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Planning

Procurement of a National Air Ambulance Service for The Scottish Ambulance Service

Scottish Ambulance Service

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2022/S 000-010654

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-03303c

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Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Scottish Ambulance Service

1 South Gyle Crescent

Edinburgh

EH12 9EB

Contact

Sam Torrance

Email

sam.torrance@nhs.scot

Telephone

+44 1313140118

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKM75 - Edinburgh, City of

Internet address(es)

Main address

<http://www.scottishambulance.com>

Buyer's address

https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/search/Search_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA00393

I.3) Communication

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Electronic communication requires the use of tools and devices that are not generally available. Unrestricted and full direct access to these tools and devices is possible, free of charge, at

<https://www.publictendersscotland.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/esop/pts-host/public/pts/web/login.html>

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.5) Main activity

Health

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Procurement of a National Air Ambulance Service for The Scottish Ambulance Service

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 60443000 - Air-rescue services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

The procurement of a national air ambulance service for the Scottish Ambulance Service

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £160,000,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 34710000 - Helicopters, aeroplanes, spacecraft and other powered aircraft
- 35112000 - Rescue and emergency equipment
- 35612500 - Search and rescue helicopters
- 35613000 - Unmanned aerial vehicles
- 60424120 - Hire of helicopters with crew

- 60440000 - Aerial and related services
- 34711110 - Fixed-wing aircrafts
- 60424110 - Hire of fixed-wing aircraft with crew
- 34711300 - Piloted aircraft
- 34711400 - Special-purpose aircraft
- 34700000 - Aircraft and spacecraft

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKM - Scotland

Main site or place of performance

Scotland

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The Scottish Ambulance Service ("the Service") provides a national air ambulance service to all of Scotland and its islands. This is the only wholly publicly funded air ambulance service in the United Kingdom and provides an invaluable resource to the public of Scotland.

Scotland presents a challenging environment for air ambulance operators. Factors to be considered include:

- Varied terrain.
- Potentially severe weather conditions.
- Longer hours of darkness in winter.
- Limited and varying airport capabilities and hours of operation.
- Future island transport provisions including ferries and airport developments or changes.
- Recognition of the Government targets on sustainability and carbon neutral.
- National planning of specialist services for example thrombectomy and major trauma.

The aims of the procurement are to deliver an innovative, sustainable, resilient and value for money air ambulance service that can respond to changes in service delivery requirements whilst maintaining a high quality care and experience for the patients and public of Scotland.

The current scope of requirements of the contract are:

1. The aircraft fleet must be capable of reaching at least 95% of the population of Scotland in one hour. The rotary aircraft must have 24/7 Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS) capability and all aircraft must act as a suitable transport platform for the personnel and equipment associated with our adult, paediatric and neonatal critical care transport and retrieval teams (ScotSTAR).
2. Provision of aircraft hangarage in order to ensure 24/7 availability of aircraft during inclement weather.
3. Provision of maintenance & backup. All planned and reactive maintenance must be carried out in Scotland. Backup aircraft to be provided to the same specification as core aircraft.
4. Provision of 24/7 engineering support.
5. Provision of adequate base facilities for clinical staff. e.g., provision of Ops Room space, lockers and parking facilities etc., In addition, meeting room/training room and overnight accommodation (where necessary) for on-call clinical staff.
6. Provision of air crew member training (e.g., Technical Crew Member training for HEMS).
7. Provision of compliant radio communications system. The aircraft must be capable of compliance with the current Airwave communications system (if this is still in operation at contract commencement), and also compliance with the future Emergency Services Network (ESN) system
8. Provision of on-going monitoring of service provision by way of regular contract monitoring meetings.

The Service will provide the clinical staffing. The aircraft, flight crew (pilots), estate & facilities and engineering support will be provided by the successful contractor(s) on a managed service basis.

The successful contractor(s) shall support a variety of air ambulance missions; ranging from hospital discharges through to pre-hospital helicopter emergency calls and critical care transfers.

The chosen route to market for this procurement is the "Competitive Dialogue Procedure".

It is expected that the contract will be awarded in late May / early June 2023. The contract commencement date is subject to final confirmation, however it should be no later than early June 2025. The contract length shall be seven years, with an optional three-year extension.

The procurement will be for the award of a single contract which will cover both fixed wing and rotary aircraft. Bids shall be welcomed from a single or group of economic operators (a consortium). Consortia are not required to have a particular legal form to submit a bid. Consortia will, however, be required to assume a specific legal form if they are awarded the contract. This will be the form of a lead contractor and subcontractor(s): with one member of the consortium taking the role of prime/lead contractor, or a joint venture. The Service shall require certain formal documentation and / or guarantees depending on bidders proposed consortia form.

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

1 August 2022

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: Yes

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

The Scottish Ambulance Service intends to host a market engagement day on week commencing the 9th May 2022. The agenda for the day will:

1. Introduce key project stakeholders
2. Highlight the strategic vision and roadmap for air ambulance services in Scotland
3. Provide an overview of the user requirements
4. Detail the procurement process; including
 - 4a. Quality considerations
 - 4b. Commercial considerations
 - 4c. The invitation to tender
5. Provide an opportunity for Q&A

Please note your interest in attending the market engagement day to Sam Torrance - sam.torrance@nhs.scot and Danielle Welsh - danielle.welsh@nhs.scot

The confirmed time, date and agenda for the market engagement day will be communicated to all interested parties as soon as possible.

NOTE: To register your interest in this notice and obtain any additional information please visit the Public Contracts Scotland Web Site at https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/Search/Search_Switch.aspx?ID=689048.

(SC Ref:689048)