This is a published notice on the Find a Tender service: https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Notice/062243-2025

Award

ICL Open Air Diffusion Bonding

UK INDUSTRIAL FUSION SOLUTIONS LTD

UK5: Transparency notice - Procurement Act 2023 - view information about notice types
Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-062243
Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05a825
Published 3 October 2025, 3:27pm

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

Participation

Particular suitability

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

Other information

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

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.

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

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

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

Region: UKJ14 - Oxfordshire

Organisation type: Public authority - central government