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Tender

UAS Heavy Lift Capability (UASHLC) Framework Reopening #1

Ministry of Defence

F17: Contract notice for contracts in the field of defence and security

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-013609

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-03c859

Published 12 May 2023, 2:03pm

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name, addresses and contact point(s)

Ministry of Defence

#1261 Spruce 2B, DE&S Abbey Wood, Filton

Bristol

BS34 8JH

Contact

Toby Love

For the attention of

Love Toby

Email(s)

Toby.Love103@mod.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Further information

Further information can be obtained from the above mentioned contact point(s)

Specifications and additional documents (including documents for competitive dialogue and a dynamic purchasing system) can be obtained from

The above-mentioned contact point(s)

Tenders or requests to participate must be sent to

The above-mentioned contact point(s)

I.3) Main activity

Defence

Section II: Object of the contract

II.1) Description

II.1.1) Title attributed to the contract by the contracting authority

UAS Heavy Lift Capability (UASHLC) Framework Reopening #1

II.1.2) Type of contract and location of works, place of delivery or of performance

Services

Service category No 26: Other services

Main site or location of works, place of delivery or of performance

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

II.1.3) Information on framework agreement

The notice involves the establishment of a framework agreement

II.1.4) Information on framework agreement

Framework agreement with several operators

Duration of the framework agreement

Duration in months: 40

Estimated total value of purchases for the entire duration of the framework agreement

Estimated value excluding VAT:

£95,000,000

II.1.5) Short description of the contract or purchase(s)

This Opportunity Listing is a chance to join the extant UASHLC Framework:

The Uncrewed Air Systems Heavy Lift Capability (UASHLC) Framework (the Framework)

has been created by the Authority to accelerate the development of a range of autonomous Heavy Lift UAS for use predominantly, but not exclusively, in the maritime domain.

The intention is to address the lack of current options in the market by increasing the number of delivery ready platforms in order to help support and develop the Authority's understanding of the potential capabilities and operational uses for such Uncrewed systems.

The Authority will facilitate accelerated development of one or more Supplier UAS to meet or exceed the requirements of Authority defined Minimum Viable Products (MVPs), along with complementary and underpinning technologies that will enhance UAS operational capabilities.

Our intent is to ensure that Defence will have access at the speed of relevance, to current and future emerging cutting-edge capabilities for use within the Royal Navy and other domains.

The Authority will facilitate, via the use of this competitive framework, an environment whereby suppliers are able to demonstrate current capabilities, set out product development and commercial exploitation roadmaps and work with both the Authority and potentially with other suppliers to accelerate pace of development and reduce time to market.

The purpose of the UASHLC Framework is therefore to support and inform the development of Maritime operating concepts and enable assessment, analysis, exploration and evaluation of the use of UAS for beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS) payload delivery and broader UAS capabilities.

The Framework is designed specifically to:

- i) provide Sponsor / User confidence in the potential for UAS systems to provide recoverable, adaptable, Autonomous/remotely piloted air systems, capable of accurately delivering heavy payloads at range;
- ii) enable the Authority to identify and as appropriate fund the most viable solutions in the market for accelerated further development in order to meet the Authority's minimum requirements (the MVPs) within the timescales stated,
- iii) provide the Authority with a mechanism for end users to potentially acquire systems for further evaluation or other use.

The framework is open to all Industry Partners who can articulate how their technology/capability can enhance the Heavy Lift UAS market, thereby not constraining

the framework to only Platform providers, as underpinning and novel UAS related technologies and capabilities are also in scope. These underpinning and novel technologies and capabilities can encompass (but aren't restricted to) payloads, fuels, software, and Counter UAS technologies (ground or platform based). The first tasking within the framework will be based around two confirmed sprints as articulated below, with scope for an additional three sprints as the programme develops (Authority requirement and funding dependent).

II.1.6) Common procurement vocabulary (CPV)

- 73410000 - Military research and technology

Additional CPV code(s)

- 35613100 - Unmanned combat aerial vehicles

II.1.8) Lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.1.9) Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: No

II.2) Quantity or scope of the contract

II.2.1) Total quantity or scope

Estimated value excluding VAT:

£95,000,000

II.3) Duration of the contract or time limit for completion

Duration in months: 40 (from the award of the contract)

Section III. Legal, economic, financial and technical information

III.2) Conditions for participation

III.2.1) Personal situation

Criteria regarding the personal situation of economic operators (that may lead to their exclusion) including requirements relating to enrolment on professional or trade registers

Information and formalities necessary for evaluating if the requirements are met: Suppliers Instructions How to Express Interest in this Tender:

1. Register your company on the eSourcing portal (this is only required once)

- Browse to the eSourcing Portal
- Click the "Click here to register" link
- Accept the terms and conditions and click "continue"
- Enter your correct business and user details
- Note the username you chose and click "Save" when complete
- You will shortly receive an email with your unique password (please keep this secure)

2. Express an Interest in the tender

- Login to the portal with the username/password
- Click the "PQQs Open to All Suppliers" link. (These are Pre-Qualification Questionnaires open to any registered supplier)
- Click on the relevant PQQ to access the content.
- Click the "Express Interest" button in the "Actions" box on the left-hand side of the page.
- This will move the PQQ into your "My PQQs" page. (This is a secure area reserved for your projects only)
- Click on the PQQ code, you can now access any attachments by clicking the "Settings and Buyer Attachments" in the "Actions" box

3. Responding to the tender

- You can now choose to “Reply” or “Reject” (please give a reason if rejecting)
- You can now use the ‘Messages’ function to communicate with the buyer and seek any clarification
- Note the deadline for completion, then follow the onscreen instructions to complete the PQQ
- There may be a mixture of online & offline actions for you to perform (there is detailed online help available)

If you require any further assistance please consult the online help, or contact the eTendering help desk.

Criteria regarding the personal situation of subcontractors (that may lead to their rejection) including requirements relating to enrolment on professional or trade registers

Information and formalities necessary for evaluating if the requirements are met: Suppliers Instructions How to Express Interest in this Tender:

1. Register your company on the eSourcing portal (this is only required once)

- Browse to the eSourcing Portal
- Click the “Click here to register” link
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Section IV: Procedure

IV.1) Type of procedure

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Restricted

IV.3) Administrative information

IV.3.4) Time limit for receipt of tenders or requests to participate

23 June 2023 - 5:00pm

IV.3.6) Language(s) in which tenders or requests to participate may be drawn up

English

Section VI: Complementary information

VI.2) Information about European Union funds

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

VI.3) Additional information

The Contracting Authority intends to use an e-Tendering system in this procurement exercise, please visit www.contracts.mod.uk for full details and to register your interest in this procurement.