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Contract

Provision of Helium BiPS

DoJ Forensic Science Northern Ireland

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-025583

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-048a47

Published 13 August 2024, 12:05pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

DoJ Forensic Science Northern Ireland

c/o Construction Procurement Delivery, Clare House, 303 Airport Road West

Belfast

BT3 9ED

Email

justice.cpd@finance-ni.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKN0F - Mid and East Antrim

Justification for not providing organisation identifier

Not on any register

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/topics/forensic-science/forensic-science-northern-ireland>

Buyer's address

<https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/topics/procurement>

I.2) Information about joint procurement

The contract is awarded by a central purchasing body

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.5) Main activity

General public services

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Provision of Helium BiPS

Reference number

DOJ DAC 10/24

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 44612100 - Gas cylinders
 - LA21 - For laboratory use

II.1.3) Type of contract

Supplies

II.1.4) Short description

This Direct Award Contract is to cover expenditure for the supply of cylinders of helium gas with a Built In Purification System (BIPS) for use with an instrumentation set up in a number of labs across FSNI which demands high purity helium in order to avoid unnecessary maintenance, repair and down time.

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: £180,000

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKN0F - Mid and East Antrim

Main site or place of performance

Forensic Science Northern Ireland, Seapark, Carrickfergus, County Antrim

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

This Direct Award Contract is to cover expenditure for the supply of cylinders of helium gas with a Built In Purification System (BIPS) for use with an instrumentation set up in a number of labs across FSNI which demands high purity

helium in order to avoid unnecessary maintenance, repair and down time.

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

Award of a contract without prior publication of a call for competition in the cases listed below

- The services can be provided only by a particular economic operator for the following reason:
 - protection of exclusive rights, including intellectual property rights

Explanation:

FSNI tested the market for Helium with BIPS in 2013 when they tendered for the Supply & Delivery of Gases, this product had to be removed from the tender specification as no other supplier was permitted to supply Helium BIPS which only the appointed contractor can supply. Horizon scanning has continued since then to understand whether there may be an alternative in provision that could provide the same level of purity required and recent market sounding has confirmed that there remains no alternative to the patented product offered by the appointed contractor. BIPS cylinders are exclusive to the appointed contractor, who developed and own the Built In Purification System. The appointed contractor have this system patented, therefore no other supplier can offer the same or similar products in UK or Ireland. Further research (2023/24) in the market has confirmed that the appointed contractor remains the only provider capable of providing high purity helium.

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

Contract No

DOJ DAC 10/24

Title

Provision of Helium BiPS

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

9 August 2024

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 1

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

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

As per Regulation 50(6)(a) - information withheld for security reasons

As per Regulation 50(6)(a) - information withheld for security reasons

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

Companies House

As per Regulation 50(6)(a) - information withheld for security reasons

The contractor is an SME

No

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

Total value of the contract/lot: £180,000

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

Please note that information relating to contractors engaged by the Northern Ireland Department of Justice, and associated bodies, is not published in any publicly accessible forum or publication. This is to protect such contractors, whose security and safety could be

threatened by dissident terrorist organisations still active in Northern Ireland if their details became known. This is consistent with Regulation 50(6)(a).

The estimated contract value is a broad estimate only and includes additional quantum for unforeseen demand and to future proof. There is no guarantee of any level of business under

this contract. The estimate is not deemed to be a condition of contract nor a guarantee of minimum demand or uptake. No compensation will be payable to a contractor should the

actual demand be less than that stated.

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

See VI.4.3 / Review procedure

See VI.4.3 / Review procedure

Country

United Kingdom

VI.4.3) Review procedure

Precise information on deadline(s) for review procedures

The UK does not have any special review body with responsibility for appeal/mediation procedures in public procurement competitions. Instead, any challenges are dealt with by the High Court, Commercial Division, to which proceedings may be issued regarding alleged breaches of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.