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Contract

Helium-4 Optically Pumped Magnetometer (OPM-MEG) Supply, Installation, Service and Maintenance

Aston University

F03: Contract award notice
Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-036282
Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-040cfa
Published 8 December 2023, 4:30pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Aston University

Aston Triangle

BIRMINGHAM

B47ET

Contact

Jacob Rankine

Email

j.rankine@aston.ac.uk

Telephone

+44 1212044562

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKG31 - Birmingham

Companies House

RC000904

Internet address(es)

Main address

https://www.aston.ac.uk/

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.5) Main activity

Education

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Helium-4 Optically Pumped Magnetometer (OPM-MEG) Supply, Installation, Service and Maintenance

Reference number

868

II.1.2) Main CPV code

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

II.1.3) Type of contract

Supplies

II.1.4) Short description

Aston University has awarded a 5-year contract for the supply, installation, service and maintenance of a Helium-4 Optically Pumped Magnetometer MEG system (OPM-MEG) to Mag4Health from February 2024 to January 2029.

Aston University has awarded the contract without a call for competition in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 ((32.2(b) ii.

• The works, supplies or services can be provided only by a particular economic operator for the following reason:

• absence of competition for technical reasons

Aston University will carry out extensive clinical trials during this period and requires an OPM-MEG that can be operated up to 8 hours a day, with examinations lasting up to 2 hours on a subject. The Helium OPM-MEG technology dissipates 20 mW per sensor, unlike the Rubidium OPM-MEG, which dissipates about 500 mW to heat the Rubidium at 150°C. The absence of heating will make it simpler for us to operate the system for long periods without the need to actively remove heat. Helium OPM technology is being used in space (e.g. satellites) at the moment and has been proven to work continuously for 10 years.

Although other manufacturers of OPM-MEG systems exist, they do not supply Helium OPM-MEG and for this reason, we have determined that Mag4Health are the only available supplier in the market.

The negotiated contract value estimate reflects a long-term collaboration between Mag4Health and Aston University.

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: £1,600,000

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKG31 - Birmingham

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

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II.2.5) Award criteria

Price

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: 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 services can be provided only by a particular economic operator for the following reason:
  - absence of competition for technical reasons

Explanation:

Aston University will carry out extensive clinical trials during this period and requires an OPM-MEG that can be operated up to 8 hours a day, with examinations lasting up to 2 hours on a subject. The Helium OPM-MEG technology dissipates 20 mW per sensor, unlike the Rubidium OPM-MEG, which dissipates about 500 mW to heat the Rubidium at 150°C. The absence of heating will make it simpler for us to operate the system for long periods without the need to actively remove heat. Helium OPM technology is being used in space (e.g. satellites) at the moment and has been proven to work continuously for 10 years.

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: No

IV.2) Administrative information

IV.2.1) Previous publication concerning this procedure

Notice number: 2023/S 000-030743

Section V. Award of contract

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

8 December 2023

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 1

The contract has been awarded to a group of economic operators: No

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

Mag4Health

Grenoble

Country

France

NUTS code

- FRK24 - Isère

Safe Number (France)

FR36438330

The contractor is an SME

Yes

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

Total value of the contract/lot: £1,600,000

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Aston University

Birmingham

B4 7ET

Country

United Kingdom