

This is a published notice on the Find a Tender service: <https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Notice/079820-2025>

Tender

UKRI-4667 NERC Research Vessels Refit, Upgrade and Maintenance Services

UK Research & Innovation (UKRI)

UK4: Tender notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-079820

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-058d0a ([view related notices](#))

Published 4 December 2025, 3:07pm

Scope

Reference

C0297

Description

UKRI wishes to establish a Framework Agreement for the provision of refit, upgrade and maintenance services for the RRS Sir David Attenborough.

The Framework Agreement (Agreement) will be awarded to a single Supplier for a period of two years with an extension option of up to two years (2+1+1). The Supplier will also be able to provide global support should emergency repairs/dockings be required to be undertaken outside of scheduled maintenance periods.

The Agreement will:

- ensure vessels are maintained to the standards required by UKRI.
- ensure vessels are maintained in accordance with Flag State and Classification Society

requirements.

- provide continuity in maintenance standards and utilise one organisation that will gain experience and knowledge of the RRS Sir David Attenborough
- cover the global footprint of operations for RRS Sir David Attenborough

Commercial tool

Establishes a framework

Total value (estimated)

- £9,000,000 excluding VAT
- £10,800,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2028
- Possible extension to 31 March 2030
- 4 years

Description of possible extension:

The Contract duration shall be for a period of two (2) years with two optional extensions of (1) year each, from commencement of the Contract (2+1+1).

The total duration will not exceed four (4) years.

Options

The right to additional purchases while the contract is valid.

Option to extend as stated

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 50241000 - Repair and maintenance services of ships

Contract locations

- UK - United Kingdom

Framework

Maximum number of suppliers

1

Maximum percentage fee charged to suppliers

0%

Framework operation description

The framework agreement will be awarded to a single supplier. Call-off agreements will be awarded as and when required, by direct award.

Award method when using the framework

Without competition

Contracting authorities that may use the framework

Establishing party only

Participation

Particular suitability

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

Submission

Enquiry deadline

22 December 2025, 2:00pm

Tender submission deadline

16 January 2026, 2:00pm

Submission address and any special instructions

To access this opportunity please click here:

https://ukri2.my.salesforce-sites.com/ProSpend_CS_ContractPage?SearchType=Projects&uid=a1MTm000007K9azMAC&searchStr=4667&sortStr=Recently+Published&page=1&filters=&County=

Please note the following steps for accessing this opportunity via the Atamis eSourcing platform:

1. Log in or create an account here: <https://ukri2.my.site.com>
2. Navigate to the opportunity in the Find an Opportunity section of the site or via the direct access link above.
3. Select Register Interest (you will not be able to view the tender documentation without registering an interest).
4. Go back to the main menu and navigate to the My Proposals and Quotes section of the site.
5. Select the opportunity from the list. Tender Documents for download are found in the Documents tab.

Tenders may be submitted electronically

Yes

Languages that may be used for submission

English

Award decision date (estimated)

26 February 2026

Recurring procurement

Publication date of next tender notice (estimated): 1 November 2028

Award criteria

Name	Description	Type	Weighting
Technical/Quality	Technical/Quality: 60%	Quality	60.00%
Price	Price: 30%	Price	30.00%
Social Value	Social Value: 10%	Quality	10.00%

Other information

Applicable trade agreements

- Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Open procedure

Contracting authority

UK Research & Innovation (UKRI)

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PDQJ-7126-JDHG

Polaris House

Swindon, Wiltshire

SN2 1FL

United Kingdom

Contact name: Kate Richardson

Telephone: 01793 442000

Email: nercprocurement@ukri.org

Website: <https://www.ukri.org/>

Region: UKK14 - Swindon

Organisation type: Public authority - central government