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Award

## **Complete autonomous system for the secure transportation of nuclear material**

NATIONAL NUCLEAR LABORATORY LIMITED

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-020889

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-047bda

Published 9 July 2024, 12:00pm

### **Section I: Contracting authority/entity**

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

NATIONAL NUCLEAR LABORATORY LIMITED

Havelock Road

Workington

CA14 3YQ

#### **Contact**

Stacey O'Driscoll

#### **Email**

[nnl.procurement@uknnl.com](mailto:nnl.procurement@uknnl.com)

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

#### **Region code**

UKD11 - West Cumbria

**Companies House**

03857752

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<https://www.nnl.co.uk/>

**I.4) Type of the contracting authority**

Body governed by public law

**I.5) Main activity**

Other activity

Nuclear

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**Section II: Object**

**II.1) Scope of the procurement**

**II.1.1) Title**

Complete autonomous system for the secure transportation of nuclear material

Reference number

GC\_837

**II.1.2) Main CPV code**

- 73000000 - Research and development services and related consultancy services

**II.1.3) Type of contract**

Services

**II.1.4) Short description**

National Nuclear Laboratory ("NNL") intends to award a contract to IDV Robotics who will further develop the concept for a complete autonomous system for the secure transportation of nuclear material across the Sellafield site as part of the Gamechangers Innovation Programme.

#### **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: £249,771

### **II.2) Description**

#### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

#### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

The funding for this Proof of Concept Gamechangers is to enable further development of the Autonomous transportation of nuclear materials concept and technology further.

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

Options: Yes

Description of options

Should additional funding become available to further develop this scope of work then the potential to extend is available.

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## Section IV. Procedure

### IV.1) Description

#### IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Negotiated without a prior call for competition

- The works, supplies or services can be provided only by a particular economic operator for the following reason:
  - protection of exclusive rights, including intellectual property rights

Explanation:

National Nuclear Laboratory ("NNL") intends to award a contract to IDV Robotics who will further develop the concept for a complete autonomous system for the secure transportation of nuclear material across the Sellafield site as part of the Gamechangers Innovation Programme. IDV Robotics has been developing autonomous systems for Defence for almost 20 years and were selected through a response to a Gamechangers Challenge Statement which sought applications for feasibility funding. This was advertised in an Early Engagement Notice via Contracts Finder (ref: GC25) on 23rd October 2024(Autonomous transportation of nuclear materials - Contracts Finder) and published via

[https://www.gamechangers.technology/challenge/Autonomous\\_Transportation\\_of\\_Nuclear\\_Materials](https://www.gamechangers.technology/challenge/Autonomous_Transportation_of_Nuclear_Materials)

Following all supplier applications for feasibility funding for the above project, IDV Robotics were selected as a successful supplier by the funders (Sellafield Ltd). An initial £10,000 of feasibility funding was provided in January 2024, which supported IDV Robotics to:

- Create a Business Case for the development of a complete Concept Demonstrator
- Generate a Project Risk Register
- Generate of a Project Plan for the development of a Concept Demonstrator including milestones and funding requirements

The output of this feasibility study was then further evaluated by Sellafield Ltd and IDV Robotics have been selected for additional funding for the Proof-of-Concept phase of this project, which will enable them to further develop this concept and technology further. This additional funding to support technology development is due to be awarded following the expiry of this VEAT notice.

Gamechangers is an innovation programme which finds solutions for complex nuclear industry challenges and allows the supplier to retain ownership of the Intellectual Property throughout the advancement of technology readiness level. They accept applications and work with all sizes and across all sectors to identify and develop the most promising of technology. Suppliers who have an idea which might be of interest, please follow the below link to the Gamechangers Technology challenge website for further information or to explore Challenges that may be of interest.

Delivering innovation in the nuclear industry (<https://www.gamechangers.technology>)

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

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### **Section V. Award of contract/concession**

#### **Contract No**

GC\_837

#### **Title**

Transportation of Nuclear Materials

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

#### **V.2) Award of contract/concession**

##### **V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract**

4 July 2024

##### **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**

IDV Robotics LTD

Suite 1.03, Technology Centre Nw05 Mira Technology Park, Watling Street,

Nuneaton, Warwickshire,

CV10 0TU

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKG1 - Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Warwickshire

Companies House

14257163

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

Yes

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

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £249,771

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## **Section VI. Complementary information**

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

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

The Royal Courts of Justice

The Strand

London

WC2A 2LL

Country

United Kingdom