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Award

Autonomous Underwater Research Vehicles

Cardiff University

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

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-057188

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-059bf1 ([view related notices](#))

Published 17 September 2025, 9:58am

Scope

Description

This project proposes to enhance UK capabilities for polar sea-bed survey, specifically filling an important gap in assets currently occupied by costly infrastructure and resource-heavy robotic systems.

Contract 1. Autonomous Underwater Research Vehicle

Supplier

- Planet Ocean Limited

Contract value

- £605,095 excluding VAT
- £725,622 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Earliest date the contract will be signed

30 September 2025

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 October 2025 to 30 May 2026
- 7 months, 30 days

Main procurement category

Goods

CPV classifications

- 34513550 - Survey vessels
- 38296000 - Surveying instruments

Contract locations

- UKL22 - Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan

Participation

Particular suitability

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

Other information

Description of risks to contract performance

Failure to deliver

Failure of components

Adjusting designs

Further R&D

Any Other

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Direct award

Direct award justification

Prototypes and development

Against the criteria set out in Market Conditions, only one supplier is able to offer something that meet all requirements, technologically and financially. In addition to this, there are numerous developments and prototyping which must take place to make the existing units fit for the research purpose, in the number required, and within the budget given by UKRI-NERC. These prototypes must at minimum be Antarctic sea-floor environment accessible, and form part of a low-cost, low-logistics deep water AUV swarm.

Supplier

Planet Ocean Limited

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PBMT-3252-TZBN

Unit 16, Camberley Business Centre

Bracebridge, Camberley

GU15 3DP

United Kingdom

Email: sales@ecosub.uk

Region: UKJ25 - West Surrey

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): Yes

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 1. Autonomous Underwater Research Vehicle

Contracting authority

Cardiff University

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PHVT-4343-HWYR

Procurement Services

Cardiff

CF24 4HQ

United Kingdom

Email: Procurement@cardiff.ac.uk

Website: <http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/business/why-work-with-us/for-suppliers>

Region: UKL22 - Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government

Devolved regulations that apply: Wales