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Award

Provision of MEDEVAC, General Aviation Support and Aerial Firefighting at BATSUB

Ministry of Defence

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2022/S 000-021520

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-035938

Published 5 August 2022, 10:35am

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

Ministry of Defence

Andover

Email

ArmyComrcl-NI-Mailbox@mod.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKK - South West (England)

Internet address(es)

Main address

www.army.mod.uk

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

Provision of MEDEVAC, General Aviation Support and Aerial Firefighting at BATSUB

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 60424120 - Hire of helicopters with crew

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

Provision of MEDEVAC, General Aviation Support and Aerial Firefighting at BATSUB

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: £18,200,000

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- BZ - Belize

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The services required are as follows:

- a. Aviation Medical Evacuation (MEDEVAC) with twin-engine capability
- b. General Aviation Support (GAS)
- c. Aerial Firefighting (AFF)

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

- No tenders or no suitable tenders/requests to participate in response to negotiated procedure with prior 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:

1. The Authority intends to negotiate the award of a contract to Astrum Helicopters for the

provision of MEDEVAC, General Aviation Support and Aerial Firefighting for British Army Training Support Unit Belize (BATSUB)

2. It is considered that this contract can be placed using the negotiated procedure without prior publication of a contract notice pursuant to Regulation 16(1)(a)(ii) of the Defence and Security Public Contracts Regulations (DSPCR 2011) as competition is absent for technical reasons. There is a regulatory requirement, as laid down by the Belize Department for Civil Aviation (BDCA), that an economic operator within Belizean territory must obtain and maintain an Air Operators Certificate (AOC) to carry out commercial activity. It is also the BDCA's position that "foreign" certification (FAA/CAA/EASA recognised) is non-transferable. This certification must be in place by contract start date (1st October 2023). The process to start the certification application is triggered by a letter of intent from an economic operator to the Director of Civil Aviation in Belize, something which, due to the need for evidence of established processes for operations in Belize and cost implications, would be impractical and risk-laden to submit prior to contract award. It is likely that contract award will not take place until mid-2023. The current time-frame for certification is 12-18 months. The Authority cannot accommodate a break in service delivery as this will have a negative impact on training at BATSUB. MEDEVAC would have to be by land extraction, which does not meet medical planning guidelines due to risk to life (RTL) considerations. Ceasing training would also have a negative impact on the Authority's ability to deploy personnel. There is a potential reputational risk if the Authority cannot deploy an Aerial Firefighting capability.

3. Astrum Helicopters carry the requisite certification from the BDCA and can begin service delivery by the required contract start date. It is the Authority's belief that there are no alternate providers, either in Belize or elsewhere, who hold this certification and would be in a position to deliver these services by 1 October 2023.

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

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract/concession

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

4 August 2022

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

Astrum Helicopters

Belize City

Country

Belize

NUTS code

- BZ - Belize

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

Yes

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

Initial estimated total value of the contract/lot/concession: £18,200,000

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £18,200,000

V.2.5) Information about subcontracting

The contract/lot/concession is likely to be subcontracted

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

With reference to Section V, dates and values have been added as this is a system requirement. For clarity, a contract has not been awarded. It is the Authority's intent to seek to negotiate a contract with the economic operator detailed as Section V.2.3

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Army Commercial

Andover

Country

United Kingdom