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Award

## **Science Direct - Academic Journal Subscription**

Ministry of Defence

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-011710

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-03c3b0

Published 24 April 2023, 4:23pm

### **Section I: Contracting authority/entity**

#### **I.1) Name and addresses**

Ministry of Defence

AWE plc

Aldermaston

RG7 4PR

#### **Contact**

AWE Professional Services Procurement

#### **Email**

[aweprocurement@awe.co.uk](mailto:aweprocurement@awe.co.uk)

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

**Region code**

UKJ - South East (England)

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<https://www.awe.co.uk>

**I.4) Type of the contracting authority**

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

**I.5) Main activity**

Defence

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## **Section II: Object**

### **II.1) Scope of the procurement**

#### **II.1.1) Title**

Science Direct - Academic Journal Subscription

#### **II.1.2) Main CPV code**

- 48190000 - Educational software package

#### **II.1.3) Type of contract**

Supplies

#### **II.1.4) Short description**

AWE staff require access to the Science Direct platform. ScienceDirect is a digital library that provides access to a vast collection of academic and scientific research articles, book chapters, and conference proceedings. It is a product of the publishing company Elsevier and offers a platform for researchers, scientists, and scholars to access information from multiple scientific fields. By accessing the latest scientific literature, AWE employees can stay informed about the latest trends and research findings, which can help them make informed business decisions and stay ahead of the competition.

This VEAT notice has been published to declare that a 3 year contract is being awarded to Elsevier for a subscription to Science Direct as a sole source tender which is justified under a PCR Reg 32 exemption.

This new contract will come into effect from the 1st of May 2023. The total value of the contract is £1.7m.

#### **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: £1,700,000

### **II.2) Description**

### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UKJ - South East (England)

### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

The Contract is awarded from 1st May 2023 - 30th April 2025 as a single source tender which is justified under a PCR Reg 32 exemption. The total value of the contract is £1.7m.

### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: Yes

Description of options

The Contract is awarded from 1st May 2023 - 30th April 2025 as a single source tender which is justified under a PCR Reg 32 exemption as there are no other options to be able to source this software.

The aim of this procurement is for AWE to gain access to the Science Direct platform which is a journal database that allows users to browse and freely access academic literature. Although it may be possible to access this literature through other means such as directly going to the individual publisher or using resellers, the Science Direct platform is the unique intellectual property of Elsevier and can only be purchased from them. The particular advantage of using Science Direct rather than not having a central database to access literature from, is that we would pay a single fee and have unlimited and uninhibited access to literature.

### **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

- No tenders or no suitable tenders/requests to participate in response to open procedure
- The products involved are manufactured purely for the purpose of research, experiment, study or development
- The works, supplies or services can be provided only by a particular economic operator for the following reason:
  - protection of exclusive rights, including intellectual property rights

Explanation:

PCR Reg 32.2.b.iii states:

“(2) The negotiated procedure without prior publication may be used for public works contracts, public supply contracts and public service contracts in any of the following cases:—

...

(b) where the works, supplies or services can be supplied only by a particular economic operator for any of the following reasons:—

...

(iii) the protection of exclusive rights, including intellectual property rights, but only, in the case of paragraphs (ii) and (iii), where no reasonable alternative or substitute exists and the absence of competition is not the result of an artificial narrowing down of the parameters of the procurement; ...”

The aim of this procurement is for AWE to gain access to the Science Direct platform which is a journal database that allows users to browse and freely access academic literature. Although it may be possible to access this literature through other means such as directly going to the individual publisher or using resellers, the Science Direct platform is the unique intellectual property of Elsevier and can only be purchased from them. The particular advantage of using Science Direct rather than not having a central database to access literature from, is that we would pay a single fee and have unlimited and uninhibited access to literature. Please refer to the attached Sole Provider letter from Elsevier for evidence of this.

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: No

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### **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**

28 March 2023

##### **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**

Elsevier Limited

125 London Wall

London

EC2Y 5AS

Telephone

+44 2074244200

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKJ - South East (England)

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

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

Initial estimated total value of the contract/lot/concession: £1,700,000

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £1,700,000

#### **V.2.5) Information about subcontracting**

The contract/lot/concession is likely to be subcontracted

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## **Section VI. Complementary information**

### **VI.4) Procedures for review**

#### **VI.4.1) Review body**

The High Court Royal Court of Justice

The Strand London WC2A 2LL

London

WC2A 2LL

Email

[RCJ.DCO@justice.gov.uk](mailto:RCJ.DCO@justice.gov.uk)

Country

United Kingdom