

This is a published notice on the Find a Tender service: <https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Notice/029891-2021>

Award

## **Exe viaduct monitoring**

National Highways Limited

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2021/S 000-029891

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-02fc39

Published 1 December 2021, 10:45pm

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

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

National Highways Limited

Brunel House

Bristol

BS32 4SR

#### **Contact**

David Stone

#### **Email**

[David.Stone@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:David.Stone@highwaysengland.co.uk)

#### **Telephone**

+44 3004700868

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

**NUTS code**

UKK - South West (England)

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<http://www.highways.gov.uk>

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

Other type

Highways Authority

**I.5) Main activity**

Other activity

Development, operation and maintenance of Strategic Road Network

---

**Section II: Object**

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

**II.1.1) Title**

Exe viaduct monitoring

**II.1.2) Main CPV code**

- 71000000 - Architectural, construction, engineering and inspection services

**II.1.3) Type of contract**

Services

**II.1.4) Short description**

This is a Voluntary Ex Ante Transparency (VEAT) notice informing the market that National Highways Limited (NHL) intend to award a contract without prior publication of a

call for competition. NHL is entering a contract with Mistras Geroup Limited (Mistras) for monitoring and analysis services for previously installed Mistras proprietary sensor equipment. Under the contract, Mistras will monitor an acoustic monitoring system inside Exe Viaduct to provide 24hr monitoring of the external post tensioning cables following the finding of post tensioning cable failures.

#### **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: £320,000

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

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

NUTS codes

- UKK - South West (England)

Main site or place of performance

Exe viaduct

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

Monitoring an acoustic monitoring system inside Exe Viaduct to provide 24hr monitoring of the external post tensioning cables following the finding of post tensioning cable failures.

#### **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**

Negotiated without a prior call for competition

- The works, supplies or services can be provided only by a particular economic operator for the following reason:
  - absence of competition for technical reasons

Explanation:

In 2016 Mistras installed an acoustic monitoring system (AMS) costing approximately £0.5 million inside Exe Viaduct to provide 24hr monitoring of the external post tensioning cables following the finding of post tensioning cable failures. The original installation works were competitively tendered and Mistras were the only tenderers who quoted. The contract protects their rights for system and data analysis.

Safe guarding works have been undertaken to protect the bridge structure but underlying corrosion issues in the remaining post tensioning remain and will not be rectified until a major scheme is undertaken under the National Highways Road Investment Strategy 3 from 2026. The AMS is an integral part of the safe guarding system for monitoring the bridge until the major scheme is undertaken. There are 72 sensors in each box, totalling 144 sensors across the bridge. This system provides a real time picture of the structural health of the bridge and safeguards us from potential catastrophic collapse.

This Voluntary Ex Ante Transparency (VEAT) notice directly awarding a contract without prior publication is to allow National Highways Limited (NHL) to continue to use the AMS to obtain real time data of the structural health of the bridge. The current system has been assessed to meet the needs of the business and NHL does not wish to seek to procure an alternative solution. The system does have to be maintained and repaired by the provider, Mistras Group Limited (Mistras) and this contract will ensure NHL continue with the latest version of the system and the necessary technical support required should issues arise.

NHL considers the award to Mistras is permitted by regulation 32(2)(b)(ii) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. The AMS has been designed by Mistras and they hold the intellectual property rights for it. Consequently no other Contractor can carry out maintenance, repairs or analysis of the system. They also maintain a live up to date webpage and analysis of the readings.

#### **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**

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

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

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

12 November 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**

Mistras Group Limited

Unit 15 Norman Way Industrial Estate, Over,

Cambridge

CB24 5QE

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

National registration number

01761967

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

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

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £320,000

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

The contract/lot/concession is likely to be subcontracted

---

## **Section VI. Complementary information**

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

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

National Highways Limited

Bristol

Email

[david.stone@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:david.stone@highwaysengland.co.uk)

Country

United Kingdom