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Contract

Management of the UK Telecommunications Laboratory

DESNZ & DSIT Group Commercial

F18: Contract award notice for contracts in the field of defence and security

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-022277

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-0515f6

Published 16 May 2025, 2:30pm

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name, addresses and contact point(s)

DESNZ & DSIT Group Commercial

22 Whitehall

London

For the attention of

FNP Commercial Team

Email(s)

fnpcommercial@dsit.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

I.2) Type of the contracting authority

Ministry or any other national or federal authority, including their regional or local subdivisions

I.4) Contract award on behalf of other contracting authorities

The contracting authority is purchasing on behalf of other contracting authorities:

No

Section II: Object of the contract

II.1) Description

II.1.1) Title attributed to the contract

Management of the UK Telecommunications Laboratory

II.1.2) Type of contract and location of works, place of delivery or of performance

Services

Service category No 14: Research and development services and evaluation tests

II.1.4) Short description of the contract or purchase(s)

The UK Telecommunications Laboratory (UKTL) serves as the national telecoms security and resilience testing and research facility of the United Kingdom. This helps maintain the security and resilience of the UK's communications networks. The contract is for provision of Deliverables and the supply of Services, for the operation of the UKTL Buildings as well as the designing and implementation of specialist activities and tasks.

II.1.5) Common procurement vocabulary (CPV)

- 73400000 - Research and Development services on security and defence materials

II.2) Total final value of contract(s)

II.2.1) Total final value of contract(s)

Value: £18,380,000

Excluding VAT

Section IV: Procedure

Type of procedure

Negotiated without publication of a contract notice

Justification for the award of the contract without prior publication of a contract notice

1) Justification for the choice of the negotiated procedure without prior publication of a contract notice

The works/goods/services can be provided only by a particular tenderer for reasons that are:

technical

connected with the protection of exclusive rights

2) Other justification for the award of the contract without prior publication of a contract notice

The procurement falls outside the scope of application of the regulations

The UK Telecommunications Laboratory (UKTL) serves as the national telecoms security and resilience testing and research facility of the United Kingdom. The UKTL aims to be recognised globally as a centre of excellence in telecom security, providing advanced test and evaluation capabilities to protect the country's essential national telecoms infrastructure. This helps maintain the security and resilience of the UK's communications networks.

The Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) awarded a contract to National Physical Laboratory Management Limited for setting up and initially managing UKTL for 12 months, valued at £18.3 million (excluding VAT). This procurement follows the Defence and Security Public Contracts Regulations 2011.

Publishing a contract notice in the Official Journal of the European Union is no longer applicable. The contract was awarded without prior publication of a notice on the UK e-notification service, adhering to Regulation 16(1)(a)(ii) of the DSPCR 2011, which allows

such awarding “for technical reasons, or for reasons connected with the protection of exclusive rights”, therefore the contract was awarded to a particular economic operator.

The services required could only be provided by NPL Management Limited, due to the extensive interaction with various network-specific organisations as well as government bodies. These entities are integral to the development of UKTL, raising concerns about the allocation of exclusive rights during the establishment of the laboratory and necessitating a company that maintains neutrality. As a public corporation that offers neutrality, NPL Management Limited possesses the requisite expertise in laboratory setup and management. Although there are other public sector bodies that exhibit relevant qualities, their primary remits and expertise do not fulfil the unique requirements of a national-level telecommunications security laboratory. They lacked specialised knowledge in advanced telecom network protocols, cybersecurity threats specific to telecom infrastructure, and the metrology of high-frequency signals, which NPL possesses. Additionally, these entities do not operate high-security facilities for collaborative research on sensitive national security technology.

NPL's expertise in measurement science, its specific and advanced capabilities in telecommunications and cyber security, its role as the UK's National Measurement Institute, and its status as a trusted public sector body with the necessary infrastructure and security clearance experience make it the only public sector organisation feasibly equipped to operate the UKTL for the period of time in question.

Section V: Award of contract

Contract No

con_7702

V.1) Date of contract award decision

1 April 2025

V.3) Name and address of economic operator in favour of whom the contract award decision has been taken

NPL Management Limited

Teddington

Country

United Kingdom

Companies House

02937881

V.4) Information on value of contract

Total final value of the contract

Value: £18,380,000

Excluding VAT

If annual or monthly value

Number of years: 1

V.5) Information about subcontracting

The contract is likely to be sub-contracted: Yes

Value or proportion of the contract likely to be sub-contracted to third parties:

Not known

Short description of the value/proportion of the contract to be sub-contracted:

N/A

Section VI: Complementary information

VI.1) Information about European Union funds

The contract is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds:
No

VI.3) Procedures for appeal

VI.3.1) Body responsible for appeal procedures

Department for Science, Innovation and Technology

London

Country

United Kingdom

Body responsible for mediation procedures

Department for Science, Innovation and Technology

London

Country

United Kingdom

VI.3.3) Service from which information about the lodging of appeals may be obtained

Department for Science, Innovation and Technology

London

Country

United Kingdom