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Contract

5G and Interconnectivity Equipment and Virtual Production Services for StudiosUK Facilities

Digital Catapult

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2022/S 000-018828

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-0303d1

Published 8 July 2022, 5:02pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Digital Catapult

101 Euston Road

London

NW1 2RA

Contact

Procurement Department

Email

procurement@digicatapult.org.uk

Telephone

+44 2038823557

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKI31 - Camden and City of London

Internet address(es)

Main address

www.digicatapult.org.uk

Buyer's address

https://www.mytenders.co.uk/search/Search_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA37289

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.5) Main activity

Other activity

Research and Innovation

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

5G and Interconnectivity Equipment and Virtual Production Services for StudiosUK Facilities

Reference number

P2021-067

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 32400000 - Networks

II.1.3) Type of contract

Supplies

II.1.4) Short description

Digital Catapult is looking to establish StudiosUK, a cluster of interconnected research facilities leveraging 5G and future networks capability to enable the exploration of convergent visual content production technologies - such as the use of high-density LED walls, motion-capture, real-time rendering engines and new forms of real-world capture.

Studios UK will be a cluster of interconnected facilities that leverage private 5G standalone (5G-SA) networks with multi-access edge compute (MEC) infrastructure hosting machine learning algorithms to enable real-time animation, wireless data transfer, volumetric capture, motion capture and AR broadcast; thus, enabling co-creation, remotely testing applications and experiences for Film and TV productions.

These studios will be utilised for collaborative research and development projects, skills training initiatives and commercial productions within the creative and manufacturing sectors. Examples of projects could include productions utilising in-camera VFX and Virtual Production, 5G enabled device testing, digital twin testbeds, real-time multi-site collaboration and tools and workflow development.

There are two sites, the first is within the M25, to be confirmed, the second is at PROTO, Abbott's Hill, Baltic Business Quarter, Gateshead NE8 3DF and both must be of specification to integrate with existing equipment. This procurement is for PROTO only, a procurement for the requirements of the site within the M25 will be subject to a separate procurement.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: Yes

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

Value excluding VAT: £2,120,000

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Virtual Production Services

Lot No

2

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 48522000 - Virtual keyboard software package
- 72212522 - Virtual keyboard software development services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKC - North East (England)

Main site or place of performance

Gateshead

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The Catapult wishes to procure equipment and services in order to upgrade and integrate Virtual Production Services at the PROTO site from a suitably capable and experienced Supplier.

The Catapult in collaboration with partners currently operates the BlackBox motion capture studio housed within PROTO, a site managed by Sunderland Software City & Gateshead City Council. The BlackBox currently houses an Optitrack motion capture solution as well as the compute, cabling and physical infrastructure. This procurement looks to augment this with an LED screen, a camera solution, increase the fidelity of the motion capture solution and provide new compute and infrastructure to support this.

The equipment to be procured as a result of this procurement will need to be integrated with the existing systems, as these existing systems cannot be altered. It is an important consideration of this procurement that the equipment proposed as part of the Supplier's solution integrates and reuses the existing technology. Existing equipment is specified in Annex K to provide Bidders with information to enable consideration to be given to the quality of service and interoperability to be maintained.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Technical criterion / Weighting: 80

Price - Weighting: 20

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: No

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

5G and Interconnectivity Equipment

Lot No

1

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 32412000 - Communications network
- 32420000 - Network equipment
- 32412110 - Internet network
- 32418000 - Radio network
- 32422000 - Network components
- 32424000 - Network infrastructure

- 48821000 - Network servers
- 64221000 - Interconnection services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKC - North East (England)

Main site or place of performance

Gateshead

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Each facility will host a private 5G Standalone (5G-SA) network that provides high bandwidth, low latency, synchronization and edge computing to support enhanced visual content production workflows and flexible wireless deployments. Security over public and non-public networks is a key consideration for media production applications. The Catapult is to leverage the development of non-public networks to integrate wireless production equipment into each studio and network slicing to differentiate and isolate the data flows.

High capacity (+10Gbps) dedicated secure inter-connections will enable the distribution of network services and workloads across the facilities. The network infrastructure will be flexible and scalable enough to meet the requirements for visual content production scenarios, such as those defined in 3GPP Rel. 16/17 to support ultra-reliable and low latency communications (URLLC) and Video, Imaging and Audio for Professional Applications (VIAPA). Specifically, for the MEC infrastructure, it will connect all the production technology – camera, dolly and crane, audio-multitrack recorder, wireless microphone, tracking sensors, lighting – in a low latency and high-bandwidth network that will enhance the overall workflow.

The Catapult is to contract with an experienced and capable Supplier as a result of this procurement for the supply of 5G and interconnectivity equipment that will be used to upgrade the PROTO site and to connect the aforementioned two studios in the UK in accordance with the scope stated in this ITT.

There are four sub-lots for the equipment to be procured:

Lot 1a: Generic IT/Networking kit;

Lot 1b: 5G Radio and 5G ORAN Solution system;

Lot 1c: 5G Core system; and

Lot 1d: Point-to-point Interconnectivity between PROTO and LONDON

The estimated contract value of the Contracts to be awarded are detailed below:

Lot 1a: Generic IT/Networking kit – estimated value of this Lot is 790,000.00 GBP ex VAT;

Lot 1b: 5G Radio and 5G ORAN Solution system – estimated value of this Lot is 190,000.00 GBP ex VAT;

Lot 1c: 5G Core system – estimated value of this Lot is 60,000.00 GBP ex VAT;

Lot 1d: Point-to-point interconnection between PROTO and LONDON; 120,000.00 GBP ex VAT;

Bidders are permitted to submit tenders for one or more sub-lots at their discretion.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Technical criterion / Weighting: 70

Price - Weighting: 30

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: No

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: Yes

IV.2) Administrative information

IV.2.1) Previous publication concerning this procedure

Notice number: [2021/S 000-031834](#)

Section V. Award of contract

Lot No

1

Title

5G and Interconnectivity Equipment

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

29 March 2022

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 6

Number of tenders received from SMEs: 5

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

Number of tenders received from tenderers from non-EU Member States: 6

Number of tenders received by electronic means: 6

The contract has been awarded to a group of economic operators: Yes

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

Fastnet International Ltd

Shaftesbury Court,, 95 Ditchling Road,

Brighton

Bn1 4ST

Telephone

+44 1273688088

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKJ21 - Brighton and Hove

The contractor is an SME

Yes

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

boxxe Limited

Artemis House, Eboracum Way

YORK

YO31 7RE

Telephone

+44 347812100

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

The contractor is an SME

Yes

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

AWTG Limited

8 Canham Mews Canham Road

London

W3 7SR

Telephone

+44 2035155151

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKI - London

The contractor is an SME

Yes

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

RF CHANNEL LTD

Parallel House, 32 London Road

Guildford

Gu1 2AB

Telephone

+44 7894968417

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

The contractor is an SME

Yes

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

Initial estimated total value of the contract/lot: £1,160,000

Total value of the contract/lot: £669,399.29

Section V. Award of contract

Lot No

2

Title

Virtual Production Services

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

29 March 2022

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 1

Number of tenders received from SMEs: 1

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

Number of tenders received from tenderers from non-EU Member States: 1

Number of tenders received by electronic means: 1

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

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

Target3D

87-91 Hackney Road

London

E2 8FE

Telephone

+44 2034882575

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

The contractor is an SME

Yes

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

Initial estimated total value of the contract/lot: £960,000

Total value of the contract/lot: £959,673

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

(MT Ref:226761)

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

High Court

London

Country

United Kingdom

VI.4.2) Body responsible for mediation procedures

CEDR

London

Country

United Kingdom

VI.4.3) Review procedure

Precise information on deadline(s) for review procedures

In the first instance, all appeals should be promptly brought to the attention of Digital Catapult, and will be dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. Any appeals must be brought within the timescales specified by the applicable law, including without limitation, the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. In accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, the contracting authority will also incorporate a minimum 10 calendar day standstill period from the date information on award of contract is communicated to tenderers.