

Proposed Contract No. 709732450 – Procurement of Neptune and SeeTrack Software Licences

The Mine Hunting Capability Team, part of the UK Ministry of Defence (MoD), intends to award a contract to SeeByte Limited (SeeByte) for the procurement of a quantity of SeeTrack and Neptune software licences.

The contract shall run for a period of one year, with no contractual Options to extend the contract duration. The maximum total value of the contract is not estimated to exceed £700k (VAT inclusive).

In accordance with regulation 4 of The Defence and Security Public Contracts (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (SI 2019/697) this procurement falls to be regulated under the provisions of the Defence and Security Public Contracts Regulations 2011 as amended (in particular by SI 2019/697 and SI 2020/1450). Prior publication of a contract notice in the Official Journal of the European Union is no longer appropriate. It is considered that the award of the contract without prior publication of a contract notice in the UK e-notification service (in accordance with the relevant legislation) is lawful in accordance with regulation 16(1)(a)(ii) of the DSPCR 2011 (as amended) for Technical Reasons.

This requirement is for the procurement of software licences for See byte's suite of proprietary SeeTrack and Neptune software, which was privately developed by SeeByte. This software is widely used in different applications by the Royal Navy and works collectively and collaboratively to optimise the operation and effectiveness of its autonomous underwater vehicles.

For operational reasons the Royal Navy systems which incorporates the SeeByte Limited software need to be able to interoperate with similar systems used by UK Allies, many of whom use the SeeByte software. Royal Navy systems with third party software would not meet these requirements and would create significant interoperability issues which would result in a degraded capability. As the sole owner of SeeTrack and Neptune software, and by extension the associated rights and software licences, only SeeByte Limited have the technical capability necessary to meet this requirement.