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Award

IMEO Methane Monitoring

UK Space Agency

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

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-052463

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-059077

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Scope

Description

UKSA will contract GHGSat to provide Satellite derived Methane data to the International Methane Emissions Observatory (IMEO) and UK Government.

The contract will allow the UK to fulfil international agreements and support domestic policy making e.g. towards achieving net zero by 2050. Recent information can be found on the Government Climate Change Dashboard, but this procurement will enable accurate monitoring and reporting on GHG emissions.

Aims:

Advance the UK's Leadership in Methane Mitigation:

To reinforce the UK's international leadership in methane monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV), aligning with its climate commitments and diplomatic goals.

Support Global Methane Monitoring Efforts:

To strengthen the IMEO's capacity to detect, validate, and respond to methane emissions globally through the integration of high-resolution GHGSat data.

Bridge Data Gaps in Methane Emissions:

To address critical gaps in global methane emissions data by providing access to satellite imagery with higher sensitivity and accuracy than publicly available alternatives.

Contract 1. Methane Gas Satellite tracking - GHG Sat IMEO Data

Supplier

- GHGSAT (UK) LIMITED

Contract value

- £248,750 excluding VAT
- £298,500 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Earliest date the contract will be signed

8 September 2025

Contract dates (estimated)

- 8 September 2025 to 31 March 2026
- 6 months, 24 days

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 90711500 - Environmental monitoring other than for construction

Contract locations

- UK - United Kingdom

Other information

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Direct award

Direct award justification

Single supplier - technical reasons

The IMEO require this data to continue their work on global methane alerts and validation. IMEO specifically require the vertical column densities of Methane data that GHGSat data provide which can then be utilised alongside data from other satellites. GHGSat is the only currently viable option for this data as they are the only high-resolution imagery that is suitable to pin-point location that can be utilised alongside their current processes and has regular revisit times. Stating that: 'The particular advantage brought by the GHGSat data includes its lower detection limit compared to other satellite missions and its ability to obtain observations quickly'.

While the market for atmospheric methane monitoring via satellite has advanced rapidly-driven by a growing number of public and private missions-there remains considerable variation in spatial resolution, geographic coverage, and detection thresholds across providers. On review of the market and as stated by IMEO, GHGSat are currently the only Methane data provider that offer the technical requirements and data availability required by IMEO so that it can be incorporated into their MARS system.

Market review

Broadly, the available technologies fall into two categories: facility-scale point source imagers, such as GHGSat, which are capable of detecting and quantifying emissions from specific facilities; and area flux mappers, such as TROPOMI, which offer wide-area coverage and are better suited for identifying regional trends over time.

The International Methane Emissions Observatory (IMEO) requires satellite systems that can be tasked to monitor specific locations and deliver data with sufficiently low detection limits to accurately identify both the source and location of methane leaks. As such, the IMEO request focuses exclusively on point source imagers, which align with IMEO's operational needs. Area flux mappers are already used by IMEO to provide broad overviews and to signpost where the point source satellites should be tasked.

There is only one current potential alternative to GHGSat, which launched its first satellite in August 2024. However, with limited satellites currently in orbit, it does not yet offer a revisit frequency short enough to meet the technical requirements for the IMEO MARS system and is therefore unsuitable as an alternative to GHGSat data.

GHGSat has both high methane sensitivity and high detection accuracy, which gives it a higher probability of detecting methane emissions in different scenarios. In summary, GHGSat has a lower detection threshold, enabling the observation of smaller emission fluxes, which is not currently available from any other methane emission provider on the market. For this reason, GHGSat is currently the only option available that can provide data to a suitable technical level for the MARS programme.

This represents a major advantage for MARS (IMEO's Methane Alert and Response Systems) when validating if emissions have ceased following notification, as GHGSat data increases our confidence that the emissions have ceased due to a mitigation action rather than the emissions source simply dropping below the detection limits of public satellites. In addition, the flexibility and high revisit frequency of the GHGSat satellites is a significant advantage for tracking specific leaks intensively and validating their emitting/mitigated status faster.

Supplier

GHGSAT (UK) LIMITED

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- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PHWC-1414-DPPQ

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Region: UKI31 - Camden and City of London

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): No

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 1. Methane Gas Satellite tracking - GHG Sat IMEO Data

Contracting authority

UK Space Agency

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PRTY-4245-MTJY

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