Contract

3D Bioprinter Supply and Installation

Aston University

F03: Contract award notice
Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-030828
Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-040408
Published 18 October 2023, 6:23pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Aston University

Aston Triangle

BIRMINGHAM

B47ET

Contact

Jacob Rankine

Email

j.rankine@aston.ac.uk

Telephone

+44 1212044562

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKG31 - Birmingham

Companies House

RC000904

Internet address(es)

Main address

https://www.aston.ac.uk

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.5) Main activity

Education

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

3D Bioprinter Supply and Installation

Reference number

864

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

VEAT (Voluntary Ex ante Transparency) notice previously published - Direct Award to Scienion (UK) Limited for the supply and installation of a specialist 3D Bioprinter.

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: £600,000

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKG31 - Birmingham

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Aston University intends to award the contract without a call for competition in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 ((32.2(b) ii). The contract duration is expected to be October 2023 to September 2024 as per the warranty period.

In order to achieve our objectives, the University requires the following:

• Ability to control the voxel size along one scanning plane using synchronized laser power modulation at high speeds. Necessary to achieve smooth surfaces for micro fluidic channels on much higher speeds for this high resolution compared to any other technique.

• Method of printing such as Dip-in Laser Lithography (DiLL), where the resin is simultaneously used as an immersion medium and written on the same side of the substrate as the imaging objective. This is necessary to eliminate height restrictions on printed structures. Some users plan structures of ~20mm height.

• Printing on non-transparent and non-planar surfaces in addition to planar transparent. This is necessary for many major users particularly those printing on CMOS chips, semiconductors and electronic interface components. Also users will require ability to print into commercially available microfluidic chips with channels and cell perfusion wells with range of ~1200-1700 µm depth.

• Upright printing platform (i.e. the objective approaches from above) is necessary for many planned user printing at Aston. It is ideal for wafer-scale and batch production, and enabling of large height structures.

• Availability of a wide range of materials to be used with the system, such as biocompatible low fluorescence material printing, glass structure printing, and biocompatible gels. Aston user experience with materials important for rapid and confident user uptake.

• Features of the equipment required for use in the Aston multiuser facility. These include a sound pressure level (LpA) below 40 dB(A), and remote access and monitoring of prints. Touchscreen user interface to allow intuitive operation and increase usability facilitating maximal usage.

• Additionally, features that enable rapid setup and calibration, with writing strategies to enable high throughput of large structures. These are necessary for the efficiency of Aston multiuser facility and approaches such as rapid prototyping.

• Short lead time to meet requirement of funding usage.

The University will not enter the proposed contract before 10 October 2023.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Price

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: 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 services can be provided only by a particular economic operator for the following reason:
  - absence of competition for technical reasons

Explanation:

In order to achieve our objectives, the University requires the following:

• Ability to control the voxel size along one scanning plane using synchronized laser power modulation at high speeds. Necessary to achieve smooth surfaces for micro fluidic channels on much higher speeds for this high resolution compared to any other technique.

• Method of printing such as Dip-in Laser Lithography (DiLL), where the resin is simultaneously used as an immersion medium and written on the same side of the substrate as the imaging objective. This is necessary to eliminate height restrictions on printed structures. Some users plan structures of ~20mm height.

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• Upright printing platform (i.e. the objective approaches from above) is necessary for many planned user printing at Aston. It is ideal for wafer-scale and batch production, and enabling of large height structures.

• Availability of a wide range of materials to be used with the system, such as biocompatible low fluorescence material printing, glass structure printing, and biocompatible gels. Aston user experience with materials important for rapid and confident user uptake.

• Features of the equipment required for use in the Aston multiuser facility. These include

a sound pressure level (LpA) below 40 dB(A), and remote access and monitoring of prints. Touchscreen user interface to allow intuitive operation and increase usability facilitating maximal usage.

• Additionally, features that enable rapid setup and calibration, with writing strategies to enable high throughput of large structures. These are necessary for the efficiency of Aston multiuser facility and approaches such as rapid prototyping.

• Short lead time to meet requirement of funding usage.

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: No

IV.2) Administrative information

IV.2.1) Previous publication concerning this procedure

Notice number: 2023/S 000-028433

Section V. Award of contract

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

18 October 2023

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 1

The contract has been awarded to a group of economic operators: No

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

Scienion (UK) Limited

Hove

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKJ21 - Brighton and Hove

Companies House

11838025

The contractor is an SME

No

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

Total value of the contract/lot: £600,000

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Aston University

Birmingham

Country

United Kingdom