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Award

Procurement of the Femtosecond Spitfire ACE laser system

THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-012315

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-03c52a

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Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

EDGBASTON

BIRMINGHAM

B15 2TT

Contact

Kseniya Samsonik

Email

K.Samsonik@bham.ac.uk

Telephone

+44 1214146899

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKG31 - Birmingham

Companies House

RC000645

Internet address(es)

Main address

www.birmingham.ac.uk/contact/index.aspx

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.5) Main activity

Education

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Procurement of the Femtosecond Spitfire ACE laser system

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 38636100 - Lasers

II.1.3) Type of contract

Supplies

II.1.4) Short description

Professor Vas Stavros and his group recently (January 2023) relocated from the University of Warwick to the University of Birmingham.

The femtosecond laser system that is sought (as part of Vas Stavros's start-up package) is from a single supplier: MKS Newport Spectra-Physics. The Femtosecond Spitfire ACE laser system (termed henceforth Spitfire ACE) will replace a now obsolete MKS Newport Spectra-Physics Spitfire Pro XP, currently housed in the Stavros Lab at the University of Warwick. This is a like-for-like replacement with superior output stability.

The Spitfire ACE delivers 3) fractions, three of these fractions can be used to optically pump the OPAs that will be transferred from the University of Warwick. The tunability in wavelength output from the OPAs will enable multiple different measurements to be carried out concurrently.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.1.7) Total value of the procurement (excluding VAT)

Lowest offer: £1 / Highest offer: £535,846 taken into consideration

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 38636000 - Specialist optical instruments

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKG - West Midlands (England)

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The Spitfire ACE will dovetail three existing optical parametric amplifiers (OPAs, essentially smaller lasers with unrivalled wavelength tunability) that will be transferred from the University of Warwick to the University of Birmingham. These OPAs are MKS Newport Spectra-Physics supplied OPAs and thus are set up to only be compatible with the Spitfire ACE. For this reason, we are seeking a single source supplier for the like-for-like replacement (vide supra).

Spectra-Physics have done a lot of system work with the Spitfire and OPA together to be able to supply a system with stable output. The result of this work was ACE (Automated Compressor

Enhancement). No other manufacturer has this capability. Whilst the OPAs can be made to work with amplifiers from other manufacturers, drifts in OPA output are not compensated for. The OPAs that Prof. Stavros has have been operated with an amplifier with Automated Compressor Enhancement and for long timescale experiments such as his, this drift compensation is essential. Therefore, the only company that would be able to supply an instrument to meet the University's requirements, particularly the drift compensation (Automated Compressor Enhancement), is Spectra-Physics.

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: 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:

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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

Title

Procurement of the Femtosecond Spitfire ACE laser system

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract/concession

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

28 April 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

NEWPORT SPECTRA-PHYSICS LIMITED

Cheshire

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKD - North West (England)

Companies House

02096856

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

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

Lowest offer: £1 / Highest offer: £535,846 taken into consideration

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

BIRMINGHAM

B15 2TT

Country

United Kingdom