

CONTRACT AWARD REPORT

Smart Sound Connect - 20298 PART I



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I. INTRODUCTION

This contract award report is in relation to the procurement of a high throughput, low latency 4/5G Mobile private network to cover Plymouth Sound area, supporting marine trials of multiple use cases across marine autonomous vessels and marine research. The project is fully funded via a capital grant from Heart of the South West LEP.

The procurement process undertaken was the 'negotiated procedure without prior publication'.

The contract is until 31st March 2022 with 5 year project legacy requirements.

2. BACKGROUND

The Smart Sound Connect project is a unique and ambitious undertaking, led by Plymouth City Council (PCC).

The proposed project is to provide enhanced connectivity for marine technology development in Plymouth. Comprising a data mesh network and 5G across Plymouth Sound and funded by HoTSW LEP, this proposal will position Plymouth at the forefront of marine technology development, testing and certification. Leveraging Smart Sound Plymouth (SSP) and the Marine Business Technology Centre (MBTC) there will be a specific focus on the areas of applied marine autonomy, clean propulsion, environmental monitoring and measurement, advanced manufacturing and materials all underpinned by cyber security, Big Data and the Internet of Things (IoT). All of these elements are fundamental to the future of the marine sector in the UK.

Underpinned by £1.8 million for LEP funding and leveraging the existing MBTC physical assets, the total project value is £2.822 million. The funding provided will procure and rollout the network elements outlined above. In addition there will be the development of "use cases" for 5G in the marine environment. The targets for the project are the delivery of two comprehensive, cutting edge data networks, 23 businesses supported, two in-depth research projects and the provision of project management from Plymouth City Council (PCC).

This project leverages existing projects and will position Plymouth as the national centre for marine technology development, testing and certification. In addition, it will also leverage the City's fibre network programmes to establish Plymouth at the forefront of the Smart City revolution.

3. PROCUREMENT PROCESS

A procurement was run using the negotiated procedure without prior publication in accordance with Regulation 32(2)(b) (iii) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

The use of this procedure is permitted under the regulations where there is an absence of competition for technical reasons.

To successfully develop and run a solution in this marine and military environment has resulted in a unique and specialised set of technical requirements. The delivery of both a compliant technical solution that fits within the project's commercial budgets limited the supplier options to just one, who could in turn access the only available technical solution based on a secondary supplier's equipment.

The secondary suppliers' technology provides an end to end private mobile network encompassing both the core and edge services in one deployable system. It is the only solution that is both commercially available, and capable of hosting the key customer applications needed for the project's specific objectives. The secondary suppliers' solution is underpinned by a unique Private

Wireless as a service platform (pWaaS), called the Nokia Digital Automation Cloud (NDAC), which enables a truly private network which can support 4G and 5G, both NSA (Non Standalone) and SA (standalone).

The primary supplier is the only Mobile Network Operator (MNO) who was in a position to offer the secondary supplier's solution as a commercially viable service, with the supporting licensed spectrum and the track record required to build and operate in a complex marine and military environment.

4. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Evaluation was undertaken in accordance with the overall evaluation strategy for the project.

The Council evaluated the supplier's submission as a two stage process. The first stage is known as the suitability assessment stage and the second as the award stage.

The first stage consists of an assessment of the Supplier's suitability in principle to deliver the goods, and services and checking that all required documents are completed and submitted. Only if the Supplier passes this first stage will they have their quotation evaluated at the second stage.

The award stage considers the merits of the quotation and only technical, pricing and social value criteria that are linked to the subject matter of the contract are used.

Stage I- Suitability Assessment

The suitability assessment criteria is as follows:

- Potential supplier information
- Grounds for mandatory exclusion
- Grounds for discretionary exclusion
- Economic and financial standing
- Insurance
- Health and safety
- Equalities and diversity,
- Environmental management
- Quality management
- Technical ability including: experience, business continuity and meeting the requirements of the Modern Slavery Act.

The scoring methodology used was as follows:

Response	Resulting action
Meets minimum expectations	PASS -proceed with procurement
Some minor concerns	CLARIFY- concerns discussed and response resubmitted
Major/unacceptable concerns	FAIL- end procurement process

Stage 2- Award

The award criteria is as follows:

- The ability of the supplier to supply all requirements and to the standard required
- The capacity of the supplier to fulfil the contract within the required timescales
- Acceptance of a set of mutually agreed Terms and Conditions
- Commitment to deliver Social Value outcomes
- Price (within Budget)

The scoring methodology used was as follows:

Response	Resulting action
Meets minimum expectations	PASS -proceed with procurement
Some minor concerns	CLARIFY- concerns discussed and response resubmitted
Major/unacceptable concerns	FAIL- end procurement process

5. SUMMARY OF EVALUATION

The Council issued a technical specification to the primary supplier and a formal quotation was requested.

A quotation was submitted by the supplier and independently evaluated by Council Officers and an external consultant, all of whom have the appropriate skills and experience, in order to ensure transparency and robustness in the process.

The outcome of this review is contained within the confidential Part II paper.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial provision has been made for this contract within the project budget.

The project is fully funded by Heart of the South West LEP.


A breakdown of the contractual pricing is contained within the part ii paper.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the contract for Smart Sound Connect is awarded to the engaged supplier. Details of the engaged supplier have been set out in the confidential Part II paper.

8. APPROVAL

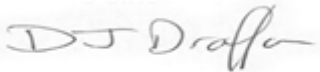
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