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Tender

DLSITT1063 - Computer Controlled Optical Surfacing Machine at Diamond Light Source

DIAMOND LIGHT SOURCE LIMITED

UK4: Tender notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-029124

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-052a92 ([view related notices](#))

Published 2 June 2025, 12:35pm

Scope

Reference

DLSITT1063

Description

Located on the Harwell Science and Innovation Campus in Oxfordshire, Diamond Light Source (DLS) is a leading-edge facility for science, engineering and innovation. Diamond allows researchers from academia and industry to investigate the structure and behaviour of the world around us at the atomic and molecular level.

To continue delivering the world changing science that Diamond enables, the facility is being upgraded to Diamond-II, a coordinated programme of development that combines a major

machine upgrade with new instruments and complementary improvements to optics, detectors, sample environment and delivery capabilities, and computing, as well as integrated and correlative methods. This will be transformative in speed and spatial resolution and will offer users streamlined access to enhanced instruments for life and

physical sciences.

The Optics and Metrology Group at Diamond Light Source wish to procure and develop a computer-controlled optical surfacing (CCOS) machine. The CCOS machine will be used to complement the ion beam figuring (IBF) project at Diamond. It will be used to polish a variety of materials, including single crystal silicon (Si), used for X-ray mirrors, grating substrates, and multilayer mirrors substrates. It should be compatible with a range of sample sizes, up to 1000 mm (length) x 100 mm (width) x 100 mm (height). The machine should allow for polishing of various surface geometries. Using appropriate slurries and polishing heads, the machine should be capable of "super-polishing" silicon to obtain micro-roughness S_q below 0.5 nm rms, and ideally below 0.3 nm rms (as measured over a field of view of < 1mm). The machine should also be capable of deterministically polishing and correcting optical surface errors with a spatial period from 5 mm to the full length of the mirror. It should be capable of polishing strongly-curved, concave surface geometries. It is expected that the CCOS machine will be based on: a motorised stage for the workpiece (which may have one or more axes of motion, such as rotation); a motorized tool holder with at least five axes of motion (X, Y, Z, and two pivot axes A and B); a rotating polishing tool head; and a slurry feed to controllably provide polishing slurry to the tool head when it is in motion against the workpiece. An interchangeable polishing tool head that can be quickly and easily replaced, to provide suitable polishing for different sizes, shapes or materials of various optical surfaces. A simple method is also required to change the type of polishing slurry.

The scope of this contract is to supply, deliver, install and commission a computer-controlled optical surfacing machine based on an interchangeable rotating tool head, motorized tool holder, mounting stage for the workpiece, and polishing slurry feed. The supplier is encouraged to comment on any aspect of the specifications and to identify possible modifications that could lead to either improved performance or reduced cost (without compromising the performance specification).

Total value (estimated)

- £200,000 excluding VAT
- £240,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 30 July 2025 to 30 May 2026
- 10 months, 1 day

Main procurement category

Goods

CPV classifications

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

Contract locations

- UKJ14 - Oxfordshire

Participation

Particular suitability

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

Submission

Tender submission deadline

2 July 2025, 12:00pm

Submission address and any special instructions

Please email tender submission to :

https://www.diamondtenders@diamond.ac.uk

and send a hard copy to:

Diamond Procurement

Diamond House

Diamond Light Source Ltd

Harwell Science and Innovation Campus

Didcot

Oxon

OX11 0DE

UK

Tenders may be submitted electronically

Yes

Languages that may be used for submission

English

Award decision date (estimated)

21 July 2025

Award criteria

Name	Type	Weighting
Price	Price	45%
Experience and Capacity	Quality	25%
Technical Quality	Quality	20%
Commercial	Quality	5%
Delivery	Quality	5%

Other information

Applicable trade agreements

- Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Open procedure

Documents

Associated tender documents

<https://www.diamondtenders@diamond.ac.uk/Home.aspx>

Visit our web page:

<https://www.diamondtenders@diamond.ac.uk/Home.aspx>

Here Suppliers are required to complete a one-off simple registration form. You are then able to login to register an interest against the tender and download the tender documents.

Technical specifications to be met

<https://www.diamondtenders@diamond.ac.uk/Home.aspx>

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Contracting authority

DIAMOND LIGHT SOURCE LIMITED

- Companies House: 04375679
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PNGG-3778-PWBM

Diamond House

Didcot

OX11 0DE

United Kingdom

Email: procurement@diamond.ac.uk

Region: UKJ14 - Oxfordshire

Organisation type: Public authority - central government