

MOD Voluntary Transparency Notice (VTN)

**Section 1: Contract Title**

Title attributed to the Contract by the Contracting Authority

****Country

****Town

****Title of notice

Section (DIO only)



**Section 2: Contracting Authority**

Name of Institution

****

MOD Organisation

****

Integrated Project Team (IPT)  
                                                        ****

Other Integrated Project Team (IPT): **Army Commercial Procure Team NI**

Official Name: Army Commercial

National ID:

Click or tap here to enter text.

Address Line 1:Army HQ

Address Line 2:Blenheim Building

Address Line 3:Click or tap here to enter text.

Town: Andover

Postcode:SP11 8JH

Country: United Kingdom

Contact Person: Click or tap here to enter text.

For the attention of: Click or tap here to enter text.

Telephone Number: Click or tap here to enter text.

Email: ArmyComrcl-NI-Mailbox@mod.gov.uk

Fax: Click or tap here to enter text.

Main Address (URL):

www.army.mod.uk

**Section 3: Object of The Contract**: (*Location of Works, place of delivery or of performance)*

Main Place of Performance or Delivery: Belize

Short description of the contract or purchase(s): The Provision of MEDEVAC, General Aviation Support and Aerial Firefighting at British Army Training Support Unit Belize (BATSUB)

Additional Information: Click or tap here to enter text.

This notice is not a request for expressions of interest so please do not apply to be invited to tender. This notice advises that the Authority has decided to negotiate a contract with the named supplier on a single source basis, and is published for reasons of transparency.

**Section 4: Identification Numbers:**

Contract Number: 701322379

**Section 5: Selected supplier:**

Official Name: Astrum Helicopters

National ID: Click or tap here to enter text.

Address Line 1: Mile 3.5 Western Highway

Address Line 2:

Address Line 3: Click or tap here to enter text.

Town: Belize City

Postcode: Click or tap here to enter text.

Country: Belize

Contact Person: Click or tap here to enter text.

For the attention of: Click or tap here to enter text.

Telephone Number: Click or tap here to enter text.

Email: Click or tap here to enter text.

Fax: Click or tap here to enter text.

Main Address (URL):Click or tap here to enter text.

Reason For Award of Contract: There is a requirement to provide aviation support to the British Army Training Unit(s) in Belize (BATSUB) to ensure the continued provision of a Safe Place to Train for permanent and visiting troops on exercise. This procurement takes place in the context of a continuing commitment by the British Military to continue to train in Belize. Land Warfare Centre (LWC) have confirmed that training is due to continue in Belize beyond 2028.

The current contract, which commenced on 1 September 2019 and is due to expire on 30 September 2023, is a single source contract with ASTRUM Helicopters. The contract provides a CASEVAC service via a contractor owned contractor operated solution. This contractual arrangement was put in place to address a capability gap identified after a visit by Deputy Assistance Chief of Staff (DACOS) Med and Director Land Warfare (DLW) who identified that the previous ground MEDEVAC services posed risk to life (RtL) and limited chance of a casualty reaching an appropriate Belizean medical treatment facility within the timeline specified in operational Military Planning Guidelines (MPG), thereby failing to mitigate much of the additional medical risk associated with operating in Belize.

Value of Contract: up to £18,200,000 GBP

Justification For Non-Competitive Decision:

1. The Authority intends to negotiate the award of a contract to Astrum Helicopters for the provision of MEDEVAC, General Aviation Support and Aerial Firefighting for British Army Training Support Unit Belize (BATSUB)

2. It is considered that this contract can be placed using the negotiated procedure without prior publication of a contract notice pursuant to Regulation 16(1)(a)(ii) of the Defence and Security Public Contracts Regulations (DSPCR 2011) as competition is absent for technical reasons. There is a regulatory requirement, as laid down by the Belize Department for Civil Aviation (BDCA), that an economic operator within Belizean territory must obtain and maintain an Air Operators Certificate (AOC) to carry out commercial activity. It is also the BDCA’s position that “foreign” certification (FAA/CAA/EASA recognised) is non-transferable. This certification must be in place by contract start date (1st October 2023). The process to start the certification application is triggered by a letter of intent from an economic operator to the Director of Civil Aviation in Belize, something which, due to the need for evidence of established processes for operations in Belize and cost implications, would be impractical and risk-laden to submit prior to contract award. On current planning, contract award will not take place until mid-2023 and the current timeframe for certification is 12-18 months. The Authority cannot accommodate a break in service delivery as this will have a negative impact on training at BATSUB. MEDEVAC would have to be by land extraction, which does not meet medical planning guidelines due to risk to life (RTL) considerations. Ceasing training would also have a negative impact on the Authority’s ability to deploy personnel. There is a potential reputational risk if the Authority cannot deploy an Aerial Firefighting capability.

3. Astrum Helicopters carry the requisite certification from the BDCA and can begin service delivery by the required contract start date. It is the Authority’s belief that there are no alternate providers, either in Belize or elsewhere, who hold this certification and would be in a position to deliver these services by 1 October 2023.