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Award

## **sSNOM for University of Manchester**

National Physical Laboratory

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2022/S 000-029139

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-037636

Published 17 October 2022, 11:50am

### **Section I: Contracting authority/entity**

#### **I.1) Name and addresses**

National Physical Laboratory

Hampton Road

Teddington

TW11 0LW

#### **Email**

[nina.heath@npl.co.uk](mailto:nina.heath@npl.co.uk)

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

#### **Region code**

UK - United Kingdom

#### **Internet address(es)**

Main address

[www.npl.co.uk](http://www.npl.co.uk)

#### **I.4) Type of the contracting authority**

Body governed by public law

#### **I.5) Main activity**

Other activity

Research

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## **Section II: Object**

### **II.1) Scope of the procurement**

#### **II.1.1) Title**

sSNOM for University of Manchester

#### **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**

Procurement of scattering-type near-field optical microscope (VIS-neasSCOPE) that enables simultaneous background-free imaging and spectroscopy on nanometre length scales in the visible range.

#### **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: 460,500 EUR

### **II.2) Description**

### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

Main site or place of performance

NPL Management Ltd

Hampton Road

Teddington

TW11 0LW

### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

Neaspec (attocube) is the only company worldwide, who manufactures a scattering-type near-field optical microscope (VIS-neasCOPE) that enables simultaneous background-free imaging and spectroscopy on nanometre length scales in the visible range. Their exclusive design works with the following patents:

- Patented parabolic mirror design for focusing and collection of light
- Patented dual-port design to allow two beams of light to be focused on the atomic force microscope (AFM) tip for nanoscale imaging and spectroscopy
- Patented signal processing for optical background suppression
- Patented pseudo-heterodyne detection (PsHEt) technology for background suppression
- Patented interferometric design (nano-FTIR) for background-free optical detection technology and simultaneous detection of optical amplitude and phase and hyperspectral imaging
- Patented high speed holography (HSH) for multispectral imaging
- Patend phase shifting (PhS) detection to extract relative phase

These patents and the exclusive design have enabled the VIS-neascope system to conduct amplitude and phase-resolved vector field, reflection and absorption mapping with nanoscale spatial resolution. It is currently the only system on the market that enables dual-port operation combined with a high NA parabolic mirror, which is essential for low SNR pump-probe measurements in the visible range. The VIS-neascope system is

also the only system offering pseudoheterodyne background-free detection of the amplitude and phase of the near-field signal up to the 5th harmonic order, which is another essential requirement for s-SNOM in the visible range.

In addition, the vis-neasCOPE offers the following unique technical specifications:

- Optimised scanning probe microscope system that can be combined with mechanical and electrical measurements
- Built-in optical imaging and spectroscopy software modules, as well as data visualisation and analysis software
- Position sensors for motorised parabolic mirror axes to enable alignment-free focusing of a laser beam to the AFM tip
- Visible and NIR illumination units, which can be integrated and coupled into both the room-temperature and cryogenic temperature s-SNOM system.

The system is also flexible and can be upgraded to operate in other wavelength ranges (out to THz range), perform electrical measurements, nano-PL, nano-Raman and photothermal expansion mapping in the future.

In particular, neaspec is the only company who can upgrade the existing cryogenic s-SNOM system (cryo-neasCOPE) based at University of Manchester and integrate a visible illumination unit to perform nanoscale imaging and spectroscopy at low temperature.

#### **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Cost criterion - Name: Technical / Weighting: 70%

Cost criterion - Name: Commercial / Weighting: 30%

#### **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

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

- The procurement falls outside the scope of application of the regulations

Explanation:

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Related PIN reference number: 2022-040278

#### **IV.1.8) Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)**

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

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## **Section V. Award of contract/concession**

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

### **V.2) Award of contract/concession**

#### **V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract**

17 October 2022

#### **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**

attocube system AG

nanoscale analytics, Eglfinger Weg 2,

Haar

85540

Country

Germany

NUTS code

- DE - Germany

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

Yes

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

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: 460,500 EUR

#### **V.2.5) Information about subcontracting**

The contract/lot/concession is likely to be subcontracted

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## **Section VI. Complementary information**

### **VI.4) Procedures for review**

#### **VI.4.1) Review body**

NPL Management Ltd

Hampton Road

Teddington

TW11 0LW

Country

United Kingdom

#### **VI.4.2) Body responsible for mediation procedures**

NPL Management Ltd

Hampton Road

Teddington

TW11 0LW

Country

United Kingdom