

This is a published notice on the Find a Tender service: <https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Notice/035221-2023>

Planning

VIRTUS Re-Compete

Ministry of Defence

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-035221

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-041db4

Published 29 November 2023, 2:23pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Ministry of Defence

Bristol

Contact

Rodney Gardiner

Email

rodney.gardiner114@mod.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://des.mod.uk/>

I.2) Information about joint procurement

The contract is awarded by a central purchasing body

I.3) Communication

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

I.5) Main activity

Defence

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

VIRTUS Re-Compete

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 18143000 - Protective gear

II.1.3) Type of contract

Supplies

II.1.4) Short description

The VIRTUS soldier system is a comprehensive system of integrated combat and protective

gear developed by Source to cope with the challenges and needs of the modern infantry soldier in today's battlefield. It is the world's first integrated load carriage and protection system.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: Yes

Maximum number of lots that may be awarded to one tenderer: 2

The contracting authority reserves the right to award contracts combining the following lots or groups of lots:

Torso Sub System

Head Sub System

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Torso Sub System

Lot No

1

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 18143000 - Protective gear
- 18931100 - Rucksacks
- 18934000 - Kitbags
- 18936000 - Textile bags
- 33735100 - Protective goggles
- 35113400 - Protective and safety clothing
- 35811300 - Military uniforms

- 35812200 - Combat suits
- 35812300 - Combat gear
- 35813100 - Helmet covers
- 35815100 - Bullet-proof vests

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Virtus Torso Sub System - This will be a Build To Print solution with Technical Data Packs provided by the Authority.

II.2.14) Additional information

Contract will be for 5 years + 5 x 1 Year Options

Estimated Value is between £62,000,000 and £210,000,000

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Head Sub System

Lot No

2

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 18143000 - Protective gear
- 18444110 - Helmets
- 33735100 - Protective goggles

- 35812200 - Combat suits
- 35812300 - Combat gear
- 35813100 - Helmet covers

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Head Sub System - This will be a requirements based specification provided by the Authority.

II.2.14) Additional information

Contract will be for 5 years + 5 x 1 Year Options

Estimated Value is between £41,600,000 and £140,000,000

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

28 April 2023

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: No

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

On the 18th January 2023 the Authority issued information regarding the Torso Sub-System (TSS) and Head Sub-System (HSS) lots for the VIRTUS Re-Compete project.

Since this date, and the subsequent industry engagement, the Authority has been developing both the project and competitions and we are now happy to be able to provide a short update.

As noted previously, the VIRTUS Re-Compete project will deliver the system through two separate contracts, the Torso Sub-System (TSS) being Specification based i.e. built to print, and the Head Sub-System (HSS) based on a Requirements set.

However, the Authority has replanned its approach to the delivery of the project in response to changes in the approval pathway and other pressures. Our new intent is to stagger the competitions of the TSS and HSS instead of running the competitions in parallel. This approach will enable us to bring the TSS to market earlier and will allow us to develop the requirement set for the HSS more effectively. Also, due to the changes in the approval pathway, the DPQQ and ITN stages of each competition will now occur in quick succession.

The Authority estimates that the Contract Notice for the TSS will be published in Q3 2024, launching a competition with an initial DPQQ followed by an ITN issue estimated in Q4 2024.

Note. Dates are subject to change as the project continues to develop and as the team manage the wider portfolio workload and departmental priorities.

The Authority estimates that the Contract Notice for the HSS will be published in Q1 2025, launching a competition with an initial DPQQ followed by an ITN issue estimated in Q2 2025.

Note. Dates are subject to change as the project continues to develop and as the team manage the wider portfolio workload and departmental priorities.

The Authority plans to hold industry engagement events prior to the release of both the TSS and HSS Contract Notices though will not publish specific timings for those at this time.

Thank you for your continued interest in the Virtus Re-Compete