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Tender

Project OBERON

Ministry of Defence

F17: Contract notice for contracts in the field of defence and security

Notice identifier: 2022/S 000-033336

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-0387f5

Published 24 November 2022, 10:51am

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name, addresses and contact point(s)

Ministry of Defence

Space Delivery Team, Spruce 1C, MoD Abbey Wood

Bristol

BS34 8JH

For the attention of

Kershaw Doug

Email(s)

douglas.kershaw102@mod.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Address of the buyer profile

<https://contracts.mod.uk/esop/guest/go/opportunity/detail?opportunityId=55334>

Electronic access to information

<https://contracts.mod.uk/esop/guest/go/opportunity/detail?opportunityId=55334>

Electronic submission of tenders and requests to participate

<https://contracts.mod.uk/esop/guest/go/opportunity/detail?opportunityId=55334>

Further information

Further information can be obtained from the above mentioned contact point(s)

Specifications and additional documents (including documents for competitive dialogue and a dynamic purchasing system) can be obtained from

The above-mentioned contact point(s)

Tenders or requests to participate must be sent to

The above-mentioned contact point(s)

I.2) Type of the contracting authority

Ministry or any other national or federal authority, including their regional or local subdivisions

I.3) Main activity

Defence

I.4) Contract award on behalf of other contracting authorities/entities

The contracting authority is purchasing on behalf of other contracting authorities:

No

Section II: Object of the contract

II.1) Description

II.1.1) Title attributed to the contract by the contracting authority

Project OBERON

II.1.2) Type of contract and location of works, place of delivery or of performance

Supplies

Purchase

Main site or location of works, place of delivery or of performance

BRISTOL

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

II.1.5) Short description of the contract or purchase(s)

The OBERON mission is a Research and Development (R&D) space mission concept developed by the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) and owned by MOD/UK Space Command. The aim is to better understand how high-resolution Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) sensors can be used to support UK space-based Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) activities.

The OBERON system will provide a day and night, all weather capable, space-based ISR capability in the form of active high-resolution SAR and, at a lower priority, passive Radio Frequency (RF) functionality. It is planned to consist of up to three satellites flying as a coherent cluster – providing freedom of action to conduct ISR activities and demonstrate an operational capability to defence forces. Each satellite will carry a primary SAR and, desirably, a secondary passive RF payload. OBERON will support the future ISR constellation under programme ISTAR1.

Aims: The OBERON System shall allow the exploration of space based ISR capability advantages offered by a coherent cluster of SAR satellites (with additional passive RF collection). A high priority for the OBERON system is the ability to collect SAR data on an area of interest, specified by the User Group, and the subsequent production of a data product (with enhanced size, resolution, composition, and assurance). A second high priority for the system is its ability to perform R&D which will inform subsequent options

analysis and future development.

OBERON System:

- Core Contract, constitutes an OBERON solution, envisioned as a coherent cluster of satellites equipped with an active SAR payload and, at a lower priority, passive RF functionality, that the Supplier shall operate. To deliver the system, a full end-to-end solution, with adequate pan-Defence Lines of Development (DLOD) coverage, is required including inter alia; design, development, manufacture, assembly, integration, test, launch, commissioning, operations, and eventual disposal.
- Options, constitutes the same OBERON solution from the Core Contract but with the system integrated with the elements of the ISTARI MOD ground architecture that are sufficiently mature to be utilised together. During this phase, operation of the OBERON solution will be by the Supplier until the ISTARI MOD ground architecture is capable of operating the solution. Integration between the OBERON solution and elements of ISTARI will occur within these phases with gradual, progressive functional transitions.
- Options, consists of an OBERON solution that is fully integrated with the MOD's ISTARI ground architecture and is operated by the MOD.

The core contract length will be 36 months including launch, and first year of mission operations and support.

Further Contract Options will include mission operations, training, and support (per year) for a further 6 years and mission integration and implementation to the ground architecture, further details will be in the ITN.

The OBERON procurement will be run at OFFICIAL SENSITIVE up to and including SECRET. The potential provider must have the ability to process, store and transmit classified information at OFFICIAL SENSITIVE up to and including SECRET.

For further information on the ISTARI Programme, see “Defence Space Strategy: Operationalising the Space Domain”, UK Gov, Feb 22 , and “Press Release: UK cutting-edge space defence backed by £1.4 billion”, UK Gov, 1 Feb 22.

The Cyber Risk Level for this procurement is Low risk. The Risk Assessment Reference (RAR) is RAR-651356809

A full description of the Cyber Risk levels is available at DEFSTAN 05-138. Potential Providers should make themselves familiar with the requirements against the profile assessment for this risk Level

II.1.6) Common procurement vocabulary (CPV)

- 34712200 - Satellites

Additional CPV code(s)

- 35631200 - Observation satellites

II.1.7) Information about subcontracting

The tenderer has to indicate in the tender any share of the contract it may intend to subcontract to third parties and any proposed subcontractor, as well as the subject-matter of the subcontracts for which they are proposed

The tenderer has to indicate any change occurring at the level of subcontractors during the execution of the contract

II.1.8) Lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.1.9) Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: Yes

II.2) Quantity or scope of the contract

II.2.1) Total quantity or scope

Estimated value excluding VAT:

Range: between £60,000,000 and £70,000,000

II.2.2) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of these options: up to 6 one-year options to include mission operations, training, and support.

II.3) Duration of the contract or time limit for completion

Duration in months: 36 (from the award of the contract)

Section III. Legal, economic, financial and technical information

III.1) Conditions relating to the contract

III.1.4) Other particular conditions to which the performance of the contract is subject, in particular with regard to security of supply and security of information

See DPQQ

III.2) Conditions for participation

III.2.1) Personal situation

Criteria regarding the personal situation of economic operators (that may lead to their exclusion) including requirements relating to enrolment on professional or trade registers

Information and formalities necessary for evaluating if the requirements are met: Suppliers Instructions How to Express Interest in this Tender:

1. Register your company on the eSourcing portal (this is only required once)

- Browse to the eSourcing Portal
- Click the "Click here to register" link
- Accept the terms and conditions and click "continue"
- Enter your correct business and user details
- Note the username you chose and click "Save" when complete
- You will shortly receive an email with your unique password (please keep this secure)

2. Express an Interest in the tender

- Login to the portal with the username/password
- Click the "PQQs Open to All Suppliers" link. (These are Pre-Qualification Questionnaires open to any registered supplier)
- Click on the relevant PQQ to access the content.
- Click the "Express Interest" button in the "Actions" box on the left-hand side of the page.

- This will move the PQQ into your “My PQQs” page. (This is a secure area reserved for your projects only)
- Click on the PQQ code, you can now access any attachments by clicking the “Settings and Buyer Attachments” in the “Actions” box

3. Responding to the tender

- You can now choose to “Reply” or “Reject” (please give a reason if rejecting)
- You can now use the ‘Messages’ function to communicate with the buyer and seek any clarification
- Note the deadline for completion, then follow the onscreen instructions to complete the PQQ
- There may be a mixture of online & offline actions for you to perform (there is detailed online help available)

If you require any further assistance please consult the online help, or contact the eTendering help desk.

Criteria regarding the personal situation of subcontractors (that may lead to their rejection) including requirements relating to enrolment on professional or trade registers

Information and formalities necessary for evaluating if the requirements are met: Suppliers Instructions How to Express Interest in this Tender:

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 - Browse to the eSourcing Portal
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III.2.2) Economic and financial ability

Criteria regarding the economic and financial standing of economic operators (that may lead to their exclusion)

Information and formalities necessary for evaluating if the requirements are met: See PQQ

Minimum level(s) of standards possibly required: See PQQ

Criteria regarding the economic and financial standing of subcontractors (that may lead to their exclusion)

Information and formalities necessary for evaluating if the requirements are met: See PQQ

Minimum level(s) of standards possibly required: See PQQ

III.2.3) Technical and/or professional capacity

Criteria regarding the technical and/or professional ability of economic operators (that may lead to their exclusion)

Information and formalities necessary for evaluating if the requirements are met: See PQQ

Minimum level(s) of standards possibly required: See PQQ

Criteria regarding the technical and/or professional ability of subcontractors (that may lead to their rejection)

Information and formalities necessary for evaluating if the requirements are met: See PQQ

Minimum level(s) of standards possibly required: See PQQ

Section IV: Procedure

IV.1) Type of procedure

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Negotiated

IV.1.2) Limitations on the number of operators who will be invited to tender or to participate

Envisaged number of operators: 4

IV.1.3) Reduction of the number of operators during the negotiation or dialogue

Recourse to staged procedure to gradually reduce the number of solutions to be discussed or tenders to be negotiated: no

IV.2) Award criteria

IV.2.1) Award criteria

the criteria stated in the specifications, in the invitation to tender or to negotiate or in the descriptive document

IV.2.2) Information about electronic auction

An electronic auction has been used: no

IV.3) Administrative information

IV.3.1) File reference number attributed by the contracting authority

704678450

IV.3.4) Time limit for receipt of tenders or requests to participate

23 December 2022 - 5:00pm

IV.3.6) Language(s) in which tenders or requests to participate may be drawn up

English

Section VI: Complementary information

VI.1) Information about recurrence

This is a recurrent procurement: No

VI.2) Information about European Union funds

The contract is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds:
No

VI.3) Additional information

The Contracting Authority intends to use an e-Tendering system in this procurement exercise, please visit www.contracts.mod.uk for full details and to register your interest in this procurement.