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Award

TAIPAN E3 TESTING PHASE 2

Ministry of Defence

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-007384

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04467c

Published 7 March 2024, 3:33pm

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

Ministry of Defence

MOD ABBEY WOOD (SOUTH)

Bristol

BS34 8JH

Email

jack.mcvann100@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

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

TAIPAN E3 TESTING PHASE 2

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 75220000 - Defence services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

E3 TESTING

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: £82,476

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 35722000 - Radar

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

E3 TESTING

II.2.5) Award criteria

Price

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

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
- 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:

The Artillery Systems Team within Defence Equipment and Support, part of the UK

Ministry of Defence, intends to place a single source contract Malvern Optical to conduct E3 testing of the TAIPAN capability as part of the capability certification process required to gain SRO authorisation to introduce it into service.

The Mobile Artillery Monitoring Battlefield (MAMBA) Mid Life Enhancement (MLE) is an equipment update project to address obsolescence issues with the current In-Service MAMBA fleet. The project will address obsolescence, in order to maintain MAMBA Weapon Locating System (WLS) capabilities until it's Out of Service Date (OSD) of Dec 2026. The MAMBA Radar locates and identifies enemy mortar, artillery, rocket firing positions and facilitates the delivery of timely and accurate counter fires. The project will be delivered by the Artillery Systems Delivery Team. The project is planning to provide Initial Operating Capability (IOC) by Quarter 2 FY 24/25 and will replace the current MAMBA Fleet which was procured as an Urgent Operational Requirement (UOR) for operations in Afghanistan in 2002.

The single-source justification for contracting Malvern Optical due to technical reasons is as follows:

- a. Height of the system + 2.93 m for Bowman antennas, Malvern Optical is the only accredited chamber that is large enough to accommodate the system and afford the required 0.3 m separation between tip of the Radiation Absorbent Material (RAM) and the tip of the antenna.
- b. Malvern Optical are the only accredited facility for Antenna Radiation Patterns.
- c. Malvern Optical are the only accredited facility for SINAD and MEMIC measurements:
- d. DRE04 measurements need to be taken at the same facility as this feeds SINAD and MEMIC frequency selection.
- e. TacCIS ID&C testing of VSWR and RF bonding from other facilities has identified issues with measurement technique and measurement locations which effectively voids most (if not all) testing and any opportunity for read across to similar platforms. This is because other facilities are automotive-centric, whereas Malvern Optical are communications-centric (which is the whole purpose of the ID&C testing).

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: No

Section V. Award of contract/concession

Contract No

711086450

Title

TAIPAN E3 TESTING PHASE 2

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract/concession

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

7 March 2024

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

MALVERN OPTICAL LIMITED

Hangar 3 Pershore Airfield, Long Lane, Worcestershire, England

Throckmorton

WR10 2JH

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)

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £82,476

V.2.5) Information about subcontracting

The contract/lot/concession is likely to be subcontracted

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

DEFENCE EQUIPMENT & SUPPORT

MOD ABBEY WOOD (SOUTH)

BRISTOL

BS34 8JH

Country

United Kingdom