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Award

Frequency Offset Generators

National Physical Laboratory

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-008194

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04489b

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Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

National Physical Laboratory

Hampton Road

Teddington

TW11 0LW

Email

nina.heath@npl.co.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

www.npl.co.uk

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.5) Main activity

Other activity

Research

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Frequency Offset Generators

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

Provision of up to 12 Frequency Offset Generators to be used in RETSI at Sites 3 & 4, and for the provision of spares to support all sites.

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: £600,000

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Provision of up to 12 Frequency Offset Generators to be used in RETSI at Sites 3 & 4, and for the provision of spares to support all sites.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Cost criterion - Name: Technical / Weighting: 80

Cost criterion - Name: Commercial / Weighting: 20

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

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:

NPL requires a number of high-performance frequency offset generators under the National Timing Centre programme, one for use with each active hydrogen maser that will be purchased through the programme.

The frequency offset generator required should accept a reference sine wave signal at 10 MHz or 100 MHz, and generate similar output signals with a programmable fractional frequency offset from the input signal at 10 MHz and 100 MHz. A TTL output signal at 1 PPS is also highly desirable. A minimum of two outputs should be available for each signal type, and five would be preferred.

The primary performance requirement is that the output signals from the frequency offset generator should (as far as possible) not add any noise to the input signal. In other words, the phase noise of the output signals between 1 Hz and 10 kHz should match that of the signals produced by an active hydrogen maser with high-quality local oscillator (low phase noise option). Similarly, the instability of the output signals at averaging times from 1 s to 1 day should be no greater than the instability of the signals generated at that frequency by an active hydrogen maser.

The only commercially-available frequency offset generator identified by NPL that meets the requirements specified above is the model EOG-2020 produced by SKK Electronics.

A number of the units are already in use within the current NTC R&D programme, the same model should be used for continuity and seamless system integration – selection of a different unit type would create significant work to update baselined design documents and written software.

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/concession

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract/concession

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

13 March 2023

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

SpectraDynamics

1849 Cherry St, CO

Louisville

80027

Country

United States

NUTS code

- US - United States

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

Yes

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

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £600,000

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

NPL Management Ltd

Hampton Road

Teddington

TW11 0LW

Country

United Kingdom

VI.4.2) Body responsible for mediation procedures

NPL Management Ltd

Hampton Road

Teddington

TW11 0LW

Country

United Kingdom