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## **ARTIC Upgrade and ARTIC-Lite**

Defence Science and Technology Laboratory

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-008236

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-03b4e3

Published 21 March 2023, 9:03pm

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

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

Defence Science and Technology Laboratory

Porton Down

SALISBURY

SP4 0JQ

#### **Email**

[CTS-Transparency@dstl.gov.uk](mailto:CTS-Transparency@dstl.gov.uk)

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

#### **Region code**

UKK15 - Wiltshire CC

#### **Justification for not providing organisation identifier**

Not on any register

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/defence-science-and-technology-laboratory>

**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**

ARTIC Upgrade and ARTIC-Lite

Reference number

RQ0000025233

**II.1.2) Main CPV code**

- 73410000 - Military research and technology

**II.1.3) Type of contract**

Services

**II.1.4) Short description**

The Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl), part of the UK Ministry of Defence intends to award a Single Source Non-Qualifying Defence Contract valued at up to £250,000.00 (ex VAT) with Roke Manor Research Limited ("the Contractor") to carry out additional research and development services on the Argos Receiver Transmitter with Integrated Control (ARTIC), whereby the research requirement seeks to upgrade ARTIC (TUNDRA) and continue conducting research and development services enhancing the

capability of ARTIC-Lite. The Contractor has successfully delivered an advanced Argos satellite tracking and locating beacon based on the ARTIC R2 chipset. Subsequently, Dstl have identified further research objectives including upgrade to the R3 chipset and development of ARTIC-Lite with focus on minimising size, weight and power (SWaP).

It is considered that this Contract can be placed using the Negotiated Procedure Without Prior Publication of a contract notice pursuant to Article 28(1)(e) of Directive 2009/81/EC (Regulation 16(1)(c)) of the Defence and Security Public Contracts Regulations 2011) for the provision of Research and Development services not excluded under the Regulation 7(1)(l) R&D Exclusion.

The original contract with the Contractor has now been successfully completed. This proposed new contract will ensure continued access to research and development services which enable the Authority to fully benefit from the latest capabilities of the Argos Satellite System which provides a commercial, globally-reaching bearer system for transmitting short data messages over-the-horizon (OTH).

#### **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: £250,000

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

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

NUTS codes

- UKK - South West (England)

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

The Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl), part of the UK Ministry of Defence intends to award a Single Source Non-Qualifying Defence Contract valued at up to £250,000.00 (ex VAT) with Roke Manor Research Limited ("the Contractor") to carry out additional research and development services on the Argos Receiver Transmitter with Integrated Control (ARTIC), whereby the research requirement seeks to upgrade ARTIC (TUNDRA) and continue conducting research and development services enhancing the capability of ARTIC-Lite. The Contractor has successfully delivered an advanced Argos satellite tracking and locating beacon based on the ARTIC R2 chipset. Subsequently, Dstl have identified further research objectives including upgrade to the R3 chipset and development of ARTIC-Lite with focus on minimising size, weight and power (SWaP).

It is considered that this Contract can be placed using the Negotiated Procedure Without Prior Publication of a contract notice pursuant to Article 28(1)(e) of Directive 2009/81/EC (Regulation 16(1)(c)) of the Defence and Security Public Contracts Regulations 2011) for the provision of Research and Development services not excluded under the Regulation 7(1)(l) R&D Exclusion.

The original contract with the Contractor has now been successfully completed. This proposed new contract will ensure continued access to research and development services which enable the Authority to fully benefit from the latest capabilities of the Argos Satellite System which provides a commercial, globally-reaching bearer system for transmitting short data messages over-the-horizon (OTH).

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

Options: No

#### **II.2.14) Additional information**

This notice is not a request for expressions of interest so please do not apply to be invited to tender. This notice advises that the Authority has decided to negotiate a contract with the named supplier on a single source basis, and is published for reasons of transparency. If you are interested in becoming a sub-contractor for this requirement, you should apply directly to the supplier named above.

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## Section IV. Procedure

### IV.1) Description

#### IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Negotiated without a prior call for competition

- 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 Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl), part of the UK Ministry of Defence intends to award a Single Source Non-Qualifying Defence Contract with Roke Manor Research Limited ("the Contractor")

It is considered that this Contract can be placed using the Negotiated Procedure Without Prior Publication of a contract notice pursuant to Article 28(1)(e) of Directive 2009/81/EC (Regulation 16(1)(c)) of the Defence and Security Public Contracts Regulations 2011) for the provision of Research and Development services not excluded under the Regulation 7(1)(l) R&D Exclusion.

Roke Manor Research Limited has extensive expertise of the Argos Satellite Constellation. The Contractor has previously successfully delivered an advanced Argos satellite tracking and locating beacon based on the ARTIC R2 chipset due to their leading knowledge in the Argos/Kinéis system, certification procedures and chipsets. The Contractor has the tools, knowledge and know-how necessary to provide the required capability. Dstl intend to award a new contract to build upon the previous work to ensure necessary upgrades and further research and development are achieved.

#### 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**

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

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

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

21 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**

Roke Manor Research Limited

Romsey

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKK - South West (England)

Companies House

00267550

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: £250,000

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £250,000

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## **Section VI. Complementary information**

### **VI.3) Additional information**

The Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl), part of the UK Ministry of Defence intends to award a Single Source Non-Qualifying Defence Contract with Roke Manor Research Limited ("the Contractor") to carry out additional research and development services on the Argos Receiver Transmitter with Integrated Control (ARTIC), whereby the research requirement seeks to upgrade ARTIC (TUNDRA) and carry out development on ARTIC-Lite.

The original contract with the Contractor has now been successfully completed. This proposed new contract will ensure continued access to research and development services which enable the Authority to fully benefit from the latest capabilities of the Argos Satellite System which provides a commercial, globally-reaching bearer system for transmitting short data messages over-the-horizon (OTH). The output of this work is up to Official.

This notice is not a request for expressions of interest so please do not apply to be invited to tender. This notice advises that the Authority has decided to negotiate a contract with the named supplier on a single source basis, and is published for reasons of transparency. If you are interested in becoming a sub-contractor for this requirement, you should apply directly to the supplier named above.

### **VI.4) Procedures for review**

#### **VI.4.1) Review body**

Dstl

Salisbury

Country

United Kingdom