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Award

Surface Assets Storage and Maintenance

Defence Science and Technology Laboratory

UK5: Transparency notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-039838

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-055320

Published 15 July 2025, 10:34am

Changes to notice

This notice has been edited. The [previous version](#) is still available.

Scope

Description

The Authority intends to award a follow-on contract to L3 Harris, to provide storage, maintenance and repair services for a number of Authority owned surface vessels.

Contract 1. Surface Assets Storage and Maintenance

Supplier

- L3Harris Autonomous Surface Vehicles Limited

Contract value

- £500,000 excluding VAT
- £600,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Earliest date the contract will be signed

30 July 2025

Contract dates (estimated)

- 31 July 2025 to 31 March 2026
- Possible extension to 31 March 2027
- 1 year, 8 months, 1 day

Description of possible extension:

Two option years FY26/27 and FY27/28

Main procurement category

Services

Options

The right to additional purchases while the contract is valid.

Two option years FY26/27 and FY27/28

CPV classifications

- 50246100 - Dry-docking services
- 50244000 - Reconditioning services of ships or boats
- 50245000 - Upgrading services of ships

Contract locations

- UK - United Kingdom

Other information

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Direct award

Special regime

Defence and security

Direct award justification

Single supplier - technical reasons

Continuation of technically specialist services, IP issues and timescales.

This is a follow-on contract for the Storage, Maintenance, Operation and Repair of the Maritime Autonomy Surface Testbed (MAST) assets. Service provision is required immediately.

MAST assets are complex system-of-systems that provide an Unmanned Surface Vehicle (USV) system capability. L3 Harris has unique SQEP specific to the Dstl-owned systems (which incorporate L3Harris and Dstl owned IP). They have a detailed knowledge of the system and can fulfil the role of 'Design Authority' to safely design vessel modifications for trial requirements (including integration of Third Party software, sensors and payloads), can safely operate the USV and ensure compliance with legislation, primarily the Maritime and Coastguard Agency Workboat Code, and the Ministry of Defence Certification requirements.

The MAST is a complex system of systems, which is software intensive. The software architecture includes software elements, with IP owned by Dstl and by L3Harris ASV distributed inextricably throughout. The expertise required to develop and integrate systems is the USP of L3 Harris and no other 3rd party would be able to get access to this due to the systems proprietary nature. The Dstl owned software cannot function without the OEM software.

Given the complex technical nature of the MAST systems and the IPR issues, any alternative supplier would introduce an unacceptable level of technical and project management risk to this procurement.

Supplier

L3Harris Autonomous Surface Vehicles Limited

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PGCL-8631-QZPG

1 Blossom Yard

London

E1 6RS

United Kingdom

Email: KAROLINA.JOZWIAK@UK.L3HARRIS.COM

Region: UKI41 - Hackney and Newham

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): No

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 1. Surface Assets Storage and Maintenance

Contracting authority

Defence Science and Technology Laboratory

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PDDM-1961-MTLN

Porton Down

Salisbury

SP4 0JQ

United Kingdom

Email: PLS_Transparency@dstl.gov.uk

Website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/defence-science-and-technology-laborator>

Region: UKK15 - Wiltshire CC

Organisation type: Public authority - central government