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Award

Warm Pellet Press

NATIONAL NUCLEAR LABORATORY LIMITED

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice
Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-010097
Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-044dbe
Published 27 March 2024, 3:33pm

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

NATIONAL NUCLEAR LABORATORY LIMITED

Central Laboratory

Seascale

CA201PG

Contact

Charlotte Wilson

Email

charlotte.wilson@uknnl.com

Telephone

+44 1900517689

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKD11 - West Cumbria

Companies House

03857752

Internet address(es)

Main address

www.nnl.co.uk

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.5) Main activity

Other activity

Nuclear

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Warm Pellet Press

Reference number

PSS_2024_049

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 42000000 - Industrial machinery

II.1.3) Type of contract

Supplies

II.1.4) Short description

This is not an opportunity but a VEAT Notice to inform the market that NNL intends to award a contract for a Warm Pellet Press.

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: £424,329

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 33100000 - Medical equipments
- 33600000 - Pharmaceutical products

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKD45 - Mid Lancashire

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

In support of NNL's CPF programme, a hydraulic press is required which can press with a force of 50 kN to produce both annular cylindrical compacts. NNL proposes to use a commercial off the shelf tablet press intended for the pharmaceutical industry. The nominal dimensions of 30 mm diameter x 40 mm in height with an internal annulus of 4-12 mm. A heated die is required to allow for compacts to be produced at a temperature of up to 300ºC. Die filling should be done using automated die feed utilising a hopper system to fill the die automatically before each press cycle. The press should record data during the pressing process such as temperature, punch position, force and die wall pressure. This data will be used to optimise the pressing process and form part of the QA process.

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: No

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Award of a contract without prior publication of a call for competition in the cases listed below

- The procurement falls outside the scope of application of the regulations

Explanation:

National Nuclear Laboratory ("NNL") intends to award a contract under Regulation 32(2)(b)(ii), to Huxley Bertram in respect of the purchase of a Warm Pellet Press.

The Warm Pellet Press is required to support NNL in the development of Coated Particle Fuel (CPF), funded by the UK Government. These fuels will be used in the next generation of High Temperature Gas-Cooled Reactors (HTGRs) and will be a key contribution towards achieving net zero. To support NNL in the development of CPF, NNL requires a hydraulic press is required which can press with a force of 50 kN to produce both annular cylindrical compacts. NNL proposes to use a commercial off the shelf tablet press intended for the pharmaceutical industry. The nominal dimensions of 30 mm diameter x 40 mm in height with an internal annulus of 4-12 mm. A heated die is required to allow for compacts to be produced at a temperature of up to 300ºC. Die filling should be done using automated die feed utilising a hopper system to fill the die automatically before each press cycle. The press should record data during the pressing process such as temperature, punch position, force and die wall pressure. This data will be used to optimise the pressing process and form part of the QA process.

The equipment is to be installed and commissioned at NNL Preston Laboratory.

The scope of the work consists of:

1. Purchase of a HB10 pharma tablet compaction simulator and engagement with NNL to review the equipment via Hazard and Operability Studies

2. Building, installation, commissioning, training and maintenance

3. Ongoing manufacturer support through the provision of a service contract.

Following extensive market research of off the shelf equipment manufacturers in various sectors, and engagement including:

A PIN notice 2023/S/000-019956, Early Engagement Notice advertising a supply chain event where this procurement was featured, an Early Engagement Notice from 8th - 22nd March 2024 and an Early Engagement Notice dated 25th January - 8th February 2024.

No suitable suppliers were identified to undertake this contract except Huxley Bertram.

Due to the reason stated above, under section 32b(ii) of the PCR Guidelines; "competition is absent for technical reasons".

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

Title

Warm Pellet Press

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract/concession

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

27 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

Huxley Bertram Engineering Limited

53 Pembroke Avenue

Cambridge

CB25 9QP

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKH12 - Cambridgeshire CC

Companies House

03358704

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

Yes

V.2.4) Information on value of contract/lot/concession (excluding VAT)

Initial estimated total value of the contract/lot/concession: £424,329

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £424,329

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

The Royal Courts of Justice

The Strand

London

WC2A 2LL

Country

United Kingdom