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Award

Multi collector Inductively Coupled Plasma Spectrometer MC-ICP MS

University of Portsmouth Higher Education Corporation

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

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-084874

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05ebd3 ([view related notices](#))

Published 19 December 2025, 12:28pm

Scope

Reference

24-SJM-343

Description

The University hereby gives notice of its intention to award a contract to Nu Instruments for the supply of a pre-owned dual-beam path MC-ICPMS (Multi-Collector Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometer).

In accordance with UK procurement regulations, the University issued a UK2 Preliminary Market Engagement notice to assess market availability and determine whether any suitable used instruments meeting the required technical specifications were available within the allocated budget. Following this engagement, the University received a single expression of interest from Nu Instruments, who confirmed their ability to meet the specification within the available budget.

The instrument will be utilised for high-precision isotopic analysis of Hf, U-Pb, U-series, Sr, Pb, and Nd in geological samples. It must support both dry plasma and laser ablation

sample introduction methods and will primarily be applied to geological and materials science research. The system will be integrated with the University's existing 193 nm and femtosecond laser systems.

Minimum Technical Requirements:

Dual beam path enabling bypass of the collision cell when not required.

Daly detectors providing wide dynamic range for mixed isotope systems.

Upgrade pathway for fast ion counters to enable single-shot analysis when available.

Manufacturer warranty of 36 months

The estimated budget for an instrument meeting these specifications is £490,000.00 excluding VAT, £588,000 including VAT. The University intends to procure an ex-demonstration or refurbished instrument directly from the manufacturer. Offers from customers or third-party resellers will not be considered.

Contract 1. MC-ICPMS (Multi-Collector Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometer

Supplier

- AMETEK (GB) LIMITED

Contract value

- £490,000 excluding VAT
- £588,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Earliest date the contract will be signed

6 January 2026

Contract dates (estimated)

- 6 January 2026 to 6 January 2029
- 3 years, 1 day

Main procurement category

Goods

CPV classifications

- 38433100 - Mass spectrometer

Contract locations

- UKJ31 - Portsmouth

Participation

Particular suitability

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

Other information

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Direct award

Direct award justification

Single supplier - technical reasons

Following the placement of a PA UK2 Advertisement, no other interest was received. The awarded party is the only supplier that has confirmed able to meet the technical requirement and budget.

Note: Ametek are a parent company of Nu instruments Ltd. The contract will be with Nu Instruments Ltd

Supplier

AMETEK (GB) LIMITED

- Companies House: 02569386
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PNPL-2282-WRQP

2 New Star Road

Leicester

LE4 9JD

United Kingdom

Email: nu.info@ametek.com

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

Region: UKF21 - Leicester

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): No

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 1. MC-ICPMS (Multi-Collector Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometer

Contracting authority

University of Portsmouth Higher Education Corporation

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PWYV-2655-NPMQ

University House

Portsmouth

PO1 2UP

United Kingdom

Contact name: Sarah McGrady

Email: procurement@port.ac.uk

Website: <http://www.port.ac.uk/>

Region: UKJ31 - Portsmouth

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government