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Award

Autonomous Transport System

NATIONAL NUCLEAR LABORATORY LIMITED

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-023532

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04854e

Published 29 July 2024, 10:16am

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

NATIONAL NUCLEAR LABORATORY LIMITED

5th Floor Chadwick House

Risley

WA3 6AE

Contact

NNL Procurement

Email

NNL.Procurement@uknnl.com

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKD61 - Warrington

Companies House

3857752

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

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Autonomous Transport System

Reference number

GC-820

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 73100000 - Research and experimental development services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

National Nuclear Laboratory ("NNL") intends to award a contract to Digital Concepts Engineering Ltd who will further develop the concept for an Autonomous Transport System (DCE ATS) to facilitate daily package journeys across the Sellafield site from legacy stores to new long-term storage facilities.

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: £207,312

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The aim of this proof of concept project is to develop a safe, secure, autonomous transport of waste and product packages. The impact of this technology is to reduce reliance on driver and vehicle availability, reduce planning time, and enhance operational efficiency to ensure that a high volume of packages can be transported over an extended duration.

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

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 Digital Concepts Engineering Ltd who will further develop the concept for an Autonomous Transport System (DCE ATS) to facilitate daily package journeys across the Sellafield site from legacy stores to new long-term storage facilities, as part of the Gamechangers Innovation Programme.

Digital Concepts Engineering Ltd has been developing the technology for safe, secure, autonomous transport of waste and product packages 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 on 23rd October 2023

(<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/notice/bc6a4dd3-e366-4aca-8124-1ec9d7d7b011?origin=SearchResults&p=1>) and published via

(https://www.gamechangers.technology/challenge/Autonomous_Transportation_of_Nuclear_Materials)

Following all supplier applications for feasibility funding for the above project, Digital Concepts Engineering Ltd 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 Digital Concepts Engineering Ltd to:

- Create a Business Case for
- Generate of a Project Plan for
- milestones and funding requirements

The output of this feasibility study was then further evaluated by Sellafield Ltd and Digital Concept Engineering Ltd 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

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

29 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

Digital Concepts Engineering Limited

Hinckley

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKF22 - Leicestershire CC and Rutland

Companies House

04398993

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: £207,312

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