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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

Published 28 April 2023, 2:23pm

### **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](mailto: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](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/contact/index.aspx)

**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**

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

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## 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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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.

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

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## **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

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## **Section VI. Complementary information**

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

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

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

BIRMINGHAM

B15 2TT

Country

United Kingdom