

# **CONTRACT AWARD REPORT**

Smart Sound Connect - PART I



OFFICIAL:

- 1. INTRODUCTION**
- 2. BACKGROUND**
- 3. PROCUREMENT PROCESS**
- 4. EVALUATION CRITERIA**
- 5. SUMMARY OF EVALUATION**
- 6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**
- 7. RECOMMENDATIONS**
- 8. APPROVAL**

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

This contract award report is in relation to the procurement of the centralised management of Smart Sound Connect, to ensure de-confliction of activities and the delivery of the agreed targets with the funder over the 12 month duration of the programme. The project is fully funded via a capital grant from Heart of the South West LEP.

The project undertook a consultation to identify those suppliers available with adequate experience and expertise. It was later decided to exempt this requirement as permitted detailed within the Council's Contract Standing Orders.

The projects financial defrayment is 31<sup>st</sup> 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 an experienced supplier to provide the centralised management of the testing platform including; de-confliction of activities and the delivery of the agreed targets with the funder over the 12 month duration of the programme. 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**

The project undertook a consultation to identify those suppliers available with adequate experience and expertise. It was later decided to exempt this requirement as permitted detailed within the Council's Contract Standing Orders.

To successfully manage the network solution and to ensure de-confliction of activities and the delivery of the agreed targets with the funder over the contracted duration of the programme in this marine and military environment has resulted in a unique and specialised set of technical requirements. The delivery of both a centrally managed network in a specific location that fits within the project's commercial budgets limited the supplier options to just one.

The primary supplier already provides the management of and access to Smart Sound Plymouth and the assets deployed. Therefore Plymouth Marine Laboratory Applications (PML) are the only entity that can provide the complete management of the testing platform.

#### **4. EVALUATION CRITERIA**

The project undertook a consultation to identify those suppliers available with adequate experience and expertise. It was later decided to exempt this requirement as permitted detailed within the Council's Contract Standing Orders.

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

The Council evaluated the supplier's submission firstly on suitability and the second formal quotation.

#### **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**

##### **AUTHOR:**

Signature: 

Print Name: Michelle Murray

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021

##### **AUTHORISED SIGNATORY:**



Signature:

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Date: 02 November 2021