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Award

## **Procurement of Wire Insulation Piercing Probes (WIPPs)**

Ministry of Defence

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-008226

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-0448b0

Published 14 March 2024, 3:32pm

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

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

Ministry of Defence

Bristol

#### **Email**

[Bruce.Bawden101@mod.gov.uk](mailto:Bruce.Bawden101@mod.gov.uk)

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

#### **Region code**

UK - United Kingdom

#### **Internet address(es)**

Main address

<https://des.mod.uk/what-we-do/army-procurement-support/soldier-training-special-projects/>

#### **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**

Procurement of Wire Insulation Piercing Probes (WIPPs)

##### **II.1.2) Main CPV code**

- 38552000 - Electronic meters

##### **II.1.3) Type of contract**

Supplies

##### **II.1.4) Short description**

Procurement of Wire Insulation Piercing Probes (WIPPs)

##### **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: £375,000

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

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

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

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

Procurement of Wire Insulation Piercing Probes (WIPPs)

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

Options: Yes

Description of options

2 Option Years

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

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

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## **Section IV. Procedure**

### **IV.1) Description**

#### **IV.1.1) Type of procedure**

Negotiated without a prior call for competition

- No tenders or no suitable tenders/requests to participate in response to restricted procedure
- The products involved are manufactured purely for the purpose of research, experiment, study or development

Explanation:

The Special Explosive Ordnance Disposal and Search, Exploitation & Countermeasures (SEEC) Delivery Team, as part of the UK Ministry of Defence ("MOD"), intends to award a contract to Thales UK Ltd for the procurement of Wire Insulation Piercing Probes (WIPPs). These ancillaries are used in conjunction with a Long-Range Wire Diagnostic Tool (LRWDT). This contract will be for the procurement of WIPPs over a fixed 5-year term, with options to extend by a further 2 years to cover any emergent requirements. The contract will run to 2030 with an expected value of £450,000 over the full seven years. This value is inclusive of an initial procurement of 620 sets of banana-end WIPPs (x6 per set). The contract is for the procurement of WIPPs only, there is no requirement for in-service support.

The WIPPs have been in-service with the UK Armed Forces since 2021 as an ancillary that attaches to the LRWDT. The WIPPs have been developed and modified specifically

for UK military use. The Intellectual Property for the WIPPs are held by the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) - Warwick Test Supplies Limited. The OEM has an exclusivity agreement with the Contractor – Thales UK Ltd. Thales UK Ltd have been granted an exclusive licence to use the relevant technical information relating to the WIPPs (which is necessary to manufacture the WIPPs) by the OEM. Therefore, Thales UK Ltd are the only company with the technical know-how to undertake the manufacture of the WIPPs.

The UK Armed Forces are trained in the operation of WIPPs. Introducing a new system and operating two systems in parallel would introduce an unacceptable additional training requirement and an unacceptable risk to safety. The WIPPs are specifically designed and modified to be interoperable with the LRWDT. Accordingly, Thales UK Ltd is the only Contractor which can deliver this requirement.

It is therefore considered that this contract can be awarded to Thales UK Ltd using the negotiated procedure without prior publication of a contract notice pursuant to Regulation 16(1)(a)(ii) of the UK Defence and Security Public Contracts Regulations 2011 for technical reasons.

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: No

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

### **Contract No**

708203450

### **Title**

Procurement of Wire Insulation Piercing probes

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

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

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

11 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**

Thales UK Limited

Reading

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: £375,000

**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**

Ministry of Defence

Bristol

Country

United Kingdom