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Award

Post Design Services for Passenger Short Term Air Supply System (PSTASS)

Defence Equipment and Support

UK5: Transparency notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2026/S 000-011435

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-064b4c

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Scope

Description

Provision of spares and Post Design Services including ad hoc tasking, repairs and modifications for Passenger Short Term Air Supply System, to provide on going support to the current in-service capability.

Contract 1

Supplier

- Apeks Marine Equipment Limited

Contract value

- £194,166.67 excluding VAT
- £233,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Earliest date the contract will be signed

30 March 2026

Contract dates (estimated)

- 31 March 2026 to 31 March 2028
- Possible extension to 30 September 2028
- 2 years, 6 months, 1 day

Description of possible extension:

One 6 month Option

Main procurement category

Goods

Options

The right to additional purchases while the contract is valid.

The contract is for 2 years but includes an option to extend for a further 6 months at the Authority's discretion.

CPV classifications

- 44611200 - Breathing apparatus

Contract locations

- UK - United Kingdom

Participation

Particular suitability

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

Other information

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Direct award

Special regime

Defence and security

Direct award justification

- Single supplier - intellectual property or exclusive rights
- Single supplier - technical reasons

The Air Enablers Delivery Team, part of the Ministry of Defence, intends to award a contract to Apex Marine Equipment Limited (Apex) for the provision of spare parts and post design services for the Passenger Short Term Air Supply System (the System), which is carried by passengers on rotary wing helicopters (Wildcat, Chinook, Merlin and Dauphin N2) and provides air the event of an emergency where the helicopter sinks under water. The contract will be for a term of 3 years plus 1 option year and have an estimated value of £450,000 including VAT.

It is considered that this contract can be awarded under Section 41 of the Procurement Act 2023 because the direct award justification specified in paragraph 6 of Schedule 5 (single supplier – technical reasons) applies.

This is because Apex is the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) of the System and has supported it since it was introduced into service in 2007. Only the OEM has the technical expertise, including designs, drawings and data packs, to maintain a vital piece of safety equipment and meet Military Aviation Authority (MAA) airworthiness requirements. There are no reasonable alternatives.

Supplier

Apeks Marine Equipment Limited

- Companies House: 01231692

Neptune Way

Blackburn

BB1 2BT

United Kingdom

Email: aboakes@aqualung.com

Region: UKD41 - Blackburn with Darwen

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): Yes

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 1

Contracting authority

Defence Equipment and Support

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PVRL-5831-GLMM

MOD Abbey Wood

Bristol

BS34 8JH

United Kingdom

Email: rodney.gardiner115@mod.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/defence-equipment-and-support>

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

Organisation type: Public authority - central government