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Contract

(NU/1433-32) mignon.ai: 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 000-018706

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-034fba

Published 8 July 2022, 10:01am

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

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

The Palatine Centre, Stockton Road

Email

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

Email

Hugh.Rhodes@northumbria.ac.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKC - North East (England)

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://northumbria.ac.uk>

I.1) Name and addresses

University of Sunderland

Sunderland

Email

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

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

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKC - North East (England)

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

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

(NU/1433-32) mignon.ai: Commercialisation of university research through provision of management skills to assist in successful spin-out company creation

Reference number

DN607269

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

Newcastle University have developed a novel Artificial Intelligence (AI) microchip architecture which is uniquely underpinned by logic-based AI. The microchip named mignon was fabricated in early 2021 and this work was led by Dr Rishad Shafik and Professor Alex Yakovlev of the Microsystems Group, School of Engineering at Newcastle University.

The aim is to create a Fabless IP based spin-out company mignon.ai which will market and sell the design of customised hardware devices and semiconductor electronics systems all based on the mignon microchip. The company mignon.ai will develop and design the microchips and supply codes to clients to enable the synthesising of microchip, where all manufacturing of hardware will be outsourced. The team requires an experienced and appropriate business executive to progress this opportunity.

The initial brief of the executive will be to:

- (1) Produce 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.
- c. Provide to the appropriate university all matters necessary for Research England reporting requirements;
- (4) Secure (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

Newcastle University have developed a novel Artificial Intelligence (AI) microchip architecture which is uniquely underpinned by logic-based AI. The microchip named mignon was fabricated in early 2021 and this work was led by Dr Rishad Shafik and Professor Alex Yakovlev of the Microsystems Group, School of Engineering at Newcastle University.

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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.2.5) Award criteria

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

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

Quality criterion - Name: Equity / Weighting: 15

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

Price - Weighting: 25

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

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: Yes

IV.2) Administrative information

IV.2.1) Previous publication concerning this procedure

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

Section V. Award of contract

Contract No

NU/1433-32

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

4 July 2022

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 3

Number of tenders received from SMEs: 3

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

Number of tenders received from tenderers from non-EU Member States: 3

Number of tenders received by electronic means: 3

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

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

Cambridge Future Tech

10 Trafalgar Road

CB4 1EU

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKC - North East (England)

The contractor is an SME

No

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

Total value of the contract/lot: £29,040

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

NE1 7RU

Country

United Kingdom