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Award

Seeding Line

Forestry Commission

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Notice identifier: 2026/S 000-009905

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-0646c1 ([view related notices](#))

Published 4 February 2026, 11:54am

Scope

Reference

FCCN004675

Description

New complete seedling line for container-grown production including bale-breaker, tray-filling equipment, cork covering equipment and drum seeder including drum replacements for different tray configurations and seed morphology.

Contract 1. Complete Seeding Line

Supplier

- BCC AB

Contract value

- £300,000 excluding VAT
- £360,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Earliest date the contract will be signed

16 February 2026

Contract dates (estimated)

- 16 February 2026 to 15 April 2026
- 2 months

Main procurement category

Goods

CPV classifications

- 03450000 - Tree-nursery products

Contract locations

- UK - United Kingdom

Participation

Particular suitability

- Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)
- Voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)

Other information

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Direct award

Direct award justification

Single supplier - technical reasons

Active market research has been conducted over the past years visiting other nurseries in the UK and Europe speaking with other growers and machinery manufacturers. Evidence

of this research can be provided upon request.

There are no other suppliers considered in this procurement that are able to deliver turn-key solutions like the BCC/Flier seeding line. BCC is the main contractor, working with Flier Systems to deliver highly specialized nursery equipment.

Having done extensive research into comparable tray-filling equipment, it has not been possible to locate another suitable supplier that provides a tray-filler that combines vibration and active compaction. Existing JAVO and Da Ros fillers have proven insufficient to fill our trays with peat free substrate, resulting in machinery downtime, increased maintenance and service costs, and significantly lower yield.

Vibration and active compaction has proven essential for effectively processing peat-free compost as demonstrated by the existing BCC tray-filler on site. Peat free growing is a switch that was made 3 years ago and placed us as leaders in the sector. The flow and filling of trays is vital to producing plugs that are suitable for automation equipment, therefore making this a crucial step to optimizing start-to-finish processes that formed part of the recent investments. When the plugs are not sufficiently held together, the new transplanting equipment struggles to effectively transplant miniplugs, which puts efficiency and cost-savings proposed through the investment at risk.

Aligning machinery with existing equipment would also be critical for maintenance and service. Adding new equipment from different machine suppliers increases complexity of maintenance schedules and costs and reduces operational agility. Many machine suppliers such as Viscon are based in mainland Europe, increasing difficulty of part imports. Whilst Flier/BCC are also based in mainland Europe, parts ordering and service provision is already in place for existing equipment, reducing barriers for service and repair. Additionally parts are interchangeable between machinery, allowing for faster repairs and more efficient parts management.

Supplier

BCC AB

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PVWD-4536-QJPZ

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Landskrona

261 35

Sweden

Email: bcc@bccab.com

Website: <https://www.bccab.com/>

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): Yes

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): Yes

Contract 1. Complete Seeding Line

Contracting authority

Forestry Commission

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PLRM-7846-HGLG

620 Bristol Business Park

Bristol

BS16 1EJ

United Kingdom

Email: commercial.services@forestryengland.uk

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/forestry-commission>

Region: UKK12 - Bath and North East Somerset, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government