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Contract

NRW Helicopter Support Services Framework Agreement 2025-2029

Natural Resources Wales

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-030795

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-047ce1

Published 9 June 2025, 9:31am

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Natural Resources Wales

Welsh Government Offices Cathays Park , King Edward VII Avenue

Cardiff

CF10 3NQ

Contact

Naomi Hammond

Email

naomi.hammond@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

Telephone

+44 3000653574

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKL - Wales

Internet address(es)

Main address

<http://naturalresourceswales.gov.uk>

Buyer's address

https://www.sell2wales.gov.wales/search/Search_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA0110

I.2) Information about joint procurement

The contract is awarded by a central purchasing body

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.5) Main activity

Environment

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

NRW Helicopter Support Services Framework Agreement 2025-2029

Reference number

project_57490 / itt_113588

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 60424120 - Hire of helicopters with crew

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

NRW is responsible for the management of the Welsh Government Woodland Estate (WGWE) and land in our care including National Nature Reserves.

This is an all-Wales multi-supplier NRW Framework Agreement for the provision of Helicopter Support Services to help enable the Welsh Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) manage fires on our land, or neighbouring land where conditions pose a threat to our land, that have become well established and/or are out of control.

Services provided under this Framework Agreement may be required anywhere in Wales or land managed by NRW in England. Historically, however, the majority of firefighting work has been located in south Wales.

The number and extent of fires each year will determine the support NRW and FRS will require. Due to this unpredictability, NRW does not guarantee any work or level of expenditure under this Framework Agreement.

The proposed duration of the Framework Agreement is 24 months with the option of extending for a further 2 x 12 months thereafter subject to satisfactory performance and annual price review

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: £1,000,000

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 35612300 - Support helicopters
- 34711500 - Helicopters

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKL - Wales

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The full description of requirements is provided in the tender documentation published on <https://etenderwales.bravosolution.co.uk/web/login.shtml>.

Requirements include the provision of:

1. A helicopter suitably equipped for the aerial application of water using underslung bucket
2. Qualified and competent air crew rated for aerial application work and if required experienced ground support crew
3. Minimum 910 litre “Bambi” bucket or equivalent that can be operated at full capacity and the availability of at least 1 spare bucket.
4. If required, refuelling equipment (and fuel) including a minimum of 2000 litre bowser, suitable 4x4 towing vehicle and pollution control spill kits
5. Service Provider(s) must provide a means of effective real time communications between the pilot and the IC, usually in the form of Air band transceivers
6. All machinery and equipment to be supplied, remain serviceable and be serviced throughout the duration of the Framework Agreement by the Service Provider(s)
7. Liaison with FRS Incident Commander (IC) for briefings, including discussion on deployment.

8. Assessment of local onsite conditions by Service Provider(s) and the accurate application of water along the leading edge of the fire (fire front) unless directed otherwise by FRS.

Service Provider(s) are required to abide by the UK Regulation (EU) No 965/2012 Part SPO (Specialised Operations) or equivalent and must maintain throughout the framework all necessary certificates and qualifications required by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

Service Provider(s) must have necessary insurance cover and will be required to observe first aid standards, and other such precautions, such as health and safety, and procedures on access to land and water sources. Service Provider(s) are required to report any notifiable incident, such as pollution, and report on its carbon emissions.

Service Provider(s) are not permitted to assign their obligations under this framework to sub-contractors; sub-contracting is not permitted under this FWA.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Quality / Weighting: 60

Price - Weighting: 40

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

Open procedure

IV.1.3) Information about a framework agreement or a dynamic purchasing system

The procurement involves the establishment of a framework agreement

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

IV.2) Administrative information

IV.2.1) Previous publication concerning this procedure

Notice number: [2025/S 000-000839](#)

Section V. Award of contract

Contract No

113588

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

29 May 2025

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 4

Number of tenders received from SMEs: 4

Number of tenders received from tenderers from other EU Member States: 0

Number of tenders received from tenderers from non-EU Member States: 0

Number of tenders received by electronic means: 4

The contract has been awarded to a group of economic operators: Yes

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

Airbourne Solutions Ltd

Five Acres, Heath Road, Gamlingay

Sandy

SG193LH

Telephone

+44 1767651799

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

The contractor is an SME

Yes

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

S.J. CONTRACTING SERVICES LIMITED

Cedar House, Woodperry Road, Beckley

Oxford

OX39SZ

Telephone

+44 7815046489

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKJ14 - Oxfordshire

The contractor is an SME

Yes

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

Skyhook Helicopters

Unit 1, Osprey Road

Glenrothes

Ky62SZ

Telephone

+44 7818002134

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

The contractor is an SME

Yes

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

Initial estimated total value of the contract/lot: £1,000,000

Total value of the contract/lot: £1,000,000

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

The number and extent of fires each year will determine the support NRW and FRS will require. Due to this unpredictability, NRW does not guarantee any work or level of expenditure under this framework

(WA Ref:152001)

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

High Court

Royal Courts of Justice, The Strand

London

WC2A 2LL

Telephone

+44 2079477501

Country

United Kingdom