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Award

**144000**

Ministry of Defence

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-005151

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04e1e4

Published 14 February 2025, 1:41pm

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

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

Ministry of Defence

MOD Abbey Wood, Filton

Bristol

BS34 8JH

#### **Contact**

Vincent Onakpome

#### **Email**

[vincent.onakpome100@mod.gov.uk](mailto:vincent.onakpome100@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**

National or federal Agency/Office

**I.5) Main activity**

Defence

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## **Section II: Object**

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

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

144000

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

- 75221000 - Military defence services

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

Services

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

The 13 Pounder is a ceremonial gun and carries out 18 musical drives and Royal Salutes annually. They are used as part of the enduring OP BRIDGE (a Royal death and funeral ceremony) and carry significant Royal and Government interest. The 13pdr is over 100 years old having entered service in 1904 as a horse drawn artillery piece and was first issued in 1946 as a saluting gun to the then Riding Troop, later renamed as The King's Troop RHA (Royal Horse Artillery). Its principal function being to provide Royal Salutes and its secondary function is as a hearse for State Funerals. There are qty 9 of the 13pdr guns and a George gun. The George gun has received no modification as it does not get fired, its sole purpose is to carry the coffin at state funerals.

The breech block and carrier components, last refurbished in 1967, have worn and are no longer providing a secure fit, with significant "play" between the parts. Due to the age of the gun there is a lack of historical documentation, technical drawings and material specifications for the parts and the supply of parts have been found lacking, many of the parts being obsolete. The breeches are wearing out and starting to crack on the 13pdr which increases the chances of a misfire. If this occurred during a high-profile public show it would be damaging to defence reputation and require time consuming misfire drills to be conducted. This repair procedure would allow the breeches to be brought up to standard again, giving confidence that the equipment will function, safely, as intended.

This notice is not a request for expressions of interest so please do not apply to be invited to tender. This notice advises that the Authority has decided to negotiate a contract with the

named supplier on a single source basis, and is published for reasons of transparency. If you are interested in becoming a sub-contractor for this requirement, you should apply directly to the supplier named above.

### **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: £144,000

## **II.2) Description**

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

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

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

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

Criterion: Commercial 20

Criterion: Technical/Quality 40

Criterion: Financial 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

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## **Section IV. Procedure**

### **IV.1) Description**

#### **IV.1.1) Type of procedure**

Negotiated procedure without publication of a contract notice

- No tenders or no suitable tenders/requests to participate in response to negotiated procedure with prior publication of a contract notice
- The products involved are manufactured purely for the purpose of research, experiment, study or development

Explanation:

Babcock (SPC Contract) do not currently have the technical experience to do this task, the

equipment to conduct the investigation of material specification requirements or the repairs. They would have to sub-contract to a supplier which would not provide a value for money solution. There are no known Service Sources or extant Framework Arrangements available and due to the value of the required work being more than 50% of the value of the previous contract, it is not possible to add to this to the existing contract. The original contract providing the breech repair scheme valued at £67k and the repairs themselves valued at £144k.

#### Regulation 16(1)(a)(ii)(c) - Technical reasons

Advance Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC) have specialist expertise in machining, casting, welding, additive manufacturing, composites, designing for manufacturing, testing, and training and have completed work in support of the 13pdr previously. Going out to another contractor would potentially mean repeating the trials process that AMRC have already conducted or using the AMRC report which is impractical and could cause some questions over liability if the repairs were not successful. Given the age of the equipment and how niche this item is, it is necessary to use specific know-how and tools which AMRC have at their disposal. There is also the element of safety and reputation given that these guns are used to fire and are fired in public and / or on special occasions. The gun misfiring could cause injury and / or reputational damage.

#### Regulation 16(1)(d)(ii) - Repetition of Works or Services

AMRC have recently compiled a breech repair scheme as tasked by DE&S and therefore have the knowledge to confidently complete this repair. This contract will be a follow on contract from this previous work and the desire is for the same contractor to carry out the remaining necessary work in the interest of consistency, saving of time and value for money. This work conforms to the basic project with which the original contract was awarded and is within the required five years of the original contract. The original contract was awarded by the non-competitive negotiated procedure and notice was given of this additional work now required. The value of this additional work is over the required (50%) threshold to be able to extend the original contract.

### **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**

### **Contract No**

712850450

### **Title**

13 Pounder Breech Repair

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

### **V.2) Award of contract/concession**

#### **V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract**

14 February 2025

#### **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**

Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC)

Wallis, Way, Catcliffe

Rotherham

S60 5TZ

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKE31 - Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham

Internet address

<https://www.amrc.co.uk/>

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: £144,000

#### **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