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Award

CEFAS25-115 ITT for liquid scintillation counter for Cefas laboratory

CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT, FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE SCIENCE

UK6: Contract award notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-078420

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05d585 ([view related notices](#))

Published 1 December 2025, 11:20am

Scope

Reference

C30811

Description

The Radioanalytical team at Cefas Lowestoft has a requirement to replace some existing end-of-life equipment with a more efficient and reliable model. The Liquid Scintillation counter will be required to have an exceptionally low background count rate to enable necessary improvements to our already low Limits of Detection to support a range of programmes, including Radioactivity in Food and the Environment (RIFE), and to help Cefas develop systems approaches and tackle complex environmental challenges.

Scope of Requirements

The Supplier will provide an ultra-Low level Liquid Scintillation counter as follows:

- 3.1. with substantial passive shielding in addition to active methods of background count reduction (integral guard counter, electronic BGD reduction systems etc)

- 3.2. provide the lowest achievable background count rates for both alpha and beta determinations
- 3.3. be capable of alpha/beta discrimination and simultaneous detection and quantification of multiple radionuclides/ROI's (e.g. Plutonium alphas and Pu-241 beta emissions) at low environmental levels as well as the typical H-3, C-14, U-234/238, Ra-226, Rn-222, Y-90, Sr-89 etc
- 3.4. be capable of detecting beta's up to 2MeV and alpha's up to 10MeV
- 3.5. have beta efficiencies of at least 35% for samples with significant quench although much higher efficiencies would be anticipated for unquenched samples
- 3.6. have alpha efficiencies of at least 95% and Cerenkov efficiency of at least 60%
- 3.7. have in-built cooling to maintain appropriate, stable temperature
- 3.8. have internal, radioactive standard for quench correction curves
- 3.9. Power supply to be UK socket compatible.

Contract 1. CEFAS25-115 Contract for provision of liquid scintillation counter for Cefas laboratory

Supplier

- Southern Scientific Limited

Contract value

- £228,430 excluding VAT

- £274,116 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Award decision date

28 November 2025

Date assessment summaries were sent to tenderers

1 December 2025

Standstill period

- End: 11 December 2025
- 8 working days

Earliest date the contract will be signed

12 December 2025

Contract dates (estimated)

- 15 December 2025 to 31 March 2027
- 1 year, 3 months, 17 days

Main procurement category

Goods

CPV classifications

- 38000000 - Laboratory, optical and precision equipments (excl. glasses)

Contract locations

- UK - United Kingdom

Information about tenders

- 2 tenders received
- 2 tenders assessed in the final stage:
 - 1 submitted by small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)
 - 0 submitted by voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)
- 1 supplier awarded contracts
- 1 supplier unsuccessful (details included for contracts over £5 million)

Procedure

Procedure type

Open procedure

Supplier

Southern Scientific Limited

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PXMH-3166-PNVW

Scientific House Henfield Business Park,

Henfield

BN5 9SL

United Kingdom

Email: tender@southernscientific.co.uk

Region: UKJ28 - West Sussex (North East)

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): Yes

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Supported employment provider: No

Public service mutual: No

Contract 1. CEFAS25-115 Contract for provision of liquid scintillation counter for Cefas laboratory

Contracting authority

CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT, FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE SCIENCE

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PPGW-5299-JGTN

Pakefield Road

Lowestoft

NR33 0HT

United Kingdom

Email: procure@cefas.gov.uk

Website: <https://defra-family.force.com/s>Welcome>

Region: UKH14 - Suffolk

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government