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Contract

Logistic Drone Swarm Experimentation

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2021/S 000-005445

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

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Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

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Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKI - London

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

- 48900000 - Miscellaneous software package and computer systems

II.1.3) Type of contract

Supplies

II.1.4) Short description

1. This contract sees leading edge experimentation with BBSR to integrate their edge processing swarming software architecture onto Royal Marine experimental UAVs being

employed as modular air vehicles for Find, Lift, Protect and Strike missions

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.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 48000000 - Software package and information systems

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKK - South West (England)

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

1. This contract sees leading edge experimentation with BBSR to integrate their edge processing swarming software architecture onto Royal Marine experimental UAVs being employed as modular air vehicles for Find, Lift, Protect and Strike missions, and automating a multirole ground surveillance camera being trialled. Both pieces of hardware have competed procurements underway for the FCF, reinforcing the importance of this proposal.

a. Platform integration of BBSR Centurion software onto 8 x Malloy TRV-150 & Podview ground camera:

CONOPS definition workshops & report

System architecture (First Draft)

Interface definitions - Blue Bear (Smart Connect) / Malloy (T150) interface definition

8 SmartConnect boxes

Bluebear primed sub-contract to Malloy Aeronautics for their integration and support work and flight testing on 8x TRV150s

MPU5 (data link) integration and compatibility test with RN MPU5s and quick tech note

report.

Smart connect platform integration onto PodView camera & deliver 1 x camera to user & demonstrate edge processing on Centurion & demonstrate object based recognition algorithm to acquire vehicles & personnel.

Blue Bear primed sub-contract to Overview Ltd for the supply of the PodView camera systems and hardware support/engineering effort required for integration for production of deployable prototype operating Centurion software & edge-processing AI recognition analytics for acquisition and classification of personnel and vehicles

b. User training on BBSR Centurion of 15 ranks from 40 Cdo and Cdo Logs Regiment

One-week training course for CDO personnel

Consolidation training flying system in synthetic environment on Centurion

c. Development and submission of beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS) operational safety case into the CAA to authorise UK experimentation to cover two events.

BVLOS OSC designed and submitted. Needs to be done ASAP to try and get approved it in time.

d. Trials & safety support to enable tactical swarm experimentation with frontline users:

8 days with 3 Cdo Bde UAV operators on MOD training estate

e. Digital logistic demand development:

Development & delivery of logistics software plugin to enable automated 'on demand' tactical resupply from multiple task-loaded TRV-150s.

FCF CSS ConOps integration work into Centurion and behaviour development

II.2.5) Award criteria

Price

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: 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 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.

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.

IV.1.8) Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

IV.2) Administrative information

IV.2.1) Previous publication concerning this procedure

Notice number: [2021/S 000-004495](#)

Section V. Award of contract

Contract No

701549389

Title

Logistic Drone Swarm Experimentation

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

17 March 2021

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 1

The contract has been awarded to a group of economic operators: No

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

Blue Bear Systems Research

Oakley

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKH2 - Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire

The contractor is an SME

Yes

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

Total value of the contract/lot: £625,000

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

MOD

London

Country

United Kingdom