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Contract

HyDUS Mobile Containerised Laboratory

United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority

F03: Contract award notice
Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-027871
Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-039409
Published 21 September 2023, 11:06am

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority

Culham Science Centre

Abingdon

OX14 3DB

Contact

Phil Perkins

Email

phil.perkins@ukaea.uk

Telephone

+44 1235467147

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKJ14 - Oxfordshire

National registration number

N/A

Internet address(es)

Main address

http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-atomic-energy-authority

Buyer's address

https://uk.eu-supply.com/ctm/Company/CompanyInformation/Index/72814

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.5) Main activity

Other activity

Fusion Research

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

HyDUS Mobile Containerised Laboratory

Reference number

JNCA/BO093/23

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 44211100 - Modular and portable buildings

II.1.3) Type of contract

Supplies

II.1.4) Short description

The HyDUS project is creating a world first demonstrator for a reversible hydrogen storage system and the MCL (Mobile Containerised Laboratory) will act to house this demonstrator. Procurement of this equipment is essential since it allows better control and isolation of the demonstrator system to the surrounding environment. Isolation is a requirement here due to the nature of the experimental campaign which includes production of DU storage bed systems containing pyrophoric powders during conditioning, handling of mildly radioactive DU (includes risk of contamination) and work with explosive/flammable gases such as hydrogen (operating at low pressure ranges). The MCL, as delivered will:

• Function as the surrounding environment

• Contain the safety systems for the process hazards

• Be delivered with the experimental process infrastructure in place

• Be delivered with a DU powder sump system per bed as per suppliers design

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: 836,325 CHF

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 44211100 - Modular and portable buildings
- 45214610 - Laboratory building construction work

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKJ14 - Oxfordshire

Main site or place of performance

Culham Science Centre

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The HyDUS project is creating a world first demonstrator for a reversible hydrogen storage system and the MCL (Mobile Containerised Laboratory) will act to house this demonstrator. Procurement of this equipment is essential since it allows better control and isolation of the demonstrator system to the surrounding environment. Isolation is a requirement here due to the nature of the experimental campaign which includes production of DU storage bed systems containing pyrophoric powders during conditioning, handling of mildly radioactive DU (includes risk of contamination) and work with explosive/flammable gases such as hydrogen (operating at low pressure ranges). The MCL, as delivered will:

• Function as the surrounding environment

• Contain the safety systems for the process hazards

• Be delivered with the experimental process infrastructure in place

• Be delivered with a DU powder sump system per bed as per suppliers design

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

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:
  - absence of competition for technical reasons

Explanation:

UKAEA requires a hydrogen compliant containerised laboratory that would also be certified for holding depleted uranium getter/storage beds. Following a prior information notice (PIN) UKAEA identified that there was only one company that could meet the unusual combination of technical capability.

From our market engagement, there were no other suppliers that can provide containerised laboratory solutions which include accommodation of DU and DU getter beds combined with hydrogen circulation and storage. Available off the shelf containerised laboratories do not provide compliance with both the safety features required for hydrogen storage, as well as, the safety features required for housing depleted uranium metal in a powdered and therefore, pyrophoric form (flammable). This is a unique combination of risks and therefore, highly specialised.

As such, COTS solutions are not suitable, because they are not safety compliant. For a supplier, other than the chosen supplier, to modify a COTS containerised solution it would add complexity, time and cost and it is considered highly unlikely that they would have the technical capability or interest in providing a solution that is safety compliant to our specifications. It is considered that it is much better to go directly to the only specialised manufacturer that has a track record of delivering the capability that our project requires.

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: 2022/S 000-036496

Section V. Award of contract

Contract No

1

Title

HyDUS Mobile Containerised Laboratory

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

22 August 2023

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

Smolsys Ltd

Platz 4

Root

6039

Country

Switzerland

NUTS code

- CH - Switzerland

National registration number

CHE-455.625.619

The contractor is an SME

No

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

Total value of the contract/lot: 836,325 CHF

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

UK Atomic Energy Authority

Culham Science Centre

Abingdon

OX14 3DB

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-atomic-energy-authority

VI.4.2) Body responsible for mediation procedures

UK Atomic Energy Authority

Culham Science Centre

Abingdon

OX14 3DB

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-atomic-energy-authority

VI.4.3) Review procedure

Precise information on deadline(s) for review procedures

VI.4.2)Body responsible for mediation procedures

VI.4.3)Review procedure

Precise information on deadline(s) for review procedures:

The authority will incorporate a minimum 10 calendar day standstill period at the point information on the award of the contract is communicated to tenderers.

This period allows unsuccessful tenderers to seek further debriefing from the authority before a contract is entered into applicants have 2 working days from the notification of the award decision to request. Additional debriefing and that information have to be provided within a minimum of 3 working days before the expiry of the standstill period. Such additional information should be sought from the contact named in this notice.

If an appeal regarding the award of a contract has not been successfully resolved, the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (SI 2015 No. 102) provide for aggrieved parties who have been harmed or are at risk of harm by a breach of the rules to take action in the High Court (England, Wales and Northern Ireland).

Any such action must be brought promptly.

(generally within 3 months).

VI.4.4) Service from which information about the review procedure may be obtained

UK Atomic Energy Authority

Culham Science Centre

Abingdon

OX14 3DB

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-atomic-energy-authority