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Award

## **ICL Open Air Diffusion Bonding**

UK INDUSTRIAL FUSION SOLUTIONS LTD

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Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-062243

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05a825

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### **Scope**

### **Reference**

PP-UKIFS-422

### **Description**

Description of services:

7-month project for continuation of technical work that will further the Intellectual Property application related to open air diffusion bonding technology for fusion application.

Why it is needed:

The open-air diffusion bonding technology presents a unique approach to manufacture of large-scale tungsten components. Unlike both traditional and advanced methods, this technique eliminates the need for vacuum conditions or tightly controlled atmospheres, thereby offering a more scalable and cost-effective solution for industrial applications.

## **Contract 1. ICL Open Air Diffusion Bonding**

### **Supplier**

- IMPERIAL COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND MEDICINE

### **Contract value**

- £220,000 excluding VAT
- £264,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

### **Earliest date the contract will be signed**

6 October 2025

### **Contract dates (estimated)**

- 6 October 2025 to 2 April 2026
- 5 months, 28 days

### **Main procurement category**

Services

## **CPV classifications**

- 73000000 - Research and development services and related consultancy services

## **Contract locations**

- UK - United Kingdom

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## **Participation**

### **Particular suitability**

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

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## **Other information**

### **Conflicts assessment prepared/revised**

Yes

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## **Procedure**

### **Procedure type**

Direct award

## Direct award justification

Single supplier - intellectual property or exclusive rights

A previous contract - the scope of which was to identify and develop a manufacturing method suitable for large-scale tungsten blocks with embedded pipes - was let through a competitive framework (Manufacturing Framework). The framework set-up was 4 Tier 1 suppliers, each with a consortium of Tier 2s and further option of sub-contracting to relevant SMEs according to project scope requirements, set up this way in order to maximise reach to relevant technical offerings. The supplier of the winning bid for this contract was Altrad Babcock, due to the project proposal offered: their bid was to develop the technology and IP that Imperial own and was assessed as the best technical offering.

Hence, the contract was awarded (FY24/25, project ref: MFFW034). Imperial hold the technical foundation of knowledge; Altrad Babcock's role in that previous project was Tier 1 project management.

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## Supplier

### IMPERIAL COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND MEDICINE

- Companies House: RC000231
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PHRL-7217-LGHH

The faculty Building, Imperial College London, Exhibition Road

London

SW7 2AZ

United Kingdom

Email: [j.prestt@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:j.prestt@imperial.ac.uk)

Website: <http://www.imperial.ac.uk>

Region: UKI32 - Westminster

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): No

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 1. ICL Open Air Diffusion Bonding

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## Contracting authority

### **UK INDUSTRIAL FUSION SOLUTIONS LTD**

- Companies House: 14620804
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PCRM-7973-DCBL

Culham Science Centre

Abingdon

OX14 3DB

United Kingdom

Email: [operationalprocurement.step@ukifs.uk](mailto:operationalprocurement.step@ukifs.uk)

Region: UKJ14 - Oxfordshire

Organisation type: Public authority - central government