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Contract

NSSL Continuation of satellite airtime service to BFMC Cutters and CPVs

Home Office

UK7: Contract details notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-048744

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-0587dd

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Scope

Description

Each cutter's GMDSS suite is dependent on subscription-based satellite airtime to function. The currently installed equipment is fully integrated into the vessels' systems and operates exclusively on the Inmarsat network, for which NSSL Global is the current and original supplier.

These systems were installed during vessel construction under a Crown Commercial Service (CCS) contract previously held by HMRC and subsequently novated to the Home Office. The same standardised systems and supplier (NSSL Global) were used when the Cutter Patrol Vessels (CPVs) were later procured. As a result, NSSL Global remains the only provider capable of ensuring continued, uninterrupted service on the existing Inmarsat-based GMDSS equipment across the MARDIR fleet.

While MARDIR intends to run an open competition to establish a new three-year airtime contract, a gap in service during this transition would render vessels non-compliant with international maritime regulations and unable to deploy, directly impacting Border Force maritime operations and Government priorities.

Given the critical nature of the GMDSS capability and the technical constraint that airtime can only be provided by an authorised Inmarsat agent, a direct award to NSSL Global until 31 March 2026 is essential to:

- Maintain legal compliance with SOLAS GMDSS carriage requirements;
- Ensure the safety and operability of the cutter and CPV fleets;
- Avoid operational disruption during the period required to run a compliant procurement.

This direct award is therefore justified on the grounds of extreme urgency and technical compatibility, where changing suppliers in the interim would result in unacceptable safety, compliance, and operational risks.

Contract 1

Supplier

- NSSL Global

Contract value

- £20,000 excluding VAT
- £25,000 including VAT

Below the relevant threshold

Date signed

22 July 2025

Contract dates

- 1 September 2025 to 31 March 2026
- 7 months

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 63726600 - Ship-operating services

Procedure

Procedure type

Below threshold - without competition

Supplier

NSSL Global

6 Wells Pl, Redhill,

Surrey,

RH1 3DR

United Kingdom

Email: clive.trott@nsslglobal.com

Region: UKJ26 - East Surrey

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): Yes

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 1

Contracting authority

Home Office

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PWGC-6513-PQLZ

2 Marsham Street

London

SW1P 4DF

United Kingdom

Email: name@homeoffice.gov.uk

Region: UKI32 - Westminster

Organisation type: Public authority - central government