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Contract

MHC Autonomy Software Integration & Support

Ministry of Defence

F18: Contract award notice for contracts in the field of defence and security

Notice identifier: 2022/S 000-009071

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-02e6a6

Published 5 April 2022, 11:09am

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name, addresses and contact point(s)

Ministry of Defence

Abbey Wood, Filton

Bristol

BS34 8JH

Contact

Garry Ogborne

For the attention of

Mr Garry Ogborne

Email(s)

garry.ogborne100@mod.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

General address of the contracting authority/entity

<https://des.mod.uk>

I.2) Type of the contracting authority

Ministry or any other national or federal authority, including their regional or local subdivisions

I.3) Main activity

Defence

I.4) Contract award on behalf of other contracting authorities

The contracting authority is purchasing on behalf of other contracting authorities:

No

Section II: Object of the contract

II.1) Description

II.1.1) Title attributed to the contract

MHC Autonomy Software Integration & Support

II.1.2) Type of contract and location of works, place of delivery or of performance

Services

Service category No 3: Defence services, military defence services and civil defence services

Main site or location of works, place of delivery or of performance

Edinburgh

NUTS code

- UKM75 - Edinburgh, City of

II.1.4) Short description of the contract or purchase(s)

The Mine Hunting Capability Team, part of the UK Ministry of Defence (MoD), has awarded a contract to Seebyte Limited for the support and continued development of software based upon Seebyte's suite of software.

II.1.5) Common procurement vocabulary (CPV)

- 72000000 - IT services: consulting, software development, Internet and support

Section IV: Procedure

Type of procedure

Negotiated without publication of a contract notice

Justification for the award of the contract without prior publication of a contract notice

1) Justification for the choice of the negotiated procedure without prior publication of a contract notice

The works/goods/services can be provided only by a particular tenderer for reasons that are:

technical

The Mine Hunting Capability Team, part of the UK Ministry of Defence (MoD), has awarded a contract to Seebyte Limited for the support and continued development of software based upon Seebyte's suite of proprietary, privately developed software for which Seebyte Limited holds the background IP - namely: NEPTUNE, SeeTrack & CoPilot. This suite of software enables autonomy behaviours for Unmanned Vehicles to work collaboratively and effectively for the purpose of Maritime Mine Countermeasures. Through the three software products listed, the software enables features such as; Low-Level mission planning, Autonomous missions by vehicles and Mine Threat Identification and classification. The contract shall be for an initial period of 25-months, with Options to extend the contract duration by a further two 12-month periods, giving a maximum possible contract duration of 49-months. The maximum total value of the contract is not estimated to exceed £2m for the entire 49-month period.

In accordance with regulation 4 of The Defence and Security Public Contracts (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (SI 2019/697) this procurement falls to be regulated under the provisions of the Defence and Security Public Contracts Regulations 2011 as amended (in particular by SI 2019/697 and SI 2020/1450). Prior publication of a contract notice in the Official Journal of the European Union is no longer appropriate.

It is considered that the award of the contract without prior publication of a contract notice in the UK e-notification service (in accordance with the relevant legislation) is lawful in accordance with regulation 16(1)(a)(ii) of the DSPCR 2011 (as amended) for Technical Reasons. This requirement is for the continued support and development of Seebyte's suite of proprietary software which was privately developed by Seebyte. This software is

widely used in different applications by the Royal Navy and works collectively and collaboratively to optimise the operation and effectiveness of its autonomous underwater vehicles. This requirement is a direct continuation of the same services previously procured by the MoD under the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory's Science & Technology (S&T) programme. Ensuring contractual cover to facilitate the continuing support and evolutionary development of this software is critical to maintaining the Royal Navy's existing capability. Given the history to the development of this software by Seebyte Limited for the Royal Navy there is no other reasonable alternative software in the market that would meet the MoD's continuing requirements.

For operational reasons the Royal Navy systems which incorporates the Seebyte Limited software need to be able to interoperate with similar systems used by UK Allies, all of whom use the Seebyte Limited software. Royal Navy systems with third party software would not meet these requirements and would create significant interoperability issues which would result in a degraded capability.

Only Seebyte Limited have the technical knowledge, expertise and underlying source code necessary to meet this continuing support and development requirement. This technical knowledge and expertise has been gained in part through the previous role Seebyte has undertaken in developing the software for the Royal Navy's purposes.

IV.2) Award criteria

IV.2.2) Information about electronic auction

An electronic auction has been used: no

IV.3) Administrative information

IV.3.1) File reference number attributed by the contracting authority

701558388

IV.3.2) Previous publication(s) concerning the same contract

Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice number: [2021/S 000-024375](#) of 30 September 2021

Section V: Award of contract

Contract No

701558388

V.1) Date of contract award decision

16 March 2022

V.2) Information about offers

Number of offers received

1

Number of offers received by electronic means

1

V.3) Name and address of economic operator in favour of whom the contract award decision has been taken

SeeByte Ltd

Orchard Brae House, 30 Queensferry Road

Edinburgh

EH4 2HS

Country

United Kingdom

V.4) Information on value of contract

Initial estimated total value of the contract

Value: £2,000,000

Excluding VAT

Total final value of the contract

Value: £2,000,000

Excluding VAT

If annual or monthly value

Number of years: 2

V.5) Information about subcontracting

The contract is likely to be sub-contracted: No

Section VI: Complementary information

VI.1) Information about European Union funds

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

VI.3) Procedures for appeal

VI.3.1) Body responsible for appeal procedures

Ministry of Defence, DE&S, Mine Hunting Capability Team

Abbey Wood, Filton

BS34 8JH

Email(s)

garry.ogborne100@mod.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

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