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Award

Liquid Scintillation Counter Procurement for ERATO/THALIA and LIBRTI Project

UK Atomic Energy Authority

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

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-079495

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05d2cc ([view related notices](#))

Published 3 December 2025, 4:53pm

Scope

Reference

T/MN109/25

Description

A. Lot 1- THALIA Project The THALIA Project serves as the parent initiative with the primary goal of testing and validating analytical work-up methods and instrumentation for tritium accountancy in molten breeder material matrices. The THALIA workstream will be structured into dedicated functional areas, each designed to support specific activities:

- Molten breeder handling area – for heating and maintaining breeder material in a molten state, equipped with a purpose-built tritium introduction system to accurately dose and generate tritiated breeder material samples at required concentrations.
- Preparation area – for weighing and formulating molten breeder materials, including dosing with impurities where required.
- Sample collection and cooling area – for safe collection and solidification of samples.
- Sample analysis preparation area – for wet chemistry sample preparation and sample darkening, following methodologies developed under the ERATO Project.
- Liquid Scintillation Counting (LSC) analysis – following preparation into a suitable LSC cocktail, samples will be analysed using LSC instrumentation. The LIBRTI

programme is a central component of UKAEA's fusion energy mission, specifically focusing on the safe and effective handling, storage, and processing of tritium—a critical fuel for fusion reactors. B. Lot 2 – LIBRTI Facility Project The LIBRTI Facility Project aims to establish Liquid Scintillation Counting (LSC) capabilities through collaboration with partner organisations, enabling the training of future personnel working at the neutron facility. This capability underpins tritium breeding research, including the analysis of purge gases and breeder materials such as solid, liquid, and molten salts. A sample oxidizer will be required for preparing solid samples that cannot be directly processed for LSC analysis. Following oxidation and preparation into a suitable LSC cocktail, samples will be analysed via LSC instrumentation.

Contract 1. Liquid Scintillation Counter Procurement for ERATO/THALIA and LIBRTI Project

Supplier

- Southern Scientific Ltd.

Contract value

- £708,620 excluding VAT
- £850,344 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Award decision date

3 December 2025

Date assessment summaries were sent to tenderers

3 December 2025

Standstill period

- End: 12 December 2025
- 8 working days

Earliest date the contract will be signed

16 December 2025

Contract dates (estimated)

- 22 December 2025 to 1 April 2026
- 3 months, 11 days

Main procurement category

Goods

CPV classifications

- 38943000 - Beta counters
- 38942000 - Alpha beta counters
- 38944000 - Beta gamma counters

Contract locations

- UK - United Kingdom
-

Information about tenders

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

Procedure

Procedure type

Open procedure

Supplier

Southern Scientific Ltd.

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PXMH-3166-PNVW

Scientific House, The Henfield Business Park, Shor

Henfield

BN5 9SL

United Kingdom

Telephone: +44 1273497600

Email: mark.milne@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. Liquid Scintillation Counter Procurement for ERATO/THALIA and LIBRTI Project

Contracting authority

UK Atomic Energy Authority

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PLJV-1169-JTDD

Culham Science Centre

Oxfordshire

OX14 3DB

United Kingdom

Contact name: Maili Nugent

Telephone: +44 1235468141

Email: maili.nugent@ukaea.uk

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-atomic-energy-authority>

Region: UKJ14 - Oxfordshire

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government