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Award

NPAS CAA Innovation Hub

West Yorkshire Combined Authority

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2022/S 000-011670

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-033433

Published 5 May 2022, 11:52am

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

West Yorkshire Combined Authority

Wellington House, 40-50 Wellington Street

Leeds

LS1 2DE

Contact

Roy Towler

Email

roy.towler@bluelight.police.uk

Telephone

+44 7929726422

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

www.bluelightcommercial.police.uk

Buyer's address

https://www.mytenders.co.uk/search/Search_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA43101

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.5) Main activity

General public services

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

NPAS CAA Innovation Hub

Reference number

NPASCIH22

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 71241000 - Feasibility study, advisory service, analysis

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

The engagement of the CAA Innovation Hub as an advisor to NPAS (National Police Air Service) for the feasibility study of the use of Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) unmanned aircraft in UK airspace. The CAA Innovation Hub will advise and support the process for obtaining permissions to conduct the trials required to demonstrate safe operations and obtain regulatory approvals for BVLOS in operational policing.

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: £420,000

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

Main site or place of performance

Leeds

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The CAA are the sole regulator of civil aviation in the UK. Accordingly, they are the sole authority with the ability to grant permissions for operation and testing of Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) aircraft in UK airspace. The CAA Innovation Hub is the 'thinktank' for the CAA in regard to its regulatory policies and the UK airspace.

The process for obtaining permissions to conduct the trials required to demonstrate safe operations and obtain regulatory approvals is inherently complex. The police service will require significant buy in and ultimately, approvals from the UK aviation safety regulator, the CAA, to operate drones BVLOS on a routine basis.

The CAA Innovation Hub is an integral part of the UK CAA who can provide a direct advisory link to the regulator to ensure that the process is achieved in the most efficient and cost-effective manner.

The Innovation Hub allows the development of new and innovative aviation systems to progress in line with CAA principles, and will allow the NPAS project team to access CAA expertise and guidance directly.

By working with the CAA Innovation Hub, NPAS will have a direct link to the CAA for its BVLOS project that would not be unavailable with any other supplier and this will allow NPAS to anticipate regulatory challenges and where possible, inform the development of new policies and regulations.

Whilst there is aviation expertise and experience outside of the CAA Innovation Hub, the CAA Innovation Hub is uniquely placed to assist NPAS by virtue of their position within the UK Aviation Regulatory Sector and their unparalleled close working relationship with the CAA policy maker. Additionally, the use of the CAA Innovation Hub provides singular quality assurance in regard to their credibility, which is unavailable elsewhere in the marketplace for this type of expertise.

Engaging an alternative supplier would add a layer of complexity to the aims of the Project, as an interface would be required between that supplier and the CAA, which is made unnecessary by using the CAA Innovation Hub. This is especially important in view of the complex nature of the Project. The CAA Innovation Hub are the only supplier that could be engaged without the need to incorporate a third party into the Project to act as an interface between NPAS and the CAA. Engaging with a third party would substantially add further delays to the project as any third party would need to obtain all relevant regulatory approvals, which have proven to be extremely time consuming. The CAA Innovation Hub involvement in this process dramatically reduces this time scale

The exclusive benefits that are solely available by working with the CAA Innovation Hub are:

- Direct link to CAA that is not available via any other supplier allowing NPAS to better adhere to the CAA process.
- By working with the CAA Innovation Hub NPAS would be vicariously embedded into the CAA, allowing for NPAS to be at the coal face of the developments required for the Project, placing NPAS in a unique position to influence planning, manage the various expectations and assure resource allocation.
- NPAS will also be vicariously embedded in the CAA Innovation Hub's Sandbox challenges for the Detect and Avoid technical demonstrators that the drone industry are participating in, enabling a cost efficient approach, intelligent partnering and quality assurance.
- Full oversight of the developments and innovations currently underway within the wider aviation sector which will influence existing and any future drone activity and regulatory developments. These will be reported upon and influence our planning and decision making.
- Expedite communications to and from the relevant CAA sectors and stakeholders.

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: No

II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Negotiated without a prior call for competition

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

Explanation:

The CAA are the sole regulator of UK civil aviation, and authority to grant operation and testing of Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) aircraft.

The process for obtaining permissions for the trials to demonstrate safe operations and obtain regulatory approvals is complex. The CAA Innovation Hub is an integral part of the CAA who provide a direct advisory link to the CAA to ensure that the process is achieved in the most efficient and cost-effective manner.

By working with the CAA Innovation Hub, NPAS will have a direct link to the CAA for its BVLOS project that would not be unavailable with any other supplier and this will allow NPAS to anticipate regulatory challenges and where possible, inform the development of new policies and regulations.

The CAA Innovation Hub is uniquely placed to assist NPAS by virtue of their position within the UK Aviation Regulatory Sector and their unparalleled close working relationship with the CAA policy maker. Additionally, the use of the CAA Innovation Hub provides singular quality assurance in regard to their credibility, which is unavailable elsewhere in the marketplace for this type of expertise.

Engaging an alternative supplier would add a layer of complexity to the aims of the Project, as an interface would be required between that supplier and the CAA, which is made unnecessary by using the CAA Innovation Hub. This is especially important in view of the complex nature of the Project. The CAA Innovation Hub are the only supplier that could be engaged without the need to incorporate a third party into the Project to act as an interface between NPAS and the CAA. Engaging with a third party would substantially add further delays to the project as any third party would need to obtain all relevant regulatory approvals, which have proven to be extremely time consuming. The CAA Innovation Hub involvement in this process dramatically reduces this time scale

The exclusive benefits that are solely available by working with the CAA Innovation Hub are:

- Direct link to CAA allowing NPAS to better adhere to the CAA process.
- allows NPAS to be at the centre of the developments required for the Project, including their Sandbox challenges for the Detect and Avoid technical demonstrators that the drone industry are participating in
- links to the developments and innovations currently underway within the wider aviation sector which will influence existing and any future drone activity and regulatory developments.

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/concession

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract/concession

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

29 April 2022

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

Civil Aviation Authority

Aviation House, Beehive Ringroad

Crawley

RH6 0YR

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

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

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £420,000

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

(MT Ref:226157)

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Public Procurement Review Service

Cabinet Office

London

Email

publicprocurementreview@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

Telephone

+44 3450103503

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-procurement-review-service-scope-and-remit>