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Contract

Supply of a Warm Pellet Press

NATIONAL NUCLEAR LABORATORY LIMITED

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-021047

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-044dbe

Published 10 July 2024, 12:27pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

NATIONAL NUCLEAR LABORATORY LIMITED

5th Floor Chadwick House, Birchwood Park

Warrington

WA3 6AE

Contact

Charlotte Wilson

Email

charlotte.wilson@uknnl.com

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKD61 - Warrington

Companies House

03857752

Internet address(es)

Main address

www.nnl.co.uk

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.5) Main activity

Other activity

Nuclear

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Supply of a Warm Pellet Press

Reference number

PSS_2024_049

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 42000000 - Industrial machinery

II.1.3) Type of contract

Supplies

II.1.4) Short description

This Award Notice is to inform the market that NNL has awarded a contract for a Warm Pellet Press.

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: £434,929

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 33100000 - Medical equipments
- 33600000 - Pharmaceutical products

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKD45 - Mid Lancashire

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

In support of NNL's CPF programme, a hydraulic press is required which can press with a force of 50 kN to produce both annular cylindrical compacts.

NNL is purchasing a commercial off the shelf tablet press intended for the pharmaceutical industry. The nominal dimensions of 30 mm diameter x 40 mm in height with an internal annulus of 4-12 mm. A heated die is required to allow for compacts to be produced at a temperature of up to 300°C. Die filling will be done using automated die feed utilising a hopper system to fill the die automatically before each press cycle.

The press will record data during the pressing process such as temperature, punch position, force and die wall pressure. This data will be used to optimise the pressing process and form part of the QA process.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Price

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: No

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Award of a contract without prior publication of a call for competition in the cases listed below

- The services can be provided only by a particular economic operator for the following reason:
 - absence of competition for technical reasons

Explanation:

National Nuclear Laboratory ("NNL") has awarded this contract under Regulation 32(2)(b)(ii), to Huxley Bertram in respect of the purchase of a Warm Pellet Press.

The Warm Pellet Press is required to support NNL in the development of Coated Particle Fuel (CPF), funded by the UK Government. These fuels will be used in the next generation of High Temperature Gas-Cooled Reactors (HTGRs) and will be a key contribution towards achieving net zero. To support NNL in the development of CPF, NNL requires a hydraulic press is required which can press with a force of 50 kN to produce both annular cylindrical compacts. NNL proposes to use a commercial off the shelf tablet press intended for the pharmaceutical industry. The nominal dimensions of 30 mm diameter x 40 mm in height with an internal annulus of 4-12 mm. A heated die is required to allow for compacts to be produced at a temperature of up to 300°C. Die filling should be done using automated die feed utilising a hopper system to fill the die automatically before each press cycle. The press should record data during the pressing process such as temperature, punch position, force and die wall pressure. This data will be used to optimise the pressing process and form part of the QA process.

The equipment is to be installed and commissioned at NNL Preston Laboratory.

The scope of the work consists of:

1. Purchase of a HB10 pharma tablet compaction simulator and engagement with NNL to review the equipment via Hazard and Operability Studies
2. Building, installation, commissioning, training and maintenance
3. Ongoing manufacturer support through the provision of a service contract.

Following extensive market research of off the shelf equipment manufacturers in various sectors, and engagement including:

A PIN notice 2023/S/000-019956, Early Engagement Notice advertising a supply chain event where this procurement was featured, an Early Engagement Notice from 8th - 22nd March 2024 and an Early Engagement Notice dated 25th January - 8th February 2024. A VEAT notice 2023/S/000-010097 was published on 27th March 2024 which was followed by an immediate 10 day standstill period.

No suitable suppliers were identified to undertake this contract except Huxley Bertram, no challenges were brought to NNL's attention during the 10 day standstill period.

Due to the reason stated above, under section 32b(ii) of the PCR Guidelines; "competition is absent for technical reasons".

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: [2024/S 000-010097](#)

Section V. Award of contract

Contract No

PSS_2024_049

Title

Supply of a Warm Pellet Press

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

12 June 2024

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 1

Number of tenders received from SMEs: 1

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

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

Huxley Bertram Engineering Limited

53 Pembroke Avenue

Cambridge

CB25 9QP

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKH12 - Cambridgeshire CC

Companies House

03358704

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: £434,929

Total value of the contract/lot: £434,929

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