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Planning

UKRI-4667 NERC Research Vessels Refit, Upgrade and Maintenance Services

UK Research & Innovation (UKRI)

UK2: Preliminary market engagement notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-050954

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-058d0a

Published 22 August 2025, 3:19pm

Scope

Reference

C0297

Description

UKRI wishes to establish a Contract for the provision of refit, upgrade and maintenance services for the RRS Sir David Attenborough. The Framework Agreement (Agreement) will be awarded to a single Supplier for a period of three years with an extension option of up to one year (2+1+1). The Supplier will also be able to provide global support should emergency repairs/dockings be required to be undertaken outside of scheduled maintenance periods. The Agreement will:

- ensure vessels are maintained to the standards required by UKRI.
- ensure vessels are maintained in accordance with Flag State and Classification Society requirements.
- provide continuity in maintenance standards and utilise one organisation that will gain experience and knowledge of the RRS Sir David Attenborough
- cover the global footprint of operations for RRS Sir David Attenborough

Commercial tool

Establishes a framework

Total value (estimated)

- £9,000,000 excluding VAT
- £10,800,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 February 2026 to 31 January 2028
- Possible extension to 31 January 2030
- 4 years

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 50241000 - Repair and maintenance services of ships

Contract locations

- UK - United Kingdom

Engagement

Engagement deadline

5 September 2025

Engagement process description

Supplier Webinar: Potential Suppliers are invited to attend a (virtual) Supplier Webinar, occurring 08 September 2025. This will allow all Potential Suppliers to fully comprehend and understand the requirement further. Intention to attend the Supplier Webinar must be communicated via the e-sourcing portal by 05 September 2025, including the subject matter 'UKRI-4667 Supplier Webinar Request'. Suppliers may be sent an RFI Questionnaire, and a further engagement session may take place in October.

Participation

Particular suitability

- Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)
- Voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)

Submission

Publication date of tender notice (estimated)

27 October 2025

Contracting authority

UK Research & Innovation (UKRI)

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PDQJ-7126-JDHG

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Region: UKK14 - Swindon

Organisation type: Public authority - central government