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Contract

Project CAESAR

Maritime and Coastguard Agency

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-037751

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-03178f

Published 22 November 2024, 8:49am

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Maritime and Coastguard Agency

Spring Place, 105 Commercial Road

Southampton

SO15 1EG

Contact

Jonathan Nicklin

Email

jonathan.nicklin@mcga.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/maritime-and-coastguard-agency>

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

National or federal Agency/Office

I.5) Main activity

General public services

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

Project CAESAR

Reference number

TCA 3/7/1251

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 60443100 - Air-sea rescue services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

The Channel Aviation Emergency Search and Rescue (CAESAR) contract was implemented

in March 2022, at pace, to respond to the rising emergency in the English Channel caused by small boat crossings. The service provides a combination of fixed wing unmanned aircraft to provide a multi-layered operational picture over the Channel which allows His Majesty's Coastguard (HMCG), and other Government operators, to identify vessels in the Channel, and then determine those vessels at most need of rescue in order to prioritise available surface assets and prevent deaths.

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: £8,404,500

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 35612500 - Search and rescue helicopters

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom
- UKJ - South East (England)

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

CAESAR was implemented as a dedicated Channel capability, under the existing UK Search and Rescue Helicopter (UKSARH) service provision, freeing the MCA's Air Surveillance and Verification service, which had been providing a stop-gap interim service, to return to delivering the role it was designed for, whilst providing a structured service which better meet the operational need of HMCG in the English Channel.

The UK Second Generation Search and Rescue Aviation programme (UKSAR2G), which will subsume both current Search and Rescue Helicopter and fixed wing Air Surveillance and Verification contracts, will come into effect between October 2024 and December 2026. However, since the incident data used to inform the UKSAR2G service was based on data up to the end of 2019, and small boat crossings have risen since that data, the data used to inform the UKSAR2G procurement is not reflective of the current demand in the Channel;

UKSAR2G service provision cannot meet the national requirement and address the demand in the Channel.

The MCA has commissioned data analysis to test the UKSAR2G model against a more up to date data set (up until the end of 2023), which indicated that the UKSAR2G service cannot also meet the current increased Channel demand. While further work is required to understand how best to quantify and mitigate the shortfall, there remains a pressing and immediate need to ensure that HM Coastguard is sufficiently resourced to respond to incidents in the Channel.

With the current CAESAR contract due to conclude in February 2025, and the need to provide Bristow Helicopters with 4 months-notice of a contract extension, the only achievable and responsible course of action which meets the needs of the MCA is to extend the service as is. A one-year extension will provide time for the MCA to explore the options available with the UKSAR2G service to address any capability gap, in partnership with other Government delivery partners, to ensure the MCA has a cohesive and enduring capability to meet the aerial search and rescue demand of the UK under a single contracted service.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Price

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of options

An extension option for a further year is available should the arrangements that replace the current UKSARH service not be ready in time.

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

- Extreme urgency brought about by events unforeseeable for the contracting authority
- Additional deliveries by the original supplier
- New works/services, constituting a repetition of existing works/services

Explanation:

The MCA continues to modify the UKSARH contract pursuant to Regulation 72 (1) (c), on the basis that the need for modification has been brought about by circumstances which a diligent contracting authority could not have foreseen.

Migrants crossing the channel, in significant numbers was not an issue the HM Coastguard faced in 2013 when the UKSARH contract was awarded, nor was it anticipated that it would become an issue; the problem is largely unprecedented for the UK and has increased exponentially in a short space of time.

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

IV.2) Administrative information

IV.2.1) Previous publication concerning this procedure

Notice number: [2022/S 000-004732](#)

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

1 November 2024

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

BRISTOW HELICOPTERS LIMITED

Redhill Aerodrome, Kings Mill Lane

Redhill

RH1 5JZ

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

The contractor is an SME

No

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

Lowest offer: £8,404,500 / Highest offer: £11,000,000 taken into consideration

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

The High Court of England and Wales, Royal Courts of Justice

Strand

London

WC2A 2LL

Country

United Kingdom