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Planning

New HDPE Workboat

University of Plymouth

UK2: Preliminary market engagement notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-085829

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05fc8c

Published 23 December 2025, 1:00pm

Scope

Reference

MW/UOP/Workboat/137/25

Description

The University of Plymouth is looking to procure a new workboat to add to its research and diving support vessels to extend and enhance excellence in marine related research and teaching. This new HDPE workboat designed and built to Category B, coded to the MCA's Workboat Code Ed. 3, is intended to support operational diving and have sufficient utility to be used for research and teaching within the bounds of Category 4 waters with restricted Category 3 usage. It will have a capacity 8 persons and be approximately 8m in length. For full specification details please see the below information or attached document on the Mercell Platform. If interested in this protentional opportunity please email Megan.worth@plymouth.ac.uk Hull: Max 8m LOA by max 2.7m beam HDPE workboat Hull with console, Hull and Tubes filled with High Density Polystyrene. Max overall height 3.2m Max lightships weight 2000kg Manufactured to Design Category B. Built to and coded under Workboat code Ed. 3 at point of build by either Mecal, SCMS or YDSA to include in build visits and verification at key stages of completion. Coded to sea

are Category 4 with restricted Category 3. Coded to carry 8 persons. Coded to include deck cargo of 400kg. 2 X manual bilge pumps. 1 x Electric bilge pump Self-bailing deck with non-return valve scuppers. 4 x lifting/Mooring eyes fitted with cleats fitted inboard of gunnels and close to associated fairleads. Access doors fitted in gunnels on both port and starboard shoulder. Stainless steel towing bollards, 1 at the bow and one on each quarter. Man Overboard recovery system. Marine grade 316 stainless steel A frame at the stern incorporating life raft cradle, lights, antennas (antennas must be able to be lowered to conform with max overall height). Extruded HDPE mounting points either side of gunnel door for mounting a dive ladder. HDPE tube with 33mmID welded and reinforced. To be discussed. WBV shock mitigation Seating for 8 persons consisting of the following: 4 jockey seats behind the helm consol and four jockey seats in front of the helm consol. Seating to comprise of individual jockey seats with padded winged backs, all seats to be located in the after 2/3 of the vessel LOA, suitable handholds must be provided forward of all seats. The four seats forward of the consol must have a quick release arrangement to easily remove seat/pod/handholds on an individual basis. Engines: Twin 100hp Extra-long shaft outboard Engines complete with rigging kits, 2 x fuel tanks. Engines to be able to operate completely independently to each other re electrical and fuel systems in accordance with the code of practice WB3. Fuel minimum size of 2 x 100lt tanks which are easy to access and maintain. Fuel system piping to ISO 7840. Top mount controls, console dash mounted. Hydraulic steering system and helm pump. Electrics: All electrics to ISO 10133 supplied with installation diagrams. 2 x 110ah Dual purpose Marine and Leisure batteries with Blue sea systems Voltage monitoring. 1 independent power source fitted in separate location to main batteries to supply nav lights, emergency deck lighting, VHF radio and navigation electronics in an emergency, in accordance with the code of practice WB3. Automatic split Charging relay. Battery isolator switches. Victron 12/230 1200 sinewave inverter to provide clean AC power to waterproof 2 gang socket. Inverter installed within helm consol while waterproof plugs fitted on aft face of consol. All cables Ocean-flex tinned copper to ISO 6722-1:2011 Class B. Electronics and Navigation equipment: Chart plotter with depth transducer, must be capable of providing a NMEA output and be able to integrate with other inputs. Fish finder echosounder and transducer incorporated/networked with chart plotter. Flux gate compass/electronic heading sensor installed and integrated/networked with other electronics. Dash mounted compass Fixed VHF/DSC with Antenna. AIS Receiver and class B transceiver integrated/networked into chart plotter Hand held searchlight with console mounted socket. Radar reflector. LED navigation lights. LED Deck lights 12V DC socket and USB charging points. waterproof switch panels. Safety Equipment: All safety equipment required for MCA coding including Pyrotechnics, first aid kit, Anchors, Life rings, Handheld VHF/DSC and firefighting equipment etc to meet WB3 Delivery: Delivery cost to be included in quotation – road haulage to Queen Annes Battery Marina, PL40LP The University would aim to take delivery by Q3 2026.

Total value (estimated)

- £120,000 including VAT

Below the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 16 February 2026 to 1 August 2026
- 5 months, 14 days

Main procurement category

Goods

CPV classifications

- 34520000 - Boats

Contract locations

- UKK - South West (England)

Engagement

Engagement deadline

30 January 2026

Engagement process description

If interest in the protentional below threshold opportunity please contact megan.worth@plymouth.ac.uk to express interest.

Participation

Particular suitability

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

Submission

Publication date of tender notice (estimated)

9 February 2026

Contracting authority

University of Plymouth

- UK Register of Learning Providers (UKPRN number): 10007801

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<https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/about-us/university-structure/service-areas/procurement>

Region: UKK41 - Plymouth

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government