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Award

RAICo Academic Research Theme 2

UK Atomic Energy Authority

UK5: Transparency notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-080447

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05f05f

Published 8 December 2025, 9:46am

Scope

Description

The Academic Research theme will address research related issues raised by the RAICo Collaboration partners and develop ideas at a low Technical Readiness Level (TRL) to such a point where an initial proof of concept can be developed for further development by the RAICo programme.

Contract 1. RAICo Academic Research Theme 2

Supplier

- University of Manchester

Contract value

- £900,000 excluding VAT
- £1,080,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Earliest date the contract will be signed

17 December 2025

Contract dates (estimated)

- 17 December 2025 to 1 April 2026
- 3 months, 16 days

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 73110000 - Research services

Contract locations

- UK - United Kingdom
-

Participation

Particular suitability

- Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)
- Voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)

Other information

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Direct award

Direct award justification

Single supplier - technical reasons

This Direct Award is justified under Schedule 5, paragraphs 4–6 of the Procurement Act 2023, on the basis that the University of Manchester (UoM) holds unique and bespoke robotic platforms, and site-specific infrastructure developed and deployed during Phase 1 of the RAICo programme. These resources and capabilities are not reasonably available from another supplier. Awarding this contract to a different supplier would require

significant duplication of time, cost, and technical development, and would result in material incompatibility with the research tools and demonstrators developed in Phase 1. The University has also embedded research staff and equipment at the RAICo1 facility, and switching suppliers would result in disproportionate onboarding time and loss of embedded institutional knowledge. The work also includes ongoing research and experimental development activities, including design, testing, and validation of new robotic capabilities for nuclear decommissioning. As such, this award also meets the conditions of Schedule 5, paragraphs 2–3, covering services related to prototypes, proof-of-concept demonstrators, and feasibility testing of low-TRL technologies. This combination of prior exclusive capability, and continued R&D work makes UoM the only suitable supplier capable of continuing delivery without unnecessary duplication or delay, in line with the strategic objectives of the RAICo programme

Supplier

University of Manchester

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PTWB-5852-GWDM

Oxford Road

Manchester

M13 9PL

United Kingdom

Email: barry.lennox@manchester.ac.uk

Region: UKD33 - Manchester

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): No

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 1. RAICo Academic Research Theme 2

Contracting authority

UK Atomic Energy Authority

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PLJV-1169-JTDD

Culham Science Centre

Oxfordshire

OX14 3DB

United Kingdom

Contact name: Colette Broadwith

Telephone: +44 1142293734

Email: colette.broadwith@ukaea.uk

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

Region: UKJ14 - Oxfordshire

Organisation type: Public authority - central government