

United Kingdom-Bristol: Unmanned aerial vehicles
OJ S 182/2020 18/09/2020
Contract notice
Supplies

Directive 2009/81/EC

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1. Name and addresses

Official name: Ministry of Defence, Combat Air, Unmanned Air Systems (UAS) Team

Postal address: Yew 2C #1251, Abbeywood

Town: Bristol

Postal code: BS34 8JH

Country: United Kingdom

Contact person: Rebecca Cardwell

E-mail: Rebecca.Cardwell560@mod.gov.uk

Internet address(es):

General address of the contracting authority/entity: www.contracts.mod.uk

Additional information can be obtained from:

the abovementioned address

Specifications and additional documents (including documents for competitive dialogue and a dynamic purchasing system) can be obtained from:

the abovementioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted: the abovementioned address

I.2. Type of the contracting authority

Ministry or any other national or federal authority, including their regional or local subdivisions

I.3. Main activity

Defence

I.4. Contract award on behalf of other contracting authorities/entities

The contracting authority is purchasing on behalf of other contracting authorities: no

Section II: Object of the contract

II.1. Description

II.1.1. Title attributed to the contract by the contracting authority

TIQUILA Programme Mini-unmanned Air Systems (MUAS)

II.1.2. Type of contract and place of performance or delivery

Supplies

Purchase

Main site or place of performance: Oxfordshire.

NUTS code UKJ14 Oxfordshire

II.1.3. Information about framework agreement

II.1.4. Information about framework agreement

II.1.5. Short description of the contract or purchase(s)

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles. The TIQUILA programme objective is to deliver mini-unmanned air system ('MUAS') capability to provide intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance ('ISTAR') roles in man-packable and man-portable loads in support of field operations.

The contract delivery will be the responsibility of a systems integrator ('SI') working in conjunction with suppliers to meet developing demands and to keep pace with emergent technology and threats.

The solution and equipment provided will be evolving and modular and be upgradeable in forward operating base workshops with limited basic tools to enable the system to fulfil multiple roles and maintain pace with technology and emerging threats.

The systems integrator is required to manage the through-life delivery and sustainment including the following:

- (a) provision of man-packable MUAS (up to 8 kg system weight, up to 4 kg max take-off weight) and man-portable MUAV (up to 20 kg max take-off weight) that operate from a common Ground Control Station ('GCS') with an Electro Optical/Infra-Red ('EO/IR') payload that meets the requirements of the TIQUILA programme;
- (b) provision of goods and service in support of the above;
- (c) a technical and digital architecture that is modular with open standards interfaces and enables the simple integration of new capabilities and upgrades to be incorporated into common base units;
- (d) maintain awareness and understanding of novel and emergent technologies that could be applicable to the TIQUILA programme; and
- (e) the implementation of supplier enabling arrangement(s) ('SEA(s)') and/or other subcontract arrangements, that provide a flexible commercial model that engages with the unmanned air systems ('UAS') market, industry, and academia; with the aim to encourage innovation and new entrants into the supply chain, to meet developing demands and to keep pace with emergent technology and threats.

The anticipated contract duration will be for a period of 120 months. The TIQUILA contract may contain options to extend the duration of the contract beyond the anticipated contract 120 month period and/or to vary the volume of goods and services to be delivered. Options to extend will be up to a maximum of 24 months subject to the approval of the authority prior to the expiry of the anticipated 120 month period.

II.1.6. CPV code(s)

35613000 Unmanned aerial vehicles

II.1.7. Information about subcontracting

II.1.8. Lots

This contract is divided into lots: no

II.1.9. Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: no

II.2. Scope of the procurement

II.2.1. Total quantity or scope

The value of the TIQUILA contract over the anticipated 120 month period is currently estimated to range between GBP 149 million-GBP 390 million (including potential Options). At the time of publication of this notice, the authority anticipates initial approved funding of GBP 149 million. However, depending on a number of factors, including the success of the TIQUILA

programme and changes to authority demands, the estimated value of the contract could vary over time. Potential suppliers should note however that the total value of the TIQUILA contract is not guaranteed.

Estimated value excluding VAT:

Range: between 149 000 000 and 390 000 000 GBP

II.2.2. Information about options

Options: yes

Description of options: The TIQUILA contract may contain options to extend the duration of the contract beyond the anticipated contract 120 month period and/or to vary the volume of goods and services to be delivered. Options to extend will be up to a maximum of 24 months subject to the approval of the authority prior to the expiry of the anticipated 120 month period. The contract will also contain review points for the authority to evaluate the success of the contract against the customer requirements, which may be used to inform the total length of the contract.

II.2.3. Information about renewals

This contract is subject to renewal: no

II.3. Duration of the contract or time limit for completion

Section III: Legal, economic, financial and technical information

III.1. Conditions related to the contract

III.1.1. Deposits and guarantees required

The Ministry of Defence reserves the right to ask for an indemnity, guarantee or bank bond if the supplier does not meet the required standard for economic and financial standing.

III.1.2. Main financing conditions and payment arrangements and/or reference to the relevant provisions governing them

This will be in the terms and conditions of the contract.

III.1.3. Legal form to be taken by the group of economic operators to whom the contract is to be awarded

If a group of economic operators submits a bid, the group must nominate a lead organisation to deal with the authority. The authority shall require the group to form a legal entity before entering into the contract.

III.1.4. Other particular conditions to which the performance of the contract is subject, in particular with regard to security of supply and security of information

Equipment security:

The maximum level of classification of the information or material that will need to be protected, processed, stored or transmitted during the performance of the contract will be secret.

Facility security clearance (FSC):

The ITN documentation will detail any contractual requirement for List X or equivalent FSC security status.

Security during the PQQ procedure:

During the PQQ procedure, the level of classification of the information or material that will need to be protected, processed, stored or transmitted by suppliers will be a maximum of Official Sensitive.

Security during the tender evaluation procedure:

The level of classification of the information or material that will need to be protected, processed, stored or transmitted is anticipated to be a maximum of official sensitive.

Personal security clearances:

Prior to receiving documentation, tenderers will need to provide evidence that they have the personnel with the necessary security clearance to protect, process, store and transmit information or material with a maximum classification of official sensitive. Failure to achieve this condition will result in the supplier being unable to participate in the tender exercise.

The authority reserves the right to amend any condition related to security of information to reflect any changes in national Law or government policy. If any contract documents are accompanied by instructions on safeguarding classified information (e.g. a Security Aspects Letter (SAL), the authority reserves the right to amend the terms of these instructions to reflect changes in national Law or government policy whether in respect of the applicable protective marking scheme, specific protective markings given, the aspects to which any protective marking applies or otherwise.

The following link to the Gov.uk website provides information on the Government Security Classification: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-security-classifications>

Electronic trading:

Potential suppliers must note the mandatory requirement for electronic trading using the contracting, purchasing and finance (CP&F) electronic procurement tool. All payments for contractor deliverables under the contract shall only be made via CP&F. You can find details on CP&F at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mod-contracting-purchasing-and-finance-e-procurement-system>

There is the potential for TUPE to apply to the TIQUILA contract. In the event that TUPE does apply, details will be provided in the tender documentation.

III.1.5. Information about security clearance

III.2. Conditions for participation

III.2.1. Personal situation

Criteria regarding the personal situation of economic operators (that may lead to their exclusion) including requirements relating to enrolment on professional or trade registers

List and brief description of conditions: The authority will apply all the offences listed in Article 39(1) of Directive 2009/81/EC (implemented as Regulation 23(1) of the Defence and Security Public Contract Regulations (DSPCR) 2011 in the UK) and all of the professional misconducts listed at Article 39(2) of Directive 2009/81/EC (see also Regulation 23(2) in the DSPCR 2011) to the decision of whether a Candidate is eligible to be invited to tender.

A full list of the Regulation 23(1) and 23(2) criteria are at <http://www.contracts.mod.uk/delta/project/reasonsForExclusion.html#dspr>

Candidates will be required to sign a declaration confirming whether they do or do not have any of the listed criteria as part of the pre-qualification process.

Candidates who have been convicted of any of the offences under Article 39(1) are ineligible and will not be selected to bid, unless there are overriding requirements in the general interest (including defence and security factors) for doing so.

Candidates who are guilty of any of the offences, circumstances or misconduct under Article 39 (2) may be excluded from being selected to bid at the discretion of the authority.

III.2.2. Economic and financial ability

Criteria regarding the economic and financial standing of economic operators (that may lead to their exclusion)

List and brief description of conditions: As detailed in the evaluation criteria stated in the PQQ.

III.2.3. Technical and/or professional capacity

Criteria regarding the technical and/or professional ability of economic operators (that may lead to their exclusion)

List and brief description of conditions:

As detailed in the evaluation criteria stated in the PQQ.

III.2.4. Information about reserved contracts

III.3. Conditions specific to services contracts

III.3.1. Information about a particular profession

III.3.2. Information about staff responsible for the performance of the contract

Section IV: Procedure

IV.1. Type of procedure

IV.1.1. Type of procedure

Negotiated

IV.1.2. Information about the limits on the number of candidates to be invited

Envisaged minimum number 3 and Maximum number 10

Objective criteria for choosing the limited number of candidates: It is anticipated that a minimum of 3 (three) up to maximum of 10 (ten) suppliers will be invited to submit formal tenders, based on the evaluation criteria contained within the PQQ documents. However, the authority will have the discretion to vary the total number of potential providers that will or will not be taken through to the next phase.

The authority intends to conduct the negotiated procedure in successive stages, by applying the award criteria in the ITN documentation. The number of tenderers who will be invited to participate in the negotiation phase of the procurement process will range between 3 and 6 depending on the results of the initial tender evaluation.

IV.1.3. Information about reduction of the number of solutions or tenders during negotiation or dialogue

Recourse to staged procedure to gradually reduce the number of solutions to be discussed or tenders to be negotiated yes

IV.2. Award criteria

IV.2.1. Award criteria

The most economically advantageous tender in terms of Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

IV.2.2. Information about electronic auction

An electronic auction has been used: no

IV.3. Administrative information

IV.3.1. File reference number attributed by the contracting authority

UAS/00106

IV.3.2. Previous publication concerning this procedure

no

IV.3.3. Conditions for obtaining specifications and additional documents or descriptive document

IV.3.4. Time limit for receipt of tenders or requests to participate

30.10.2020 - 23:59

IV.3.5. Estimated date of dispatch of invitations to tender or to participate to selected candidates

29.1.2021

IV.3.6. Languages in which tenders or requests to participate may be submitted

English.

Section VI: Complementary information

VI.1. Information about recurrence

This is a recurrent procurement: no

VI.2. Information about European Union funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: no

VI.3. Additional information

The TIQUILA programme is seeking to put in place a contract that takes advantage of the notably dynamic and innovative nature of the UAS market. The authority considers that the traditional approach to procuring MUAS may not allow us to take advantage of that potential dynamism and innovation to meet emerging threats, over the duration of the proposed contract. It will be the responsibility of the SI to access the dynamism of the UAS market, including small or medium-sized enterprises ('SMEs'), to meet the evolving needs of the authority through access to the latest technologies and innovation. TIQUILA will require the SI to employ an open system architecture approach to facilitate a modular design of platforms /systems that allows for concurrency with technology. To support the delivery of this approach, the SI is expected to put in place SEA(s) and/or other subcontract arrangements, which will be managed and refreshed periodically to stimulate and maintain the interest of the UAS market sector in delivering the potentially evolving TIQUILA Programme demands and customer capability requirements.

The SI will be expected to optimise engagement throughout the UAS sector and encourage participation of suppliers across the defence and civil markets.

The authority is keen to seek the participation of SMEs to help provide the scalability and flexibility required to deliver the TIQUILA Programme outputs. This may be through the participation of SMEs in the role of systems integrator or through SEA(s) and/or other subcontract arrangements. Following the award of contract to the TIQUILA SI, the expectation is for the SI to tender for the participation of interested parties in SEA(s) and/or other subcontract arrangements. These subcontract arrangements will therefore present further opportunities for suppliers to provide goods and services (including training) in support of the TIQUILA Programme.

The Cyber Risk Profile for this requirement identified by the Cyber Risk Assessment is Very Low risk and has a reference: RAR-PKMG86TB.

PQQ participation:

You should be aware that the PQQ shall be evaluated using the Award® Evaluation Tool.

Potential suppliers should register for access to the data room via this link: <https://award.bravosolution.co.uk/tiquila/web/project/102/register>

Interested suppliers are required to complete the pre-qualification questionnaire (PQQ) to provide the authority with information to evaluate the supplier's capacity and capability against the selection criteria.

The authority will use the PQQ response to create a shortlist of tenderers who:

- 1) are eligible to participate;
- 2) fulfil any minimum economic, financial, professional and technical standards; and
- 3) best meet, in terms of capacity and capability, the selection criteria set out in this notice and the PQQ.

Further details of the method for choosing the tenderers is set out in the PQQ.

ITN award criteria:

The most economically advantageous tender (MEAT) in accordance with the criteria to be stated in the ITN documentation.

The authority may request a practical demonstration of proposed solutions as part of the tender evaluation process at a location and time to be determined by the authority.

It is anticipated that the initial delivery of the man-packable MUAS and man-portable MUAV may be required to commence in-service by 30 April 2022, subject to the criteria to be stated in the ITN.

Information on subcontracting:

At ITN stage, tenderers will need to indicate in their tender any share of the contract it may intend to subcontract to third parties and any proposed subcontractor, as well as the subject-matter of the subcontractors for which they are proposed (if applicable).

The ITN documentation will include details of the procurement principles the authority will expect the SI to use in awarding SEA(s) and/or other subcontract arrangements, to maximise transparency and competition, to take advantage of the dynamic and innovative nature of the UAS market.

The contracting authority considers that this contract may be suitable for economic operators that are small or medium enterprises (SMEs). However, any selection of tenderers will be based solely on the criteria set out for the procurement. The authority reserves the right to amend any condition related to security of information to reflect any changes in national law or government policy. If any contract documents are accompanied by instructions on safeguarding classified information (e.g. a Security Aspects Letter), the authority reserves the right to amend the terms of these instructions to reflect any changes in national law or government policy, whether in respect of the applicable protective marking scheme, specific protective markings given, the aspects to which any protective marking applies or otherwise. The link below to the Gov.uk website provides information on the Government Security Classification.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-security-classifications>

All queries regarding this advert must be submitted via the Award® Competition Site communication facility, as detailed in the PQQ. Failure to observe this condition could lead to the company concerned being excluded from future participation in the procurement exercise.

Advertising regime OJEU: this contract opportunity is published in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU), the MoD Defence Contracts Bulletin and www.contracts.mod.uk
Suppliers must read through this set of instructions and follow the process to respond to this opportunity.

The information and/or documents for this opportunity are available on <http://www.contracts.mod.uk>

You must register on this site to respond, if you are already registered you will not need to register again, simply use your existing username and password. Please note there is a password reminder link on the homepage.

Suppliers must log in, go to your response manager and add the following access code: M4H9CCX3K5

Please ensure you follow any instruction provided to you here.

The deadline for submitting your response(s) is detailed within this contract notice, you will also have visibility of the deadline date, once you have added the access code via DCO as the opening and closing date is visible within the opportunity.

Please ensure that you allow yourself plenty of time when responding to this opportunity prior to the closing date and time, especially if you have been asked to upload documents.

If you experience any difficulties please refer to the online frequently asked questions (FAQ's) or the user guides or contact the MOD DCO Helpdesk by emailing support@contracts.mod.uk or telephone 0800282324.

Go reference: GO-2020915-DCB-17080636

VI.4. Procedures for review

VI.4.1. Review body

Official name: Ministry of Defence, Combat Air, Unmanned Air Systems (UAS) Team

Postal address: Yew 2C #1251, Abbeywood

Town: Bristol

Postal code: BS34 8JH

Country: United Kingdom

E-mail: Rebecca.Cardwell560@mod.gov.uk

Body responsible for mediation procedures

Official name: Ministry of Defence, Combat Air, Unmanned Air Systems (UAS) Team

Postal address: Yew 2C #1251, Abbeywood

Town: Bristol

Postal code: BS34 8JH

Country: United Kingdom

E-mail: Rebecca.Cardwell560@mod.gov.uk

VI.4.2. Review procedure

VI.4.3. Service from which information about the review procedure may be obtained

VI.5. Date of dispatch of this notice

15.9.2020