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Contract

Technical Operation of the National Space Propulsion Test Facility

UK Space Agency

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2022/S 000-010803

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-0330d1

Published 27 April 2022, 11:20am

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

UK Space Agency

Polaris House, North Star Avenue

SWINDON

SN2 1SF

Email

research.tenders@uksbs.co.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-business-energy-and-industrial-strategy>

Buyer's address

www.BEIS.gov.uk/ukspaceagency

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.5) Main activity

Other activity

UK Space Propulsion Testing

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Technical Operation of the National Space Propulsion Test Facility

Reference number

PR18132

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 50800000 - Miscellaneous repair and maintenance services
 - QB56 - On space industry sector

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

The UK Space Agency has a requirement to test customer engines using the NSPTF in a timely manner. Therefore, ensuring the test facilities are ready and available to perform testing of engines and propulsion systems for customers to the NSPTF, and to support ensuring the continuing testing of hardware in the event of a facility breakdown.

The facility incorporates a range of testing hardware. The service provider will provide the test cells for the facility, from small thrust engine testing (1N+) up to medium thrust testing (up to 1500N). The latter test chamber will have new equipment (vacuum generating plant, common vacuum manifold, plume intercooler, vacuum chamber etc), owned by the UK Space Agency, that will be operated and maintained by service provider.

Provide technical support for facility operations and enter into a technical support contract for running the facility with UKSA. This will include responsibility for all safety aspects in national facility operations and to support ensuring the continuing testing of hardware in the event of a facility breakdown.

Provide cost estimates for customers through liaison with the brokers (STFC).

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: £1,309,125

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKJ - South East (England)

Main site or place of performance

Westcott Venture Park, Westcott, Aylesbury. Buckinghamshire, HP18 0XB, England

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

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Provide technical support for facility operations and enter into a technical support contract for running the facility with UKSA. This will include responsibility for all safety aspects in national facility operations and to support ensuring the continuing testing of hardware in the event of a facility breakdown.

Provide cost estimates for customers through liaison with the brokers (STFC).

The requirement is to:

- Manage the operation of the NSPTF, supplying the personnel to operate the plant and to ensure that the maintenance, calibration and spares plans are in place.
- Procure any consumables to support the operation of the NSPTF.
- Management and storage of critical spares to support the aim.

- To permit use of service provider test facilities (J3 test cell, mini-HATFA, HATFA) as part of the national facility and management of customers and third party users while on the site.
- Provide the resources to run the testing of customer engines.
- Demonstrate that compliance and strict governance is applied to Statutory and Regulatory requirements (including Health and Safety)
- Maintain a sensible Health and Safety schedule, audited in an appropriate manner.
- Handle customer's data securely
- Provision of relevant insurance cover for activities.
- Notification of issues to UKSA in line with notification protocol.
- Liaison with the landlord for all landlord provided services (eg water, electrical supply etc)
- Provide quarterly reports of use of the facility to the steering board and provide inputs into annual budgets definition for future running of the facility.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Price

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of options

The contract duration will be for a year on a 1+1+1+1+1 basis (maximum 5 years)

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 services can be provided only by a particular economic operator for the following reason:
 - absence of competition for technical reasons

Explanation:

The Westcott facility and Nammo are the only location and supplier that can provide this service and therefore the authority are justified in awarding in accordance with regulation 32(5)(b).

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

Section V. Award of contract

Contract No

PR18132

Title

Technical Operation of the National Space Propulsion Test Facility

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

6 April 2022

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 1

The contract has been awarded to a group of economic operators: No

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

Nammo (U.K.) Limited

Westcott Venture Park, Westcott

Aylesbury

HP18 0XB

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKJ - South East (England)

The contractor is an SME

No

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

Initial estimated total value of the contract/lot: £1,309,125

Total value of the contract/lot: £1,309,125

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

The UK has key expertise and facilities in industry and academia relating to both chemical and electric propulsion / testing. The lack of investment in current UK facilities means that they are not suitable to the new demands, with the result that UK

engines have to be tested abroad at greater expense.

The proposed National Space Propulsion Test Facility will incorporate a vacuum pumping facility, to simulate the vacuum of space to test propulsion systems, by drawing sea level ambient pressure

from the platform that a propulsion system will be tested. The UK Space Agency have identified Westcott Venture Park, with the existing testing facilities of NAMMO Westcott Ltd, as the only area such a facility can be best achieved.

The Westcott Venture Park is the UK's only chemical rocket test and development site. It has been in operation as such since 1946 and has been developing, manufacturing and testing rockets for space applications, primarily satellites, since the mid-1980s.

Having explored the possibility of a National Propulsion centre being set up in areas other than the Westcott facility, no viable alternative site has been identified. There is no other comparable location to Westcott, with a suitably skilled workforce located in the UK. Moreover, NAMMO Westcott Ltd has invested in Westcott facility and they would allow companies and Universities to access their facility, which may not occur elsewhere. The vast majority of the operating time will be setting up and firing of the

tested engines, less than 20% of the time will be to operate the vacuum pump assembly being built by the UK Space Agency, with ESA expertise, to be attached to the test rig (giving the simulated experience of the vacuum of space). Therefore, while NAMMO staff operate their equipment to test the engine, their staff will be best placed to continue to operate the vacuum pump before firing any tested engine.

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

UK Shared Business Services Limited

Polaris House, North Star Avenue

Swindon

SN2 1FF

Email

policy@uksbs.co.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

www.uksbs.co.uk

VI.4.2) Body responsible for mediation procedures

UK Shared Business Services Limited

Polaris House, North Star Avenue

Swindon

SN2 1FF

Email

policy@uksbs.co.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

www.uksbs.co.uk

VI.4.4) Service from which information about the review procedure may be obtained

UK Shared Business Services Limited

Polaris House, North Star Avenue

Swindon

SN2 1FF

Email

policy@uksbs.co.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

www.uksbs.co.uk