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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

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.

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## **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
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## **Participation**

### **Particular suitability**

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

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## **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

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## **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.

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## **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](mailto: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

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## Contracting authority

### Cardiff University

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PHVT-4343-HWYR

Procurement Services

Cardiff

CF24 4HQ

United Kingdom

Email: [Procurement@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto: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