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Award

Large Ti Furnace Hydraulic Modifications

UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

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

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-051501

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-058e52 ([view related notices](#))

Published 27 August 2025, 10:59am

Scope

Reference

4816/APJ/GM/25

Description

The requirement is for the servicing and modernization of the VAC 4 titanium vacuum arc re-melting furnace (304170) hydraulic system. The VAC 4 is a unique national research asset and the largest furnace of its type in the UK, enabling strategic development of large-scale titanium castings. Reliability issues have arisen due to the hydraulic control system design, which now requires modification to ensure safe and reliable operation.

The scope includes replacement of actuator seals, system flushing, and modernization of the hydraulic tank (bulkhead transitions, filter adapters, breather filter, condensate drip tray with drainage). The works also cover modification of the Power Ram actuator, including installation of three counter-balance valves. On-site attendance will be provided by SWSA and B&I Hydraulika teams for 3 weeks, extended to 5 weeks with an additional fitter if required.

Due to the bespoke nature of the equipment, only the original equipment manufacturer

has the technical knowledge and authority to undertake these works while maintaining UKCA compliance.

Contract 1

Supplier

- SECO/WARWICK S.A.

Contract value

- 327000 EUR excluding VAT
- 392400 EUR including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Earliest date the contract will be signed

9 September 2025

Contract dates (estimated)

- 10 September 2025 to 31 March 2026
- 6 months, 21 days

Main procurement category

Goods

Options

The right to additional purchases while the contract is valid.

Extended visit of SWSA team to 5 weeks (one additional fitter) if required.

CPV classifications

- 14724000 - Titanium
- 42300000 - Industrial or laboratory furnaces, incinerators and ovens

Other information

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Direct award

Direct award justification

- Additional or repeat goods, services or works - extension or partial replacement
- Extreme and unavoidable urgency

Due to the unique nature of the equipment, only the OEM has the expertise and authority to make modifications, with full knowledge of the integrated control and safety systems. External parties cannot deliver these changes safely or provide the documentation required to maintain UKCA compliance.

Accordingly, award to the OEM is necessary to ensure safety, compliance, and operational integrity.

Supplier

SECO/WARWICK S.A.

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PPCB-5361-BJRN

Sobieskiego 8

Swiebodzin

66200

Poland

Email: info-poland@secowarwick.com

Website: <https://www.secowarwick.com/>

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): No

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 1

Contracting authority

UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

- Companies House: RC000667
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PXDP-7327-GWHT

Firth Court, Western Bank

Sheffield

S10 2TN

United Kingdom

Email: procurement@sheffield.ac.uk

Website: <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/>

Region: UKE32 - Sheffield

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government