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Award

## **SACC/00113 - Provision of Link 16 Network Management System (L16 NMS) - VTN**

Ministry of Defence

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-006279

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04e523

Published 20 February 2025, 2:41pm

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

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

Ministry of Defence

Situational Awareness Command and Control Delivery Team, DE&S, Spruce 1C, MOD Abbey Wood

Bristol

BS34 8JH

#### **Contact**

Karmen Webber

#### **Email**

[karmen.webber102@mod.gov.uk](mailto:karmen.webber102@mod.gov.uk)

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

**Region code**

UK - United Kingdom

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<https://des.mod.uk/>

**I.4) Type of the contracting authority**

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

**I.5) Main activity**

Defence

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**Section II: Object****II.1) Scope of the procurement****II.1.1) Title**

SACC/00113 - Provision of Link 16 Network Management System (L16 NMS) - VTN

Reference number

SACC/00113

**II.1.2) Main CPV code**

- 72315200 - Data network management services

**II.1.3) Type of contract**

Services

**II.1.4) Short description**

SACC/00113 - Provision of Link 16 Network Management System (L16 NMS) - VTN

Situational Awareness Common and Control Delivery Team, part of Defence Equipment and Support (DE&S) within the UK Ministry of Defence, intends to award a Single Source

Contract for the In-Service Support of a Link 16 Network Management System (NMS), with Thales UK Limited for a period of 2 years with options.

Please note the Contract has not yet been placed. This VTN is for transparency purposes only.

#### **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: £1,600,000

### **II.2) Description**

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

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

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

VTN – JNMS

The Situational Awareness Command and Control (SACC) Team, part of the UK Ministry of Defence (the Authority), intends to award a contract for the In-Service Support of a Link 16 Network Management System (NMS), with Thales UK Limited (the Contractor) for a period of 2 years with options. The estimated value of this Contract is £1.6M ex VAT excluding options.

In accordance with regulation 4 of The Defence and Security Public Contracts (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (SI 2019/697) this procurement falls to be regulated under the provisions of the Defence and Security Public Contracts Regulations (DSPCR) 2011 as amended (in particular by SI 2019/697 and SI 2020/1450). It is considered that the award of the contract without prior publication of a contract notice in the UK e-notification service (in accordance with the relevant legislation) is lawful in accordance with regulation 16(1)(a)(ii) of the DSPCR 2011 for technical reasons as the Contractor owns the relevant technical information relating to the equipment and only the Contractor has the required technical expertise and know-how necessary to fulfil the Authority's requirement.

United Kingdom (UK) Defence has an enduring requirement to manage and monitor all Link 16 activity within the UK and support up to 2 deployed operations. The NMS allows

the Network Management operators to monitor network activity and modify the network architecture to provide optimal Link 16 network operating conditions. NMS also monitors all Link 16 activity to ensure compliance with the MOD/Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) UK Frequency Clearance Agreement (FCA).

The current equipment set up is unique and the software installed on the equipment is owned and supported by the Contractor. As the OEM with proprietary rights for the software that is installed on the equipment, support can only be provided by Thales UK Limited, as only they hold the technical information, tools and expertise required. In the immediate term changing the system would have a potentially detrimental impact and could result in an inability to utilise the Link 16 network across all platforms in the UK Flight Information Region (FIR). This would significantly curtail pan domain platform's ability to train for operations.

The Cyber Risk profile is Low. The reference for the Risk Assessment is: RAR-240620A07.

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

Price

#### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: Yes

Description of options

2x 1 year In-Service Support Options

#### **II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds**

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

## Section IV. Procedure

### IV.1) Description

#### IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Negotiated procedure without publication of a contract notice

- The products involved are manufactured purely for the purpose of research, experiment, study or development
- 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:

VTN – JNMS

The Situational Awareness Command and Control (SACC) Team, part of the UK Ministry of Defence (the Authority), intends to award a contract for the In-Service Support of a Link 16 Network Management System (NMS), with Thales UK Limited (the Contractor) for a period of 2 years with options. The estimated value of this Contract is £1.6M ex VAT excluding options.

In accordance with regulation 4 of The Defence and Security Public Contracts (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (SI 2019/697) this procurement falls to be regulated under the provisions of the Defence and Security Public Contracts Regulations (DSPCR) 2011 as amended (in particular by SI 2019/697 and SI 2020/1450). It is considered that the award of the contract without prior publication of a contract notice in the UK e-notification service (in accordance with the relevant legislation) is lawful in accordance with regulation 16(1)(a)(ii) of the DSPCR 2011 for technical reasons as the Contractor owns the relevant technical information relating to the equipment and only the Contractor has the required technical expertise and know-how necessary to fulfil the Authority's requirement.

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The Cyber Risk profile is Low. The reference for the Risk Assessment is: RAR-240620A07.

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

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### **Section V. Award of contract/concession**

#### **Contract No**

714074450

#### **Title**

SACC/00113 - Provision of Link 16 Network Management System (L16 NMS) -

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

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

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

20 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**

Thales UK Limited

Horizon House, Throop Road, Templecombe

Somerset

BA8 0DH

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

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

Initial estimated total value of the contract/lot/concession: £1,600,000

Lowest offer: £1,600,000 / Highest offer: £1,600,000 taken into consideration

**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

Situational Awareness Command and Control Delivery Team

SACC DT, DE&S, Spruce 1C, MOD Abbey Wood

Bristol

BS34 8JH

Email

[karmen.webber102@mod.gov.uk](mailto:karmen.webber102@mod.gov.uk)

Country

United Kingdom