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Award

Supply and Installation of A-Step Mount Drive

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2021/S 000-025360

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-02ea7d

Published 11 October 2021, 2:48pm

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Chancellors Close

BIRMINGHAM

B152TT

Contact

Susanna Ting

Email

S.Y.Ting@bham.ac.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKG31 - Birmingham

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.birmingham.ac.uk>

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.5) Main activity

Education

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Supply and Installation of A-Step Mount Drive

Reference number

SC9515/21

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 38000000 - Laboratory, optical and precision equipments (excl. glasses)

II.1.3) Type of contract

Supplies

II.1.4) Short description

The University of Birmingham and CNRS have closely collaborated since 2019 to develop a program of observations of exoplanets from Antarctica in the frame of the ASTEP project lead by the Lagrange Laboratory at OCA. A new focal instrument was developed for the ASTEP telescope. The University of Birmingham contributed a new camera with large bandwidth and this will be installed on the telescope at the end of 2021 for its use during the southern winter 2022 and further. The scientific teams of the CNRS and the

University of Birmingham, both agree to develop a new direct-drive mount, called ASTEP-Mount, specifically designed for the conditions in Antarctica, to replace the present ASTEP commercial mount. The University of Birmingham will provide a financial contribution to the CNRS which covers a part of the cost of the new mount and CNRS will be in charge of the purchase, assembly, tests, adaptation and installation of the ASTEP-Mount at the Concordia station in Antarctica. CNRS, the Observatoire de la Côte d'Azur, the University of Birmingham and ESA are contributing to this upgrade.

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: £198,000

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKG31 - Birmingham

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The testing will be done at Laboratoire Lagrange, which is equipped with adequate facilities including a low temperature enclosure. The software development will also be done at Laboratoire Lagrange. All the logistics related to Concordia is fully managed by the French and Italian polar agencies IPEV and PNRA. The telescope runs in automatic mode and can be remotely controlled. Laboratoire Lagrange will be responsible for the robotic operations and yearly maintenance (one or two collaborators go on site every summer campaign). Daily maintenance will be handled by the winter-over crew as in previous years. The telescope is owned by Laboratoire Lagrange so the organisation will be decided only by the parties mentioned in this proposal.

CNRS will openly collaborate with the University of Birmingham on the tools and procedures needed to properly read and manipulate PID (Proportional Integral Derivative) controllers used to tune a telescope's direct-drive mount securely and accurately. This transfer will take the form of detailed documentation.

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 products involved are manufactured purely for the purpose of research, experiment, study or development

Explanation:

Laboratoire Lagrange is to the best of our knowledge the only company that can provide the new direct-drive mount. The proposed mount is expensive because the motors and encoders are entirely insulated and heated which requires a new mechanical design. Special bearings, low-temperature grease and dedicated cables are used. The mount is to be fully tested in a cold chamber prior to its delivery.

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

Contract No

SC9515/21

Title

Supply and Installation of A-Step Mount Drive

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract/concession

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

11 October 2021

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

Laboratoire Lagrange

Université Côte d'Azur, Observatoire de la Côte, d'Azur, CNRS, Bd de l'Observatoire, CS 34229

Nice cedex 4

06304

Country

France

NUTS code

- FR - France

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

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

Initial estimated total value of the contract/lot/concession: £198,000

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £198,000

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

The University has applied a 10 calendar days standstill period from publication of this notice.

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

University of Birmingham

Edgbaston

B15 2TT

Country

United Kingdom