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Tender

Connectivity of Disparate Remote Autonomous Systems

Ministry of Defence

F17: Contract notice for contracts in the field of defence and security

Notice identifier: 2021/S 000-024379

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-02e6aa

Published 30 September 2021, 10:45pm

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

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

Ministry of Defence

Future Capabilities Group, Spruce 2B, #1261, MOD Abbey Wood

Bristol

BS34 8JH

Contact

DES FCG Commercial

For the attention of

Sophie Spiring

Email(s)

Sophie.Spiring100@mod.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Further information

Further information can be obtained from the above mentioned contact point(s)

Specifications and additional documents (including documents for competitive dialogue and a dynamic purchasing system) can be obtained from

The above-mentioned contact point(s)

Tenders or requests to participate must be sent to

The above-mentioned contact point(s)

I.2) Type of the contracting authority

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

I.3) Main activity

Defence

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

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 by the contracting authority

Connectivity of Disparate Remote Autonomous Systems

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

Services

Service category No 3: Defence services, military defence services and civil defence services

Main site or location of works, place of delivery or of performance

MOD Abbey Wood

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

II.1.3) Information on framework agreement

The notice involves the establishment of a framework agreement

II.1.4) Information on framework agreement

Framework agreement with several operators

Duration of the framework agreement

Duration in years: 4

Estimated total value of purchases for the entire duration of the framework agreement

Estimated value excluding VAT:

£60,000,000

II.1.5) Short description of the contract or purchase(s)

Connectivity of Disparate Remote Autonomous Systems

The Authority has a developing requirement for the creation or adoption of a set of common standards and/or architecture for interfaces, data transfer and data management that can be used both for upgrades to legacy systems and future procurement to enable swift and simple interoperation of systems.

It is expected that the work will involve experimentation and demonstrations of multi-domain integrated systems which may include autonomous and swarming technologies. The aims are broad and inclusive, and the Authority is seeking engagement from all areas of the industrial marketplace with relevant contributions to make.

This requirement is considered to be particularly suitable for SMEs. The contractual mechanism will be a multi-supplier framework, with designated Lots for each technical specialism as well as Lots for more general supporting services, as described in this CN. Potential bidders are invited to register their interest in receiving an Invitation to Tender to join the framework by first completing the associated Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ).

The Authority intends to invite all eligible companies who pass the PQQ to tender for the Framework. Note that while there is no down-selection to any specific numbers of bidders at this stage, only companies who can demonstrate relevance to the subject matter of the Lots within the Framework through their previous or existing portfolio of work (of which examples are requested via the PQQ) will pass the PQQ and be considered eligible to receive an Invitation to Tender at the next stage of the competition. Potential bidders may bid to join a single Lot or multiple Lots.

As with any framework, whilst there can be no guarantee of any particular quantity of work being put through it, the Authority intends to conduct further mini-competitions to select successful framework contractors or collaborative teams of framework contractors within individual Lots or across a number of Lots in any combination, and expects that the work will be conducted progressively in spirals giving ongoing opportunities to many of the framework participants.

The Lots will include, but may not be limited to, the following subject matter themes:

Autonomous Platforms and Payload Integration

Data Management and Fusion

Machine Tasking and Decision Making

System of System (SoS) Management, Integration and Implementation

Comms Bearers, Network Architecture & Services

Customer Advisory Network (may include but not be limited to sub-Lots eg Customer Friend (independent advisory role), assurance, operationalisation, third party security testing, testing and evaluation).

Note that any potential bidder interested in the Customer Friend role will NOT be permitted to take part in any other Lot or enter into any sub-contract or other collaborative relationship with any other framework participant in order to preserve the independence of this role (no compliance regime will be authorised).

The Authority expects that few single suppliers will be capable of taking on the breadth and scope of each piece of work and therefore collaboration will be required between suppliers in a competitive environment (collaborative team bids will be encouraged for mini-competitions). There will be no prime contractor.

A Community of Interest for all framework participants will be established through which Working Groups will be held, led by the Authority, to analyse and propose next steps or further specific areas of interest under the Lotted themes. All framework participants will be required to contribute to the Working Groups according to their specialism. Feedback from the WG will be given to the Community of Interest (subject to security considerations). Intellectual Property generated under the framework taskings and its Community of Interest will be owned by the Authority under DEFCON 703.

The Authority must ensure that where access is required to classified information in the course of any tasking or Working Group activity, then this access will only be granted to framework participants with suitable security clearance in place at the time a task is raised. Whilst a particular level of security clearance is not essential for initial entry to the framework following the Invitation to Tender process, the Authority reserves the right to refuse inclusion of any framework participant who does not possess the required clearance level at the time a mini-competition for a task is initiated or a classified Working Group is scheduled.

II.1.6) Common procurement vocabulary (CPV)

- 73410000 - Military research and technology

II.1.7) Information about subcontracting

The tenderer has to indicate in the tender any share of the contract it may intend to subcontract to third parties and any proposed subcontractor, as well as the subject-matter of the subcontracts for which they are proposed

The tenderer has to indicate any change occurring at the level of subcontractors during

the execution of the contract

II.1.8) Lots

This contract is divided into lots: Yes

Tenders may be submitted for one or more lots

II.1.9) Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: No

II.2) Quantity or scope of the contract

II.2.2) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of these options: Years 2, 3 and 4 of the Framework may be subject to Options.

II.2.3) Information about renewals

This contract is subject to renewal: Yes

II.3) Duration of the contract or time limit for completion

Duration in months: 48 (from the award of the contract)

Information about lots

Lot No

1

Lot title

Autonomous Platforms and Payload Integration

2) Common procurement vocabulary (CPV)

- 73410000 - Military research and technology

3) Quantity or scope

Scope to be defined

Estimated value excluding VAT

£1

5) Additional information about lots

The Contracting Authority intends to use an e-Tendering system in this procurement exercise, please visit www.contracts.mod.uk for full details and to register your interest in this procurement.

Lot No

2

Lot title

Data Management and Fusion

2) Common procurement vocabulary (CPV)

- 73410000 - Military research and technology

Estimated value excluding VAT

£1

5) Additional information about lots

The Contracting Authority intends to use an e-Tendering system in this procurement exercise, please visit www.contracts.mod.uk for full details and to register your interest in this procurement.

Lot No

3

Lot title

Machine Tasking and Decision Making

2) Common procurement vocabulary (CPV)

- 73410000 - Military research and technology

Estimated value excluding VAT

£1

5) Additional information about lots

The Contracting Authority intends to use an e-Tendering system in this procurement exercise, please visit www.contracts.mod.uk for full details and to register your interest in this procurement.

Lot No

4

Lot title

System of System (SoS) Management, Integration and Implementation

2) Common procurement vocabulary (CPV)

- 73410000 - Military research and technology

5) Additional information about lots

The Contracting Authority intends to use an e-Tendering system in this procurement exercise, please visit www.contracts.mod.uk for full details and to register your interest in this procurement.

Lot No

5

Lot title

Comms Bearers, Network Architecture & Services

2) Common procurement vocabulary (CPV)

- 73410000 - Military research and technology

Estimated value excluding VAT

£1

5) Additional information about lots

The Contracting Authority intends to use an e-Tendering system in this procurement exercise, please visit www.contracts.mod.uk for full details and to register your interest in this procurement.

Lot No

6

Lot title

Customer Advisory Network

1) Short description

May include but not be limited to: sub Lots eg Customer Friend (independent advisory role), assurance, operationalisation, third party security testing, testing and evaluation.

2) Common procurement vocabulary (CPV)

- 73410000 - Military research and technology

Estimated value excluding VAT

£1

5) Additional information about lots

The Contracting Authority intends to use an e-Tendering system in this procurement exercise, please visit www.contracts.mod.uk for full details and to register your interest in this procurement.

Section III. Legal, economic, financial and technical information

III.2) Conditions for participation

III.2.1) Personal situation

Criteria regarding the personal situation of economic operators (that may lead to their exclusion) including requirements relating to enrolment on professional or trade registers

Information and formalities necessary for evaluating if the requirements are met: Suppliers

Instructions How to Express Interest in this Tender:

1. Register your company on the eSourcing portal (this is only required once)

- Browse to the eSourcing Portal
- Click the “Click here to register” link
- Accept the terms and conditions and click “continue”
- Enter your correct business and user details
- Note the username you chose and click “Save” when complete
- You will shortly receive an email with your unique password (please keep this secure)

2. Express an Interest in the tender

- Login to the portal with the username/password
- Click the "PQQs Open to All Suppliers" link. (These are Pre-Qualification Questionnaires open to any registered supplier)
- Click on the relevant PQQ to access the content.
- Click the “Express Interest” button in the “Actions” box on the left-hand side of the page.
- This will move the PQQ into your “My PQQs” page. (This is a secure area reserved for your projects only)
- Click on the PQQ code, you can now access any attachments by clicking the “Settings and Buyer Attachments” in the “Actions” box

3. Responding to the tender

- You can now choose to “Reply” or “Reject” (please give a reason if rejecting)
- You can now use the ‘Messages’ function to communicate with the buyer and seek any clarification
- Note the deadline for completion, then follow the onscreen instructions to complete the PQQ

- There may be a mixture of online & offline actions for you to perform (there is detailed online help available)

If you require any further assistance please consult the online help, or contact the eTendering help desk.

Criteria regarding the personal situation of subcontractors (that may lead to their rejection) including requirements relating to enrolment on professional or trade registers

Information and formalities necessary for evaluating if the requirements are met: Suppliers Instructions How to Express Interest in this Tender:

1. Register your company on the eSourcing portal (this is only required once)

- Browse to the eSourcing Portal
- Click the "Click here to register" link
- Accept the terms and conditions and click "continue"
- Enter your correct business and user details
- Note the username you chose and click "Save" when complete
- You will shortly receive an email with your unique password (please keep this secure)

2. Express an Interest in the tender

- Login to the portal with the username/password
- Click the "PQQs Open to All Suppliers" link. (These are Pre-Qualification Questionnaires open to any registered supplier)
- Click on the relevant PQQ to access the content.
- Click the "Express Interest" button in the "Actions" box on the left-hand side of the page.
- This will move the PQQ into your "My PQQs" page. (This is a secure area reserved for your projects only)
- Click on the PQQ code, you can now access any attachments by clicking the "Settings and Buyer Attachments" in the "Actions" box

3. Responding to the tender

- You can now choose to “Reply” or “Reject” (please give a reason if rejecting)
- You can now use the ‘Messages’ function to communicate with the buyer and seek any clarification
- Note the deadline for completion, then follow the onscreen instructions to complete the PQQ
- There may be a mixture of online & offline actions for you to perform (there is detailed online help available)

If you require any further assistance please consult the online help, or contact the eTendering help desk.

III.2.2) Economic and financial ability

Criteria regarding the economic and financial standing of economic operators (that may lead to their exclusion)

Information and formalities necessary for evaluating if the requirements are met: As per PQQ

Minimum level(s) of standards possibly required: As per PQQ

III.2.3) Technical and/or professional capacity

Criteria regarding the technical and/or professional ability of economic operators (that may lead to their exclusion)

Information and formalities necessary for evaluating if the requirements are met: As per PQQ

Criteria regarding the technical and/or professional ability of subcontractors (that may lead to their rejection)

Information and formalities necessary for evaluating if the requirements are met: As per PQQ

Section IV: Procedure

IV.1) Type of procedure

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Restricted

IV.1.2) Limitations on the number of operators who will be invited to tender or to participate

Objective criteria for choosing the limited number of candidates: Examples of relevant previous or existing portfolio of work as requested in the PQQ

IV.2) Award criteria

IV.2.1) Award criteria

the criteria stated in the specifications, in the invitation to tender or to negotiate or in the descriptive document

IV.2.2) Information about electronic auction

An electronic auction has been used: no

IV.3) Administrative information

IV.3.1) File reference number attributed by the contracting authority

701575556

IV.3.2) Previous publication(s) concerning the same contract

no

IV.3.4) Time limit for receipt of tenders or requests to participate

1 November 2021 - 11:59pm

IV.3.6) Language(s) in which tenders or requests to participate may be drawn up

English

Section VI: Complementary information

VI.1) Information about recurrence

This is a recurrent procurement: No

VI.2) Information about European Union funds

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

VI.3) Additional information

The Contracting Authority intends to use an e-Tendering system in this procurement exercise, please visit www.contracts.mod.uk for full details and to register your interest in this procurement.