

This is a published notice on the Find a Tender service: <https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Notice/018704-2024>

Tender

## **Infrared Femtosecond Laser System**

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON

F02: Contract notice

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-018704

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-0470a7

Published 18 June 2024, 10:40am

The closing date and time has been changed to:

**2 August 2024, 12:00pm**

See the [change notice](#).

### **Section I: Contracting authority**

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

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON

BUILDING 37, HIGHFIELD CAMPUS,UNIVERSITY ROAD

SOUTHAMPTON

SO171BJ

#### **Contact**

Amy Hands

#### **Email**

[procurement@soton.ac.uk](mailto:procurement@soton.ac.uk)

**Telephone**

+44 2380595000

**Country**

United Kingdom

**Region code**

UKJ32 - Southampton

**UK Register of Learning Providers (UKPRN number)**

10007158

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<http://www.southampton.ac.uk>

Buyer's address

<https://in-tendhost.co.uk/universityofsouthampton.aspx/Home>

**I.3) Communication**

The procurement documents are available for unrestricted and full direct access, free of charge, at

<https://in-tendhost.co.uk/universityofsouthampton.aspx/Home>

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted electronically via

<https://in-tendhost.co.uk/universityofsouthampton.aspx/Home>

**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**

Infrared Femtosecond Laser System

Reference number

2024UoS-1270

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

- 38636100 - Lasers

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

Supplies

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

The Water Window X-ray Microscope Project is a new EPSRC-funded collaboration between the University of Southampton's School of Chemistry and Optoelectronics Research Centre (ORC), the Rosalind Franklin Institute (RFI), and the Central Laser Facility (CLF) at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratories. The project will design and construct a lab-scale soft X-ray microscope for biological imaging using soft X-rays generated using ultrafast lasers and applying coherent diffractive imaging techniques. Suitable coherent X-ray radiation will be generated using high harmonic generation (HHG), requiring high intensity femtosecond pulses in the infrared spectral region. The signal requirements for imaging mean that a high repetition rate system is necessary. The intended end product will be a microscope that will be available to users for biological imaging.

#### **II.1.5) Estimated total value**

Value excluding VAT: £920,000

#### **II.1.6) Information about lots**

This contract is divided into lots: No

## II.2) Description

### II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 38000000 - Laboratory, optical and precision equipments (excl. glasses)

### II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKJ14 - Oxfordshire

Main site or place of performance

Didcot, Oxfordshire, England

### II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The Water Window X-ray Microscope Project is a new EPSRC-funded collaboration between the University of Southampton's School of Chemistry and Optoelectronics Research Centre (ORC), the Rosalind Franklin Institute (RFI), and the Central Laser Facility (CLF) at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratories. The project will design and construct a lab-scale soft X-ray microscope for biological imaging using soft X-rays generated using ultrafast lasers and applying coherent diffractive imaging techniques. Suitable coherent X-ray radiation will be generated using high harmonic generation (HHG), requiring high intensity femtosecond pulses in the infrared spectral region. The signal requirements for imaging mean that a high repetition rate system is necessary. The intended end product will be a microscope that will be available to users for biological imaging.

The University is conducting this procurement using the Open procedure in accordance with the requirements of the Regulations for the purpose of procuring the Goods described in the Specification. The University proposes to enter into a Contract for up to 4 years and 7 months with the successful tenderer.

This will comprise of an estimated delivery lead time for 19 months followed by a 1 year warranty period which will commence upon delivery, installation and acceptance, and 2 x 12 month optional extensions to the warranty period. Should the estimated delivery date be exceeded, the contract length will be extended and the initial 1 year warranty period will begin upon delivery and completion of Site Acceptance Testing. The Contract will be effective upon signing.

The estimated value of the proposal is £920,000.00 (excluding VAT). Whilst bidders are expected to provide a proposal that falls within this budget, for the benefit of doubt, the University reserves the right to automatically exclude any bidders who's proposal exceeds this figure. All related components, delivery, installation, commissioning, training and

warranties MUST be included within the proposal.

Details of current expenditure or potential future uptake are given as a guide based on past purchasing and current planning to assist you in the preparation of your Tender. They should not be interpreted as an undertaking to purchase any goods or services to any particular value and do not form part of the Contract.

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

Quality criterion - Name: Laser System Requirements / Weighting: 30.00%

Quality criterion - Name: System and Hardware Requirements / Weighting: 20.00%

Quality criterion - Name: Warranty Requirements / Weighting: 10.00%

Quality criterion - Name: Delivery and Training Requirements / Weighting: 6.00%

Quality criterion - Name: Sustainability Requirements / Weighting: 4.00%

Price - Weighting: 30%

#### **II.2.6) Estimated value**

Value excluding VAT: £920,000

#### **II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system**

Duration in months

55

This contract is subject to renewal

No

#### **II.2.10) Information about variants**

Variants will be accepted: No

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

Options: No

#### **II.2.14) Additional information**

This Contract is NOT suitable for splitting into Lots. This is the purchase of a single piece of equipment therefore dividing the requirement into Lots would not be possible from a technical perspective.

---

## **Section III. Legal, economic, financial and technical information**

### **III.1) Conditions for participation**

#### **III.1.2) Economic and financial standing**

List and brief description of selection criteria

To support the financial assessment, the University will obtain a Business Risk Report for all Tenderers and every organisation being relied on to meet this Procurement, using and independent company called CreditSafe.

The University reserves the right to exclude a Tenderer or request provision of further assurances such as a parent company guarantee or a bank guarantee where the Tenderer's Business Risk Score is: "Moderate Risk"; "High Risk"; "Very High Risk" or "Not Rated", based on the rating provided by CreditSafe.

Where a Business Risk score from our external system is not available, then an alternative method of assessing financial standing will be used. This method is detailed within the Invitation to Tender document set.

Minimum level(s) of standards possibly required

Tenderer's are advised that a requirement of this procurement is to have in place, or commit to obtain prior to the commencement of the Contract, the following minimum insurance levels:

Public Liability - £10 million

Product Liability - £10 million

Employer's Liability - £10 million

Professional Indemnity - £2 million

#### **III.1.3) Technical and professional ability**

List and brief description of selection criteria

Tenderer's attention is drawn to the MANDATORY requirements of the award criteria:

- Grounds for mandatory exclusion
- Grounds for discretionary exclusion
- Mandatory technical requirements
- Economic and Financial standing
- Insurance
- Compliance to equality legislation
- Health and Safety

---

## **Section IV. Procedure**

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

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

Open procedure

#### **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.2.2) Time limit for receipt of tenders or requests to participate**

Originally published as:

Date

19 July 2024

Local time

12:00pm

Changed to:

Date

2 August 2024

Local time

12:00pm

See the [change notice](#).

**IV.2.4) Languages in which tenders or requests to participate may be submitted**

English

**IV.2.6) Minimum time frame during which the tenderer must maintain the tender**

Duration in months: 4 (from the date stated for receipt of tender)

**IV.2.7) Conditions for opening of tenders**

Date

19 July 2024

Local time

12:01pm

Place

Southampton, Hampshire, England

---

**Section VI. Complementary information**

**VI.1) Information about recurrence**

This is a recurrent procurement: No

**VI.2) Information about electronic workflows**

Electronic ordering will be used

Electronic invoicing will be accepted

Electronic payment will be used

### **VI.3) Additional information**

E-Tendering Portal: The University is utilising an electronic tendering tool, In-Tend ([https://in-tendhost.co.uk/ universityofsouthampton](https://in-tendhost.co.uk/universityofsouthampton)) to manage this procurement and to communicate with tenderers/

All documentation in relation to this tender can be downloaded from In-Tend.

Tenderers are advised that there will be no hard copy documents issued and all communications with the University, including the submission of Invitation to Tender responses will be conducted via In-Tend.

Regular monitoring of the portal is the responsibility of the tenderer.

If you are not already registered as a supplier with the University of Southampton, you will need to register in In-Tend in order to access the procurement documentation.

Once you have logged in as a supplier: click on 'Tenders'; locate the relevant project; and click 'View Details'. Once you are in the project screen, you will be able to register your organisation against the project and access all documentation by clicking 'Express Interest'.

Tenderers are advised that formal expressions of interest in the project must be by way of completion and return of the relevant documents via In-Tend.

Further instructions for the submission of responses are below:

To submit your return:

1. Log in
2. Click 'Tenders'
3. Locate the relevant project
4. View details
5. Click on the tab relating to the relevant project stage (e.g. 'Invitation to Tender')
6. Click on the 'Attach Documents' button and upload your return.
7. Check ALL your response documents are uploaded and displayed in the 'My Tender Return' panel. The system will only permit your organisation to make one return.

8. Click the red 'Submit Return' button.

Please note, to preserve the integrity of the procurement, all communications with the University must be made via the correspondence function within In-Tend.

Publication of Award Details: In accordance with Regulation 50, paragraph (2) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, the University intends to publish the value of any resulting contract at the award stage, and reserves the right to do so. By submitting a response, tenderers are consenting to publication of this information unless otherwise agreed in advance with the University.

Costs and Expenses: tenderers are solely responsible for their costs and expenses incurred in connection with the preparation and submission of responses and participation in this and all future stages of this procurement. Under no circumstances will the University be liable for any costs or expenses borne by tenderers or any of their supply chain, partners or advisers in this procurement process.

The University is not liable for any costs in the event of the cancellation of this procurement process.

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

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

University of Southampton

University Road

Southampton

SO17 1BJ

Email

[procurement@soton.ac.uk](mailto:procurement@soton.ac.uk)

Country

United Kingdom