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Contract

RBGKEW1500 - Seed viability X-ray cabinet

Board of Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2026/S 000-007729

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-06113c

Published 28 January 2026, 4:08pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Board of Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew

THE HERBARIUM

KEW GREEN

TW93AE

Email

procurement@kew.org

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKI75 - Hounslow and Richmond upon Thames

Companies House

803428

Internet address(es)

Main address

<http://www.kew.org>

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

I.5) Main activity

Environment

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

RBGKEW1500 - Seed viability X-ray cabinet

Reference number

RBGKEW1500

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 33111000 - X-ray devices

II.1.3) Type of contract

Supplies

II.1.4) Short description

The Millennium Seed Bank laboratories (RBG Kew) are seeking to update their X-Ray Machine to continue supporting the assessment of quality seed collections during the cleaning and processing stage to assess the final number of "good" seeds prior to banking, which allows to keep the collections to be kept at top quality.

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: £150,000

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKC - North East (England)
- UKD - North West (England)
- UKE - Yorkshire and the Humber

- UKF - East Midlands (England)
- UKG - West Midlands (England)
- UKH - East of England
- UKI - London
- UKJ - South East (England)
- UKK - South West (England)

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The Millennium Seed Bank laboratories (RBG Kew) are seeking to update their X-Ray Machine to continue supporting the assessment of quality seed collections during the cleaning and processing stage to assess the final number of "good" seeds prior to banking, which allows to keep the collections to be kept at top quality.

Market route via Single Tender Action is justified because early market engagement demonstrated that competition is absent for technical reasons, with no reasonable alternative or substitute available that can meet RBG Kew's combined scientific and IT compliance requirements.

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 procurement falls outside the scope of application of the regulations

Explanation:

The STA is justified because early market engagement demonstrated that competition is absent for technical reasons, with no reasonable alternative or substitute available that can meet RBG Kew's combined scientific and IT compliance requirements.

The supplier is offering a highly competitive price for a state-of-the-art unit, along with maintenance support that will ensure core operations can continue and enable new research activities, such as efficient measurement of X-ray seed density. The equipment's specifications, specialised agricultural/seed-focused design, and accompanying software are not available from other suppliers.

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

Section V. Award of contract

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

9 December 2025

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

Southern Scientific Limited

Scientific House, Henfield Business Pk, Shoreham Rd, Henfield

West Sussex,

BN5 9SL

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

Companies House

01800317

The contractor is an SME

Yes

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

Total value of the contract/lot: £150,000

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Head of Procurement & Contract Management, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

The Herbarium, Kew Green

London

TW9 3AE

Country

United Kingdom