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Award

Class 777 CRE Thermal Imaging ISM

NETWORK RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITED

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

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-080460

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05f040

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Scope

Description

This procurement is for the provision of a Conductor Rail Equipment (CRE) monitoring service for the MerseyRail Class 777 fleet.

The service will cover the design, supply, installation, commissioning, and ongoing operation and maintenance of thermal and visual imaging equipment on two Class 777 units, as well as secure provision of processed data and insights.

The CRE monitoring service will provide the following core functionalities:

- Thermal Imaging: Identification of hotspots indicating loose connections, high resistance points, and damaged insulators.
- Visual Monitoring: Forward-facing video to provide context and enable remote inspection of the rail corridor and equipment.
- Automated Alerts: Near real-time detection of potential CRE faults to support proactive and predictive maintenance interventions.

This service will enable Network Rail to identify emerging defects earlier, minimise CRE-related failures, reduce service disruptions and manual trackside inspections, and contribute to a safer and more reliable network.

Contract 1

Supplier

- MERSEYRAIL ELECTRICS 2002 LIMITED

Contract value

- £298,508 excluding VAT
- £358,210 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Earliest date the contract will be signed

15 December 2025

Contract dates (estimated)

- 22 December 2025 to 14 December 2026
- 11 months, 24 days

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 72300000 - Data services

Other information

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Direct award

Direct award justification

Single supplier - technical reasons

This award is compliant with the Procurement Act 2023 under schedule 5 paragraph 5; competition is absent for technical reasons and NR's C&P Policy. The Rationale is as follows:

- the aim of the procurement is the creation or acquisition of a unique work of art or

artistic performance.

- competition is absent for technical reasons.
- the protection of exclusive rights, including intellectual property rights, but only in the case of paragraphs.

MerseyRail, as the owner and lessor of the Class 777 fleet, is uniquely positioned to provide this OLE monitoring service. The rationale for a direct award is based on the following:

- **Existing Asset Knowledge and Access:** MerseyRail possesses in-depth knowledge of the Class 777 fleet and has established access to the trains for the necessary design and installation of the monitoring equipment. This eliminates the need for a separate procurement process to identify and contract with a third party for train access and modification.
- **Service Integration:** Awarding the entire service to MerseyRail ensures seamless integration of the technology selection, installation, maintenance, and data provision aspects. This streamlined approach minimizes potential interface issues and simplifies contract management.
- **Efficiency and Time Savings:** A direct award to MerseyRail leverages their existing relationship and knowledge, significantly reducing the time and resources required for a full competitive tender process. This allows for a faster implementation of the vital OLE monitoring capability.
- **Upgrade of Existing Equipment:** MerseyRail already has a previous generation of OLE monitoring equipment fitted to these trains, which can be upgraded to provide the latest technology.

By awarding this contract directly to MerseyRail, Network Rail can efficiently implement a well-established and effective OLE monitoring solution, leveraging the asset owner's unique position and existing service delivery capabilities.

Supplier

MERSEYRAIL ELECTRICS 2002 LIMITED

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Liverpool

L1 1JF

United Kingdom

Email: tdrost@merseyrail.org

Region: UKD72 - Liverpool

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): No

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 1

Contracting authority

NETWORK RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITED

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PNZN-9524-VCQJ

Waterloo General Office

London

SE1 8SW

United Kingdom

Email: valentine.onwuchekwa@networkrail.co.uk

Website: <https://www.networkrail.co.uk/>

Region: UKI45 - Lambeth

Organisation type: Public authority - central government