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Award

PDS Dosemeters

Secretary of State for Health and Social Care acting as part of the Crown through UK Health Security Agency

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2022/S 000-033849

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-03894a

Published 29 November 2022, 5:12pm

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

Secretary of State for Health and Social Care acting as part of the Crown through UK Health Security Agency

Nobel House, 17 Smith Square

London

SW1P 3JR

Contact

Natalie Polyblank

Email

natalie.polybank@ukhsa.gov.uk

Telephone

+44 2038360626

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKI32 - Westminster

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-health-security-agency>

Buyer's address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-health-security-agency>

I.6) Main activity

Other activity

Public Health

Section II: Object**II.1) Scope of the procurement****II.1.1) Title**

PDS Dosimeters

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 38341600 - Radiation monitors

II.1.3) Type of contract

Supplies

II.1.4) Short description

Purchase of PDS Dosimeters and accessories

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: £354,963

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKI32 - Westminster

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Purchase of PDS Dosemeters and accessories

II.2.5) Award criteria

Price

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of options

Options have been included in the contract to enable the Authority to purchase further goods, as set out in the specification, up to a further £354,963.

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:

UKHSA offers a Personal Dosimetry Service (PDS) which is based on its extensive expertise in radiological protection and is underpinned by continuing research and development. The UKHSA Personal Dosimetry Service is the largest dosimetry service in the UK and supplies a range of dosimeters (tool that measures exposure to radiation) to 5,500 commercial customers including NHS Trusts, Defence and Universities to ensure the employer complies with the Ionising Radiations Regulations 2017 and the Health and Safety at Work Act (HSWA).

PDS provides a high-quality dosimetry service capable of measuring and recording radiation doses received by our customers and their employees. PDS is approved by the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) as an Approved Dosimetry Service (ADS) and accredited under ISO/IEC 17025:2017. PDS supplies dosimetry for more than 85,000 radiation workers in the UK and overseas. HSE are the regulatory body. The PDS is a long-standing service with over 50 years' experience in providing high-quality personal radiation dose monitoring. The Service has millions of pounds worth of equipment and infrastructure and intends to continue providing this much needed service to its customers. PDS supplies a large proportion of the NHS dosimetry requirements.

The Service runs a Harshaw Personal Dosimetry System with 7 Harshaw Readers, 170,000 dosimeters in circulation and bespoke ancillary equipment to the value of over £5M. The Harshaw system has been running since 2003 and in the next 5-10 years when the equipment needs replacing, we will review which system to use going forward. The dosimeters are of thermoluminescent design meaning they are re-usable and cost effective for multiple use throughout their lifetime. This lifetime is mainly limited by the customers who lose or damage, on average, 10,000 to 18,000 per year. These need to be replaced to keep stock levels up to continue to be able to run the service. Each year, the UKHSA PDS issues approximately:
470,000 whole body TLDs; 23,000 eye dosimeters; 20,000 fingertip and wrist dosimeters; 38,000 ring dosimeters.

The existing dosimetry system only works with Harshaw compatible dosimeters. The

Harshaw brand of equipment is manufactured by Thermofisher Scientific and distributed in the UK solely by Phoenix Dosimetry Ltd. The Harshaw dosimeters are of a particular size and shape that fit each piece of bespoke equipment including the holder. It is therefore critical for supplies purchased to be compatible with the existing system. Dosimeter stock is now at critically low levels and will soon affect our routine service and emergency response capability. If we cannot buy the interim supplies, this would have critical business and financial impact on the PDS, directorate and our approval by HSE/UKAS (our approval to provide this service could be withdrawn leaving NHS Trusts, Defence and Universities without this service). Dosimeters damaged or lost by workers cannot be replaced which will leave workers without a means of measuring their exposure to potentially dangerous levels of radiation. Where dosimeters are not available, customers will not be able to supply new staff members with the requisite radiation monitoring devices leaving them vulnerable and increasing the risk of exposure to hazardous radiation.

This would also mean that the PDS would not be able to respond in the event of a radiation emergency. These are ongoing business requirements to supply dosimetry to our 5,500 radiation employers in monitoring their workers for occupational doses to meet the health & safety legislation for employers. UKHSA cannot continue to supply these services without the purchase of these goods. An interim supply is essential and required as soon as possible to ensure there is no break in supply to our customers.

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: No

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

29 November 2022

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

PHOENIX DOSIMETRY LTD

Unit 8 Lakeside Business Park, Swan Lane, Sandhurst, Berkshire

Sandhurst

GU47 9DN

Telephone

+44 1252871990

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKJ3 - Hampshire and Isle of Wight

National registration number

08521146

Internet address

<http://www.phoenix-dosimetry.co.uk>

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

Yes

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

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £354,963

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Secretary of State for Health and Social Care acting as part of the Crown through UK Health Security Agency

Nobel House, 17 Smith Square

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SW1P 3JR

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VI.4.2) Body responsible for mediation procedures

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London

SW1P 3JR

Country

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Internet address

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