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Tender

Purchase of Closed-Cycle Helium Cryogenic System

Heriot-Watt University

F02: Contract notice

Notice identifier: 2026/S 000-006090

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-060d16

Published 23 January 2026, 11:01am

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Heriot-Watt University

Moyen House, Research Park North, Heriot-Watt University

Riccarton, Edinburgh

EH14 4AP

Contact

Richard Kinghorn

Email

R.G.Kinghorn@hw.ac.uk

Telephone

+44 1314513704

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKM75 - Edinburgh, City of

Internet address(es)

Main address

<http://hw.ac.uk>

Buyer's address

https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/search/Search_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA00307

I.2) Information about joint procurement

The contract is awarded by a central purchasing body

I.3) Communication

The procurement documents are available for unrestricted and full direct access, free of charge, at

<https://www.publictendersscotland.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/esop/pts-host/public/pts/web/login.html>

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted electronically via

<https://www.publictendersscotland.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/esop/pts-host/public/pts/web/login.html>

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.5) Main activity

Education

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Purchase of Closed-Cycle Helium Cryogenic System

Reference number

HWU-UK-2526-237-00

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 38000000 - Laboratory, optical and precision equipments (excl. glasses)

II.1.3) Type of contract

Supplies

II.1.4) Short description

The University is seeking a contractor to supply, deliver and install a closed-cycle helium cryogenic system for quantum-optics experiments,

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £220,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 31000000 - Electrical machinery, apparatus, equipment and consumables; lighting

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKM75 - Edinburgh, City of

Main site or place of performance

Heriot-Watt University

Riccarton Campus

Edinburgh

EH14 4AS

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The University is seeking a contractor to supply, deliver and install a closed-cycle helium cryogenic system for quantum-optics experiments capable of cooling small semiconductor chips to a temperature of 4K, which are mounted with on-chip optical and electrical connections.

The chips should be optically addressable using a low working distance objective.

The system will be used for a range of experiments in quantum optics and quantum technologies, with particular focus on characterising devices in silicon carbide where solid-state defect spins are coupled to optomechanical microcavities.

The system will be situated in an optics lab at the University's Edinburgh campus

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Technical / Weighting: 70

Cost criterion - Name: Commercial / Weighting: 30

II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system

Duration in months

12

This contract is subject to renewal

No

II.2.10) Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: No

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: Yes

Identification of the project

RES923491

Section III. Legal, economic, financial and technical information

III.1) Conditions for participation

III.1.2) Economic and financial standing

List and brief description of selection criteria

Bidders will be required to have a minimum “general” yearly turnover of the amount listed below, for the last 2 years. Where turnover information is not available for the time period requested, the bidder will be required to state the date which they were set up/started trading.

The Successful Contractor will be required to provide two years audited accounts, or equivalent prior to awarded to the Contract, or confirm in their tender submission the publicly accessible, free, online location of accounts if available in such a format. There must be no qualification or contra-indication from any evidence provided in support of the Contractor’s economic and financial standing.

It is a requirement of this contract that bidders hold, or can commit to obtain prior to the commencement of any contract, the types and levels of insurance listed below.

Bidders also must confirm they can provide the following supporting evidence at point of award.

Minimum level(s) of standards possibly required

Turnover Requirements:

Bidders will be required to have a minimum “general” yearly turnover of 440,000 GBP for the last 2 years.

Insurance Requirements:

It is a requirement of this contract that bidders hold, or can commit to obtain prior to the commencement of any contract, the following types and levels of insurance:

Employer's (Compulsory) Liability Insurance = 5,000,000 GBP

Product Liability Insurance = 2,000,000 GBP

Public Liability Insurance = 2,000,000 GBP

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Open procedure

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.2.2) Time limit for receipt of tenders or requests to participate

Date

23 February 2026

Local time

12:00pm

IV.2.4) Languages in which tenders or requests to participate may be submitted

English

IV.2.7) Conditions for opening of tenders

Date

23 February 2026

Local time

12:00pm

Place

Heriot-Watt University

Riccarton Campus

Edinburgh

EH14 4AS

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.1) Information about recurrence

This is a recurrent procurement: No

VI.2) Information about electronic workflows

Electronic ordering will be used

Electronic invoicing will be accepted

Electronic payment will be used

VI.3) Additional information

Economic operators may be excluded from this competition if they are in any of the situations referred to in regulation 58 of the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2015.

Tenderers will be asked to submit the following forms. These forms are for information only and will not be scored.

Form of Tender

Bona Fide Tender

Freedom of Information

Supply Chain Code of Conduct

The Successful Tenderer must confirm that they comply with the requirements of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

The Successful Tenderer will be required to provide two years audited accounts, or equivalent prior to awarded to the Contract, or confirm in their tender submission the publicly accessible, free, online location of accounts if available in such a format.

There must be no qualification or contra-indication from any evidence provided in support of the Contractor's economic and financial standing.

Where the capability & capacity of a subcontractor, members of a consortia or any other body will be relied on, separate SPD(s) are required from each of those other parties relied on.

Where subcontractors are to be used but their capability & capacity are not relied on, the University may choose to request separate SPD(s).

The buyer is using PCS-Tender to conduct this ITT exercise. The Project code is 31036. The ITT code is itt_62580.

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<http://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/info/InfoCentre.aspx?ID=2343>

(SC Ref:821492)

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Edinburgh Sheriff Court and Justice of the Peace Court

Edinburgh

Country

United Kingdom