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Contract

Satellite Connectivity Services for Programme Contribution

The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-024889

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-03a6f7

Published 24 August 2023, 9:44am

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)

Broadcasting House, Portland Place

London

W1A 1AA

Contact

Robert Amil

Email

robert.amil@bbc.co.uk

Telephone

+44 1234567890

Fax

+44 1234567890

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/supplying/>

Buyer's address

<https://bbc.bravosolution.co.uk/>

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.5) Main activity

Other activity

Broadcasting

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Satellite Connectivity Services for Programme Contribution

Reference number

PROC 2022 86

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 64214100 - Satellite circuit rental services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

The BBC owns and operates an extensive fleet of technical vehicles that are used predominantly for news content contribution from the field. They provide both a means of moving content (either live video/audio & file transfer) back to BBC production centres and internet access for editorial and technical staff on location should cellular connectivity be constrained or unavailable.

The fleet services a broad range of BBC output ranging from, but not limited to digital platforms and products, local radio programming, national bulletins, domestic & international news channels and language services.

The technical vehicles fall into the following categories:

- VERV (Video Enabled Reporter Vehicle) - Small size vehicle, reporter operated, IP based system architecture, fully automated satellite acquisition, currently serviced via the Eutelsat Ka band High Throughput Satellite platform
- IP VSAT (Internet Protocol Very Small Aperture Terminal) – Intermediate size vehicle, typically operated by a camera crew, IP based system architecture, fully automated satellite acquisition, currently serviced by BBC owned VSAT hub and operated on existing leased Ku space segment.
- DSNG (Digital Satellite News Gathering) – Large vehicle size, typically operated by an engineer, IP & SDI system architecture, automated satellite acquisition though can be

manually driven, equipped with traditional video encoders and modulators with the addition of a VSAT modem within the RF chain.

In addition to the vehicle fleet the BBC owns and operates a network of fixed earth stations and control rooms around the UK, these facilities are used to conduct pre transmission line up procedures, transponder monitoring & control, fault escalation & resolution and transponder frequency planning.

The BBC seeks to procure satellite connectivity services for programme contribution to enable the provision of live and field reporting services to audiences across Network, Nations, Regions, and World Service News Programmes.

The requirement is broken into 2 lots:

- Lot 1 - Ku band satellite connectivity services
- Lot 2 - Ka band satellite connectivity services

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: Yes

II.1.7) Total value of the procurement (excluding VAT)

Value excluding VAT: £5,181,807

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Lot 1 - Ku band satellite connectivity services

Lot No

1

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 64214100 - Satellite circuit rental services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The requirement comprises Ku band space segment (only) which will be used by BBC departments for the contribution delivery of live TV services using DVB SCPC and self-managed IP VSAT, from various fixed and mobile uplinks. There are regular requirements from the UK, Europe and Middle East for news contribution, sport and special events to domestic and world service channels. The BBC will undertake the up-linking and down-linking, using existing ground-based equipment, manage the capacity sharing between departments on the dedicated leases, and arrange the booking of the supplementary occasional use capacity

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

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Lot 2 - Ka band satellite connectivity services

Lot No

2

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 64214100 - Satellite circuit rental services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Hosted upon the Eutelsat Broadband Ka platform this provides remote reporters with a data connection for audio contribution and/or data for production and communications.

There are currently 50 Ka enabled Satellite vehicles that provide the backbone of regional radio links across the whole of England from Cumbria, to Newcastle though to Cornwall and Kent.

The reporter vehicle, known as the VERV (VSAT Enabled Reporter Vehicle) is equipped with a satellite connection, currently this is an auto deploy 77cm Viasat/Eutelsat Broadband enabled KA only satellite link.

A cellular connection supplements this to allow for a mix of locations from within City/Town centres all the way through to rural and remote locations. The introduction of satellite services has improved the editorial reach of stations along with providing a resilient service in times of need such as flooding and disruptions to power supplies.

They are aimed to deliver connectivity for live audio contributions and also enable IP data connectivity for the reporter on location. The BBC also uses the data services to monitor the various connectivity routes.

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

Open procedure

IV.1.8) Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

IV.2) Administrative information

IV.2.1) Previous publication concerning this procedure

Notice number: [2023/S 000-005069](#)

Section V. Award of contract

Lot No

1

Title

Lot 1 - Ku band satellite connectivity services

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

1 July 2023

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 1

Number of tenders received by electronic means: 1

The contract has been awarded to a group of economic operators: No

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

Globecast UK Limited

200 Grays Inn Road

London

WC1X 8XZ

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

The contractor is an SME

No

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

Total value of the contract/lot: £5,032,051

Section V. Award of contract

Lot No

2

Title

Lot 2 - Ka band satellite connectivity services

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

1 August 2023

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 1

Number of tenders received by electronic means: 1

The contract has been awarded to a group of economic operators: No

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

Network Innovations Solutions Ltd

Unit D, Harveys Place, Farncombe Estate

Broadway

WR12 7LJ

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

The contractor is an SME

Yes

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

Total value of the contract/lot: £149,755

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

In the case of technology requirements, the BBC may involve its technology partner (Atos IT Solutions and Services Limited) to assist in the scoping and drafting of invitations to tender and/or the evaluation of tenders. However, the final decision as to which is the most economically advantageous (by reference to the award criteria) will be made by the BBC. The awarding authority reserves the right not to award a contract and to annul the procurement process at any stage. Tenders and all supporting documents must be priced in sterling and all payments will be made in sterling. The contract shall be subject to English law. The awarding authority does not bind itself to accept the lowest, or any tender and reserves the right to accept part of a tender unless the tenderer expressly stipulates otherwise in the tender document.

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Business and Property Courts of England and Wales

7 Rolls Building, Fetter Lane

London

EC4A 1NL

Country

United Kingdom

VI.4.3) Review procedure

Precise information on deadline(s) for review procedures

As stated in the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. The applicable review time limits shall be as stated in Regulations 92 and 93 Public Contracts Regulations 2015.