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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): ocids-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](mailto:ArmyComrcl-NI-Mailbox@mod.gov.uk)

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

#### **NUTS code**

UKK - South West (England)

#### **Internet address(es)**

Main address

[www.army.mod.uk](http://www.army.mod.uk)

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

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

#### **I.5) Main activity**

Defence

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### **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

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## **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

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## **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

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## **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