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Award

Oxpens River Bridge Steel Material Procurement

Oxford City Council

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

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-081663

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05f321

Published 10 December 2025, 4:16pm

Scope

Description

For the early procurement of steel material for the main construction phase of the Oxpens River Bridge through a preferred specialist supplier to the steel supply company.

Contract 1. Oxpens River Bridge Steel Material

Supplier

- BRITON FABRICATORS LIMITED

Contract value

- £500,000 excluding VAT
- £600,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Earliest date the contract will be signed

12 January 2026

Contract dates (estimated)

- 19 January 2026 to 29 May 2026
- 4 months, 11 days

Main procurement category

Goods

CPV classifications

- 14622000 - Steel

Contract locations

- UKJ14 - Oxfordshire
-

Other information

Description of risks to contract performance

1. A sudden and unforeseen increase in steel prices due to national/global events.
2. Increase in demand from major projects moving into the construction phase and large orders for steel being placed.
3. Reduction in capacity to produce steel due to steel producers closing plants or going into liquidation or other economic impacts.
4. Incorrect ordering of specific steel sections results in change/re-order to satisfy contract

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Direct award

Direct award justification

Switching to direct award

The proposed Oxpens river bridge is an architecturally designed long box span bridge with 'arch edge beams' formed by SHS sections with vertical stiffeners to create wave sections. The complex nature of fabrication, transportation and installation of this structure has required significant and continuous input from the specialist contractor throughout the

detailed design phase.

Briton were sub-contracted by the original contractor for the design of the bridge, however the contractor has decided not to continue with the construction phase of the project, whereby a procurement under a Framework for a new contractor is underway.

The construction phase of the project is limited by restrictions imposed by the Environment Agent and high risk of seasonal flooding. The window to install the main span is September 2026. To achieve this programme a steel order must be placed in mid-January 2026. The authority intends to procure the steel directly should a main contract not be awarded by mid-January to achieve the overall construction programme.

As Briton prepared the designs for the project and own the copyright over them, they are required to calculate the amount of steel required based on the designs, the Council is unable to order the steel directly and would have to expend considerable additional costs for work already carried out in respect of further designs by another supplier, to be able to procure the steel required for the project. Otherwise, the Council could receive an incompatible amount of steel goods which would result in severely disproportionate difficulty in the operation of building the bridge. The Council could not have foreseen that Balfour Beatty would withdraw from the project but as a result, the Council needs to procure Britons to calculate and order the steel required for the project based on their existing designs to continue with the project under the new contractor.

Therefore Oxford City Council are switching to a direct award to Briton under section 7 of Schedule 5 of the Procurement Act 2023: Additional or repeat goods, services or works

7 The public contract concerns the supply of goods, services or works by the existing supplier which are intended as an extension to, or partial replacement of, existing goods, services or works in circumstances where-

(a) a change in supplier would result in the contracting authority receiving goods, services or works that are different from, or incompatible with, the existing goods, services or works, and

(b) the difference or incompatibility would result in disproportionate technical difficulties in operation or maintenance.

Supplier

BRITON FABRICATORS LIMITED

- Companies House: 01123552
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PJDM-7571-THHW

Watnall Road

Nottingham

NG15 6EP

United Kingdom

Email: dean.morcom@britonsltd.co.uk

Website: <http://www.britonsltd.co.uk>

Region: UKF15 - North Nottinghamshire

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): Yes

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 1. Oxpens River Bridge Steel Material

Contracting authority

Oxford City Council

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PJQW-3663-YMYQ

Oxford Town Hall, St Aldates

Oxford

OX1 1BX

United Kingdom

Email: Procurement@oxford.gov.uk

Region: UKJ14 - Oxfordshire

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government