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Award

Production and Installation of Integrated UHF SATCOM & EFMTE 4.2 Baseline Equipment (which consist of bespoke integrated satellite communications equipment) for the Royal Navy's Type 26 Ships 2 & 3

Ministry of Defence

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-019624

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-03e03b

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Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence - Defence Digital Commercial, Ash 0a, MoD Abbey Wood

Bristol

BS34 8JH

Contact

Samantha Temblett

Email

samantha.temblett100@mod.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://modgovuk.sharepoint.com/sites/intranet>

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

I.5) Main activity

Defence

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Production and Installation of Integrated UHF SATCOM & EFMTE 4.2 Baseline Equipment (which consist of bespoke integrated satellite communications equipment) for the Royal Navy's Type 26 Ships 2 & 3

Reference number

706217450-A

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 32530000 - Satellite-related communications equipment

II.1.3) Type of contract

Supplies

II.1.4) Short description

Procurement and Installation of Integrated UHF SATCOM & EFMTE 4.2 Baseline Equipment (which consist of bespoke integrated satellite communications equipment) for the Royal Navy's T26 fleet Ships 2 & 3.

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: £4,000,000

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 32324310 - Satellite antennas
- 32344250 - Radio installations

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

Main site or place of performance

Dockyards and Defence Sites across the UK; Project Team will be based in Bristol

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Procurement and Installation of Integrated UHF SATCOM & EFMTE 4.2 Baseline Equipment (which consist of bespoke integrated satellite communications equipment) for the Royal Navy's T26 fleet Ships 2 & 3.

The aim of this procurement is to enable the delivery, installation and set to work (STW) of the new Baseline 4.2 UHF SATCOM equipment (EFMTE) for Ship 2 and for Ship 3. This baseline has been endorsed by Naval Command Headquarters (NCHQ) & Director Special Forces (SF).

II.2.5) Award criteria

Price

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

Negotiated procedure without publication of a contract notice

- The products involved are manufactured purely for the purpose of research, experiment, study or development
- 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:

The Defence Digital Tactical Systems Service Executive (TacSys SE) team, part of the United Kingdom Ministry of Defence (MoD), intends to award a four-year contract to STS Defence Limited for the production and installation of Integrated UHF SATCOM & EFMTE 4.2 baseline equipment (which consist of bespoke integrated satellite communications equipment) for the Royal Navy's T26 fleet Ships 2 and 3 only. This equipment will meet the Fleet User Requirement Document, such that the user shall be able to provide a communications service to support Information Exchange Requirements (IER) for simultaneous voice and data. Capable of supporting DAMA, FM, High Performance Waveform (HPW) and Integrated Waveform (IW) data services within 25KHz channel. It shall have the ability (i) for one antenna to access two different satellites operating on different waveforms and different frequencies simultaneously; and (ii) to interface the modems used by the Royal Navy Fleet and also the radios used by embarked forces through the same single antennae.

In accordance with regulation 4 of The Defence and Security Public Contracts (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (SI 2019/697) this procurement falls to be regulated under the provisions of the Defence and Security Public Contracts Regulations 2011 as amended (in particular by SI 2019/697 and SI 2020/1450). Prior publication of a contract notice in the Official Journal of the European Union is no longer appropriate.

It is considered that this contract can be placed using the Negotiated Procedure Without Prior Publication of a Contract Notice in the UK e-notification service (in accordance with the relevant legislation) pursuant to Regulation 16(1)(a)(ii) of the DSPCR 2011 (as amended) for Technical Reasons.

STS Defence Limited have previously designed a bespoke UHF SATCOM 4.2 Design

capability in partnership with SNXP Limited which is accredited for use by the MoD on the T26 Fleet. The installation of this capability in T26 Ship 1 was carried out by STS Defence Limited under a task on an existing MoD Contract. This Contract was competed, and STS Defence Limited was awarded the contract. STS Defence and SNXP Limited have an exclusivity agreement that means SNXP Limited will only supply STS Defence Limited with the required hardware design and technical expertise to enable them to complete the installation into T26 Ships.

Contractual timelines for the delivery of this Integrated UHF SATCOM & EFMTE 4.2 baseline equipment capability into T26 Ships 2 and 3 are already embedded within the existing Type 26 Ship Building Contract (Contract Ref. No. SHIPACQ036) as a requirement to enable repeat supply and fit.

Only STS Defence/SNXP Limited have the technical ability and experience necessary to produce and install this Integrated UHF SATCOM & EFMTE 4.2 baseline equipment capability into T26 Ships 2 and 3 in a manner that is accredited for use by the MoD and meets the required timescales.

It is not viable for another supplier to deliver an alternative design that meets the MoD's technical requirements within the necessary timescales. Further, the STS Defence/SNXP SATCOM design has been approved by Naval Command Headquarters (NCHQ) & Director Special Forces (SF) to ensure it is fit for use. This design and accreditation process took several years to complete. To bring in a third-party supplier to design new equipment, obtain MoD approval and accreditation for the new design and then build and install it on T26 Ships 2 and 3 would incur significant and disproportionate additional time and cost consequences to the MoD, which would also result in significant delays to Vessel Acceptance Date (the date by which MoD are required to have agreed that the newly built T26 Ship has been delivered to an acceptable level against the requirements defined in the T26 Ship Building Contract (Contract Ref. No. SHIPACQ036)), thereby causing an unacceptable capability gap to the Royal Navy.

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: No

Section V. Award of contract/concession

Contract No

706217450-A

Title

Production and Installation of Integrated UHF SATCOM & EFMTE 4.2 Baseline Equipment (which consist of bespoke integrated satellite communications equipment) for the Royal Navy's Type 26 Ships 2 & 3

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract/concession

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

7 July 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

STS Defence Limited

Mumby Road Gosport

Hampshire

PO12 1AF

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

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

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £4,000,000

V.2.5) Information about subcontracting

The contract/lot/concession is likely to be subcontracted

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

The Defence Digital Tactical Systems Service Executive (TacSys SE) team, part of the United Kingdom Ministry of Defence (MoD) intends to award a four-year contract to STS Defence Limited for the procurement and installation of Integrated UHF SATCOM & EFMTE 4.2 baseline equipment (which consist of bespoke integrated satellite communications equipment) for the Royal Navy's T26 fleet Ships 2 & 3.

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Ministry of Defence - Defence Digital Commercial

Ministry of Defence - Defence Digital Commercial, Ash 0a, MoD Abbey Wood

Bristol

BS34 8JH

Email

Samantha.Templett100@mod.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

VI.4.2) Body responsible for mediation procedures

Ministry of Defence – Central Legal Services

Ministry of Defence – Central Legal Services, Poplar 2, MoD Abbey Wood

Bristol

BS34 8JH

Country

United Kingdom

VI.4.3) Review procedure

Precise information on deadline(s) for review procedures

Request details from Contact within Section I if required

VI.4.4) Service from which information about the review procedure may be obtained

Ministry of Defence - Defence Digital Commercial

Bristol

Email

Samantha.Templett100@mod.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom