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Planning

## **AWE: Provision of scientific, manufacturing and research equipment, goods, and associated services**

Ministry of Defence

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-008271

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-03b4f3

Published 22 March 2023, 10:17am

### **Section I: Contracting authority**

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

Ministry of Defence

AWE Aldermaston

Reading

RG7 4PR

#### **Email**

[AWEProcurement@awe.co.uk](mailto:AWEProcurement@awe.co.uk)

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

#### **Region code**

UKJ1 - Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<https://www.awe.co.uk/>

**I.3) Communication**

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

**I.4) Type of the contracting authority**

Other type

Non-Departmental Public Body

**I.5) Main activity**

Defence

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## Section II: Object

### II.1) Scope of the procurement

#### II.1.1) Title

AWE: Provision of scientific, manufacturing and research equipment, goods, and associated services

#### 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

AWE is looking to engage with the market to understand supplier capability to support its world class laboratory, research & development, testing and production requirements with provision of scientific, manufacturing and research equipment, goods and associated services including but not limited too; lasers, electronic components, laboratory consumables, chemicals, lenses, optics, high vacuum equipment, x-ray generating equipment, radioactive sources, analytical standards, packaging, and photographic & AV equipment.

AWE are considering a framework agreement with industry (single or multiple suppliers) for a period of up to 7 years.

To access the AWE Lab Equipment & Consumables Appendix A Proforma, interested parties are advised to consult the Contracts Finder Notice using the link provided below.

<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/9fbf1dd1-8d07-4c05-8c6b-1da44824c5d6>

#### II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

### II.2) Description

#### II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 09343000 - Radioactive materials

- 09344000 - Radio-isotopes
- 24000000 - Chemical products
- 31711100 - Electronic components
- 33696500 - Laboratory reagents
- 38636100 - Lasers
- 38650000 - Photographic equipment
- 42000000 - Industrial machinery
- 45214630 - Scientific installations
- 50000000 - Repair and maintenance services
- 51430000 - Installation services of laboratory equipment
- 71000000 - Architectural, construction, engineering and inspection services
- 79920000 - Packaging and related services

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

NUTS codes

- UKJ1 - Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire

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

The Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) is an arms-length body of the Ministry of Defence employing around 6,000 people headquartered in Aldermaston, Berkshire.

For more than 70 years, AWE has supported the UK Government's nuclear defence strategy and the Continuous At Sea Deterrent. We also use our nuclear know-how and technical expertise to provide innovative solutions that support the UK's counter-terrorism & nuclear threat reduction activities.

AWE is looking to engage with the market to understand the supplier's capability to support its world class scientific, manufacturing, and research requirements, in order to inform the procurement strategy for these requirements.

The scope of Services being considered is not limited to, but represented by:

Market / product research services

Sourcing / procurement services

Delivery services

Installation & commissioning services

Planned maintenance services

Unplanned rapid call out maintenance services

The largest and most complex of these areas is sourcing / procurement services for technical and scientific equipment for research and manufacturing where we are looking to understand the opportunities to form a single or a small number of strategic partnerships where suppliers are able to source, or sub-contract the broad range of equipment AWE requires. The bidder will also be required to provide through life support to the assets: installation & commissioning, and through-life maintenance.

The types of equipment we require support for is not limited to, but represented by:

Scientific & manufacturing equipment

Laboratory consumables

Chemicals & chemical compounds

Lasers

Lenses & optics

High vacuum equipment

X-ray generating equipment

Electronic components

Radioactive sources

Analytical standards

Packaging

Photographic & AV equipment

To support the development of our procurement strategy and understand how the market

can support and fulfil AWE requirements, AWE is requesting interested parties to submit the proforma; Appendix A, to [AWEProcurement@awe.co.uk](mailto:AWEProcurement@awe.co.uk), including in the title of your email submission “Lab Equipment & Consumables”.

Once the necessary security checks have been carried out using information submitted in the proforma, if successful, the RFI will be sent to the nominated email in your proforma.

Responses to the RFI should be submitted via email to [AWEProcurement@awe.co.uk](mailto:AWEProcurement@awe.co.uk), including in the title of your email submission “Lab Equipment & Consumables”.

AWE is especially interested in tail-spend managers, scientific equipment and consumable resellers, and other entities that have experience providing or sourcing scientific equipment and consumables for businesses responding to this RFI.

The nature of this PIN is such that AWE intends to operate restrictions within the relevant procurement regulations in order to protect essential national security interests. If an economic operator has connections with any hostile entity or foreign states which are deemed by AWE to pose a risk to the UK’s national security interests or is otherwise considered not to possess the reliability necessary to exclude risks to the security of the United Kingdom, AWE reserves its right to exclude them from this exercise.

In issuing this PIN and engaging with the market, the AWE is not committing to conduct any procurement in relation to this Programme. Equally non-participation in this Market Engagement will not be taken into account in any future procurement activities and will not preclude any organisation from submitting a tender in any future competitions.

Note: The nature of this contract is such that the award will be subject to supplier’s passing AWE’s security requirements as dictated by its site licenses.

To access the Proforma, interested parties are advised to consult the Contracts Finder Notice using the link provided below -  
<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/9fbf1dd1-8d07-4c05-8c6b-1da44824c5d6>

### **II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice**

31 May 2023

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## **Section IV. Procedure**

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

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: No