and around the Borough will become increasingly problematic at key pinch-points, so pathfinding interventions must be accelerated.

To support this ambition SMBC is seeking to procure one proven mass-people-moving connected autonomous vehicle (CAV), and associated supplier support, for use across the Borough and potentially wider West Midlands region over a period of a minimum of two years from April 2021. The vehicle will be loaned out to key regional stakeholders to deliver defined use case applications with the ambition of increasing regional understanding and awareness of the technology, helping the authority apply learning to future highways, residential, commercial and transport interchange infrastructure development. The project is not a technology development / feasibility study, rather a use case application demonstrator.

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: £250,000

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 34100000 - Motor vehicles
- 34200000 - Vehicle bodies, trailers or semi-trailers
- 34300000 - Parts and accessories for vehicles and their engines
- 60130000 - Special-purpose road passenger-transport services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKG32 - Solihull

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

SMBC wish to purchase one Connected Autonomous Vehicle (CAV) capable of being driven both manually, i.e. by traditional steering wheel and foot pedals, and autonomously. The vehicle must be suitable for operation on the public highway, so as to maximise potential future application. The vehicle must be able to carry ten or more persons, including the safety driver, simultaneously so as to fit the core project outcome of contributing to the demonstration of autonomy in mass people and / or goods movement.

Alongside the purchase of the vehicle, appropriate levels of on-going project delivery support must be provided so as to maximise delivery of the intended use.

Both the vehicle and the supplier must possess and be able to demonstrate a proven track record in the movement of people by fully autonomous means, as the intended use is for multiple use case application across varying locations, not technology development.

The project delivery period is for a minimum of two years from contract start in April 2021.

The vehicle will be loaned out to key regional stakeholders to deliver defined use case applications with the ambition of increasing regional understanding and awareness of the technology, helping the authority apply learning to future highways, residential, commercial and transport interchange infrastructure development.

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:

Prior to conducting the negotiated procedure, considerable efforts were made to identify alternative suppliers who could meet SMBC's requirements. This included engaging CAV-specialist consultants in development of the FBC.

To date, no alternative suppliers have been identified.

Due to the market for purpose-built, autonomous vehicles still being under-developed only one supplier has been identified that is able to meet the requirements of the project.

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

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract/concession

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

9 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

Richmond Design & Marketing Ltd

Coventry

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKG33 - Coventry

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: £250,000

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Royal Courts of Justice

London

WC2A 2LL

Telephone

+44 2079476000

Country

United Kingdom