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Award

Optical Vector Analyser & Optical Spectrum Analyser

ASTON UNIVERSITY

UK5: Transparency notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-030993

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05456d ([view related notices](#))

Published 9 June 2025, 2:54pm

Scope

Reference

1038 1039

Description

Supply & Installation of an Optical Vector Analyser & Optical Spectrum Analyser.

Contract 1. Optical Spectrum Analyser

Supplier

- LAMBDA PHOTOMETRICS LIMITED

Contract value

- £151,749.60 including VAT

Below the relevant threshold

Earliest date the contract will be signed

20 June 2025

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2030
- 5 years

Main procurement category

Goods

CPV classifications

- 38000000 - Laboratory, optical and precision equipments (excl. glasses)

Contract locations

- UKG31 - Birmingham
-

Contract 2. Optical Vector Analyser

Supplier

- LAMBDA PHOTOMETRICS LIMITED

Contract value

- £185,508 including VAT

Below the relevant threshold

Earliest date the contract will be signed

20 June 2025

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2030
- 5 years

Main procurement category

Goods

CPV classifications

- 38000000 - Laboratory, optical and precision equipments (excl. glasses)

Contract locations

- UKG31 - Birmingham

Participation

Particular suitability

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

Procedure

Procedure type

Direct award

Direct award justification

- Single supplier - intellectual property or exclusive rights
- Single supplier - technical reasons

It is Aston University's intention to Direct Award 2 contracts to Lambda Photometrics Limited. The total value of the 2 contracts is £337,257.60 (including VAT).

The LUNA OVA 5100 is the only optical vector analyzer (OVA) that would be identified that is capable of acquiring the full Jones' matrix. This enables comprehensive characterisation of passive photonic devices, including polarisation, group delay, and phase, which are essential for optimising optical buffers, delay lines, frequency combs, and microwave photonic filters.

No alternative system identified provides LUNA OVA 5100's level of accuracy and measurement speed for full vector characterisation, making it the only viable choice to

support SNAP-based microresonator research and maintain Aston University's leadership in photonic device development and characterisation.

A sole supplier certificate for the LUNA has been provided by Lambda Photometrics Limited regarding UK distribution.

When evaluating high-resolution optical spectrum analysers (OSAs) suitable for our microphotonic device fabrication and sensing applications, The APEX OSA-AP6 provides 0.04 pm (5 MHz) resolution. This level of precision is critical for tuning and characterizing high-Q microresonators and optical frequency combs. APEX also features a higher close-in dynamic range than other options considered, which improves measurement accuracy when analysing closely spaced spectral components.

The APEX OSA-AP6 has a sweep speed of up to 35 nm/s, making it significantly faster than other options considered, essential for real-time spectral analysis of fast-changing optical signals, particularly in optofluidic sensing and microwave photonics applications.

The APEX OSA-AP6 uses a rectangular-shape resolution filter, which provides a more uniform spectral response, improving measurement stability for broadband and high-Q optical components.

Since SNAP technology demands extremely precise spectral characterization, which lower-resolution devices cannot achieve, the APEX OSA-AP6 is the only viable option identified for advancing our research. With its improved measurement method and faster sweep speed, it ensures the sub-picometre precision, resolution, and functionality essential for SNAP microphotonic research.

A sole supplier certificate for the APEX has been provided by Lambda Photometrics Limited regarding UK distribution.

Supplier

LAMBDA PHOTOMETRICS LIMITED

- Companies House: 01332370
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PLZC-1136-LQGN

Lambda House

Harpenden

AL5 5BZ

United Kingdom

Email: contact@lambdaphoto.co.uk

Website: <http://www.lambdaphoto.co.uk>

Region: UKH23 - Hertfordshire

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): Yes

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 1. Optical Spectrum Analyser

Contract 2. Optical Vector Analyser

Contracting authority

ASTON UNIVERSITY

- Companies House: RC000904
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PTLB-7496-TPTR

Aston Triangle

Birmingham

B4 7ET

United Kingdom

Email: procurement@aston.ac.uk

Region: UKG31 - Birmingham

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government