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Award

Space Weather R2O2R - University of Reading

Met Office

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Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-053995

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05944f (view related notices)

Published 4 September 2025, 3:11pm

Scope

Description

Space Weather Implementation, Measurement, Modelling and Risk' (SWIMMR), was a £19.9m UKRI SPF funded programme led by STFC from 2019, and which largely concluded in 2023. Several of the projects were targeted at space weather scientific modelling gaps, with the aim of bringing them into operation for forecast capabilities in the Met Office Space Weather Operations Centre (MOSWOC). The project 'S3' stood up systems and enabled collaboration between academic partners and the Met Office space weather programme, bringing a platform 'sandbox environment' and portal for monitoring outputs into use at the Met Office (MO) where our scientists worked with several academic partners to bring their models into use.

Whilst the original SWIMMR programme made this collaboration possible, there is much work remaining to bring the models into working operational use by the target date of September 2026, the Research to Operations to Research (R2O2R) project is the next stage in this Programme.

The Space Weather CSA with the Department for Science and Technology (DSIT) sets out a required output for the Met Office to Support the validation, integration and exploitation of new capabilities and data delivered through the SPF SWIMMR Programme.

Met Office Space Weather (MOSW) has agreed with funding partner DSIT to deliver several targets for the next phase of work:

Evidence of user need and user requirement to shape model use and output (MOSWOC being the primary user, with several end-users being the recipients of forecasting products).

Technical and scientific requirements within MOSW for fully onboarding, working with and supporting the models and/or their outputs in operational settings. (Whilst the 'S3' platform and portal were helpful for the early stages of model collaboration, they are not able to support long term model and output development and operation).

In terms of the projects to achieve modelling capability, we have agreed a number of these and their priority levels with the academic institutions who own the models.

The partner, University of Reading, led the S4 projects in the SWIMMR Programme (2019-2025). The university of Reading developed the HUXt solar wind model ensemble aimed at quantifying the uncertainties in CME arrival times, which can lead to large geomagnetic storms impacting a range of sectors (e.g. power grids,..)

Contract 1

Supplier

- The university of Reading

Contract value

- £67,000 excluding VAT

- £80,400 including VAT

Below the relevant threshold

Earliest date the contract will be signed

16 September 2025

Contract dates (estimated)

- 16 September 2025 to 31 March 2026

- 6 months, 15 days

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 73100000 - Research and experimental development services

Contract locations

- UK - United Kingdom

Procedure

Procedure type

Below threshold - without competition

Supplier

The university of Reading

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PJLP-5141-RMQQ

University of Reading

Reading

RG6 6AH

United Kingdom

Email: les12h2@reading.ac.uk

Region: UKJ11 - Berkshire

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): No

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 1

Contracting authority

Met Office

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PVZW-3234-DTLY

Met Office

Exeter

EX1 3PB

United Kingdom

Email: procurement.enquiries@metoffice.gov.uk

Website: https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/

Region: UKK43 - Devon CC

Organisation type: Public authority - central government