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## Contract

# **(NU/1433-30) CAF1 - A robust, easily engineered polymer with applications in synthetic biology: Commercialisation of university research through provision of management skills to assist in successful spin-out company creation**

Newcastle University  
Durham University  
Northumbria University Newcastle  
University of Sunderland  
Teesside University  
University of Bath on behalf of the SETsquared

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2022/S 000-011844

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-0334e1

Published 6 May 2022, 1:20pm

## **Section I: Contracting authority**

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

Newcastle University

Newcastle University, Procurement Services, Kingsgate

Newcastle

NE1 7RU

## **Contact**

Mrs Natalie Morton

**Email**

[natalie.morton@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:natalie.morton@ncl.ac.uk)

**Telephone**

+44 1912086396

**Country**

United Kingdom

**NUTS code**

UKC - North East (England)

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<https://www.ncl.ac.uk>

Buyer's address

<https://www.ncl.ac.uk>

**I.1) Name and addresses**

Durham University

Stockton Road Durham

**Email**

[Edwin.e.milligan@durham.ac.uk](mailto:Edwin.e.milligan@durham.ac.uk)

**Country**

United Kingdom

**NUTS code**

UKC - North East (England)

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<https://www.durham.ac.uk>

**I.1) Name and addresses**

Northumbria University Newcastle

Newcastle, Tyne and Wear

**Email**

[Hugh.Rhodes@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:Hugh.Rhodes@northumbria.ac.uk)

**Country**

United Kingdom

**NUTS code**

UKC - North East (England)

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<https://www.northumbria.ac.uk>

**I.1) Name and addresses**

University of Sunderland

Sunderland

**Email**

[Cheryl.Holmstrom@sunderland.ac.uk](mailto:Cheryl.Holmstrom@sunderland.ac.uk)

**Country**

United Kingdom

**NUTS code**

UKC - North East (England)

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<https://sunderland.ac.uk/>

**I.1) Name and addresses**

Teesside University

Middlesbrough, Tees Valley

**Email**

[David.Pratt@tees.ac.uk](mailto:David.Pratt@tees.ac.uk)

**Country**

United Kingdom

**NUTS code**

UKC - North East (England)

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<https://www.tees.ac.uk/>

**I.1) Name and addresses**

University of Bath on behalf of the SETsquared

Claverton Down, Bath

**Email**

[pb487@bath.ac.uk](mailto:pb487@bath.ac.uk)

**Country**

United Kingdom

**NUTS code**

UK - United Kingdom

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<https://www.bath.ac.uk/>

**I.2) Information about joint procurement**

The contract involves joint procurement

The contract is awarded by a central purchasing body

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

Body governed by public law

**I.5) Main activity**

Education

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**Section II: Object****II.1) Scope of the procurement****II.1.1) Title**

(NU/1433-30) CAF1 - A robust, easily engineered polymer with applications in synthetic biology: Commercialisation of university research through provision of management skills to assist in successful spin-out company creation

Reference number

DN602760

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

- 79400000 - Business and management consultancy and related services

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

Services

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

Caf1 is secreted from the bacterium *Yersinia pestis* to protect it from white blood cells during infection. It is formed from 15 kDa monomers that produce robust, flexible polymers up to 2  $\mu\text{m}$  in length. We aim to create a spinout company that will initially produce Caf1 polymers and coated plasticware/microcarriers for the 2D cell culture market, predominantly focussed on laboratory research, expanding into commercial companies looking to scale up cell production. The Newcastle-based company will supply these products directly to customers, and through marketing partners who have established distribution networks. We are looking for a CEO/COO/Chairperson to work alongside Daniel Peters to develop a business plan that has considered the best market strategy for Caf1 in preparation for spinout formation and achieving the necessary fundraising

The initial brief of the executive will be to:

- (1) Work with the existing team to lead in the creation of a viable 5 year business plan;
- (2) Obtain university approval for the venture;
- (3) a. Act for the company in the spin-out legal process and address all company formation matters;
- b. Obtain founder academics' and Newcastle University (including the Head of Company Creation) approval for appointment as CEO or agreed post supporting Daniel Peters
- c. Provide to the appropriate university all matters necessary for Research England reporting requirements;
- (4) Leading and work alongside the existing team to secure start up funding (venture capital and other) funding

Stage (5) will produce the funds by which the new start-up company can consider employing the executive going forward. It is expected, and the intent of the scheme, that the Executive will remain with the business following the end of the contract period. However, such appointment will be at the discretion of the board and appropriate university and will be subject to confirmation, typically at Stage 4 above

## **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: £30,000

## **II.2) Description**

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

NUTS codes

- UKC - North East (England)

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

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### **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Quality criterion - Name: Ability to meet the required programme / Weighting: Pass/Fail

Quality criterion - Name: Quality: Ability to meet the Job description / Weighting: 60%

Quality criterion - Name: Quality: Ability to meet the Job description / Weighting: Pass/Fail

Quality criterion - Name: Formal Appointment / Weighting: Pass/Fail

Price - Weighting: 40%

### **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: Yes

Identification of the project

Northern Accelerator programme involving funding from both the European Regional Development Funding (ERDF) and Research England.



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## **Section IV. Procedure**

### **IV.1) Description**

#### **IV.1.1) Type of procedure**

Restricted procedure

#### **IV.1.3) Information about a framework agreement or a dynamic purchasing system**

The procurement involves the setting up of a dynamic purchasing system

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: No

### **IV.2) Administrative information**

#### **IV.2.1) Previous publication concerning this procedure**

Notice number: [2019/S 009-016574](#)

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## **Section V. Award of contract**

### **Contract No**

NU/1433-30

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

### **V.2) Award of contract**

#### **V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract**

12 April 2022

#### **V.2.2) Information about tenders**

Number of tenders received: 4

Number of tenders received from SMEs: 4

Number of tenders received from tenderers from other EU Member States: 0

Number of tenders received from tenderers from non-EU Member States: 4

Number of tenders received by electronic means: 4

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

### **V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor**

KWWK Ltd

Cheshire

WA1 1RG

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

The contractor is an SME

Yes

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

Total value of the contract/lot: £29,500

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## **Section VI. Complementary information**

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

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

Newcastle University

Tyne and Wear

NE1 7RU

Country

United Kingdom

#### **VI.4.2) Body responsible for mediation procedures**

Newcastle University

Tyne and Wear

NE1 7RU

Country

United Kingdom

#### **VI.4.3) Review procedure**

Precise information on deadline(s) for review procedures

The University will incorporate a standstill period at the point information on the award of the contract is communicated to tenderers. That notification will provide full information on the award decision. The standstill period, which will be for a minimum of 10 calendar days, provides time for unsuccessful tenderers to challenge the award decision before the contract is entered into.

The Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (SI 2015 No 102) provide for aggrieved parties who

have been harmed or are at risk of harm by a breach of the rules to take action in the High Court (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) within 30 days of knowledge or constructive knowledge of breach.

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

Newcastle University

Tyne and Wear

Country

United Kingdom