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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](mailto: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

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## **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

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## **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](#)

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## **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

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## **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

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## **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.