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Award

Project FORGE (Fusion Optimisation and Research by Geometric-integration of Electron-screening)

United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-030766

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-040d0d

Published 18 October 2023, 1:21pm

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority

Culham Science Centre

Abingdon

OX14 3DB

Contact

Maili Nugent

Email

Maili.nugent@ukaea.uk

Telephone

+44 1235468141

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>

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

Project FORGE (Fusion Optimisation and Research by Geometric-integration of Electron-screening)

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 73110000 - Research services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

This is for a collaborative R&D project.

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: £300,000

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 73110000 - Research services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKJ14 - Oxfordshire

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Astral System Limited will lead a collaborative R&D project with the end goal to:

- 1) Explore different candidate LCF deuterium enriched materials and decide on the optimal material for a Mark-1 MSF DT reactor.
- 2) Test the different materials to better understand degradation, longevity, and fuel retention under operational and stress tested conditions.

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 procurement falls outside the scope of application of the regulations

Explanation:

UKAEA have been engaging the neutron source community to assess the degree of research alignment that might be possible in each source scenario. This is an extension of this work and to achieve the best possible outcome in this area, UKAEA needs to engage a specialist consultant to enhance our knowledge of the topic and unique scientific support .

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

16 October 2023

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

Astral Neutronics Ltd. DBA Astral Systems

Unit 12 Dorset Innovation Park, Winfrith Newburgh

Dorchester

DT2 8ZB

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKK25 - Dorset

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: £300,000

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>