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Award

PROJECT VENTUS

Ministry of Defence

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-035528

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-042119

Published 1 December 2023, 3:02pm

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

Ministry of Defence

Bristol

BS34 8JH

Contact

Lewis Harvey-Samuel

Email

lewis.harvey-samuel100@mod.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-defence>

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**

PROJECT VENTUS

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 73410000 - Military research and technology

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

Research and development services relating to a concept demonstration of alternate and non-radar sensor technologies to support UK Air Surveillance in development of the Recognised Air Picture.

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: £800,000

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Research and development services relating to a concept demonstration of alternate and non-radar sensor technologies to support UK Air Surveillance in development of the Recognised Air Picture.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Price

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of options

Option 1: Additional tasks as may be required to support the concept demonstration.

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

Negotiated procedure without publication of a contract notice

- The contract concerns research and development services other than those referred to in the regulations
- The products involved are manufactured purely for the purpose of research, experiment, study or development
- The works, supplies or services can be provided only by a particular economic operator for the following reason:
 - absence of competition for technical reasons

Explanation:

Defence Equipment & Support (DE&S), part of the UK Ministry of Defence, intends to award a Single Source Non-Qualifying Defence Contract with Leonardo UK Ltd ("the Contractor") to carry out research and development services relating to a concept demonstration of alternate and non-radar sensor technologies to support UK Air Surveillance in development of the Recognised Air Picture.

The Contractor will support a concept demonstration, which is designed and delivered by the RAF. The contractor will provide a report on findings. The concept demonstration will use an existing in-service sensor for which the Contractor is the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM). As the OEM, only the Contractor possesses the necessary technical information to conduct the concept demonstration.

It is considered that this proposed contract for research & development services can be awarded using the negotiation without prior publication of a contract notice procedure. This is because it falls under The Defence and Security Public Contract Regulations (DSPCR) 2011, Regulation 16(1)(c)(i) (as amended by The Defence and Security Public Contracts (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019, and The Defence and Security Public Contracts (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020).

It meets the DSPCR's definition of R&D activities, as an R&D services contract other than those covered by the R&D services exclusion at Regulation 7(1)(l). This proposed contract is assessed as falling under the definition of applied research as defined at Regulation 3.

It is considered that this contract is also justified under DSPCR Regulation 16(1)(a)(ii), on grounds of unique technical capability. Only the OEM, Leonardo UK, has the necessary technical information to deliver the requirement. This is because the supplier is required to assess whether the equipment is fit for purpose and if necessary to upgrade / maintain the equipment. The supplier must also oversee deployment at the concept demonstration. The system is a bespoke novel in-service system which has a design specific to the OEM, therefore an alternative supplier would have to reverse engineer the technology, causing unknown time delay and introducing unacceptable risk in the performance of the requirement.

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

Contract No

709298450

Title

PROJECT VENTUS

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract/concession

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

1 December 2023

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

Leonardo UK

Luton

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

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

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £800,000

V.2.5) Information about subcontracting

The contract/lot/concession is likely to be subcontracted

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Air Defence and Electronic Warfare Systems and Windfarms Delivery Team

Defence Equipment & Support

Bristol

BS34 8JH

Country

United Kingdom