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Award

Direct award of a Lease for Class 701 rolling stock

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY LIMITED

UK5: Transparency notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-020267

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-051056 ([view related notices](#))

Published 11 May 2025, 2:32pm

Scope

Description

Intention to directly award a 5 year contract for the leasing of 60 x 10 car units and 30 x 5 car units of Class 701 rolling stock and related spares and special tools. The lease of the rolling stock is on the basis that the contracting authority (rather than the supplier) is responsible for all maintenance of the vehicles.

The Lease also contains a right to transfer or sub-let the contract to certain third parties and an obligation for the supplier to enter into a direct agreement with the Secretary of State in parallel to the Lease. The direct agreement permits the Secretary of State to call for a New Contract in the event of the termination or expiry of the contracting authority's services agreement with the Secretary of State. The duration of the New Contract would typically be up to 3 years and the terms of the New Contract and the circumstances in which the direct agreement can be relied upon are all unambiguously set out in the direct agreement. The Lease also contains provisions addressing adjustments to monthly rentals on the basis specified in the Lease if certain modifications to the rolling stock are required which are to be funded by the Lessor. In the event that the contract is transferred or sub-let to a third party, a direct agreement is relied upon by the Secretary of State or modifications to the rolling stock are required and are to be funded by the Lessor, it is considered that these would be permitted modifications provided for in the contract.

Contract 1

Supplier

- ROCK RAIL SOUTH WESTERN PLC

Contract value

- £493,605,000 excluding VAT
- £592,326,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Earliest date the contract will be signed

19 May 2025

Contract dates (estimated)

- 25 May 2025 to 25 May 2030
- 5 years, 1 day

Main procurement category

Goods

CPV classifications

- 34600000 - Railway and tramway locomotives and rolling stock and associated parts

Contract locations

- UKI - London
- UKJ - South East (England)
- UKK - South West (England)

Other information

Description of risks to contract performance

Yes - A conflicts assessment has been prepared, and revised if necessary

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Direct award

Special regime

Utilities

Direct award justification

Single supplier - technical reasons

No fleet other than the Rock Rail Class 701 is able to meet the operational and/or capacity requirements that the contracting authority needs from this rolling stock for the necessary contract duration to meet its public passenger rail transport obligations. There is therefore an absence of competition for technical reasons. Any alternatives identified created operational constraints due to unit configuration and a large shortfall in the number of available units. There are therefore no reasonable alternatives to the Class 701 rolling stock.

Supplier

ROCK RAIL SOUTH WESTERN PLC

- Companies House: 10754652
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PRHQ-7996-QVXR

Capital Tower

London

SE1 8RT

United Kingdom

Email: originationuk@rockinfrastructure.com

Region: UKI45 - Lambeth

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): No

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 1

Contracting authority

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY LIMITED

- Companies House: 03266760
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PQHL-7495-VCQT

Great Minster House 4th Floor, Public Ownership Programme Team

London

SW1P 4DR

United Kingdom

Email: Procurement@dftoperator.co.uk

Region: UKI32 - Westminster

Organisation type: Public undertaking (commercial organisation subject to public authority oversight)