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Award

Exe viaduct monitoring

National Highways Limited

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2021/S 000-029891

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-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

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

Country

United Kingdom