

## OFFICIAL

### Voluntary Transparency Notice

Interim Strategic Sealift (SSL-I), part of the UK Ministry of Defence (“MoD”), intends to award a contract to Foreland Shipping Limited for Strategic Sealift, providing a British Sealift capability to deploy cargo overseas from the UK in support of the UK’s standing commitments and contingent operations. The Authority requires exclusive use of a minimum of 4 vessels at a minimum capacity of 9,600 LIMS to operate globally and independently, accessing a minimum of 70% of the world’s ports. The contract will be awarded for a duration of 7 years with an intended start date of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 plus 3 x 1 year optional years. The contract value is anticipated to be Six Hundred and Twenty Five Million pounds sterling (£625,000,000 EX VAT). It should be noted that this value is an estimate to be used for informative purposes only for providing the scope of the requirement by value as required.

In accordance with regulation 4 of The Defence and Security Public Contracts (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (SI No.2019/697) this procurement falls to be regulated under the provisions of the Defence and Security Public Contracts Regulations 2011 (DSPCR 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 this contract can be placed using the negotiated procedure without prior publication of a contract notice in the UK e-notification service (as required by the relevant legislation) and is lawful in accordance with regulation 16(1)(a)(ii) of the DSPCR (2011) for technical reasons as Foreland Shipping Limited (“FSL”) is the only economic operator that has vessels holding the required technical capability and capacity to support the MOD’s Key User Requirements (KUR) detailed in a PIN published on Contracts Finder <https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/b135632b-3f9f-44d9-b7c5-9d0727cee0fc>.

Due to the MOD’s capacity requirement, FSL is the only economic operator that is able to meet the sum of the technical and capacity KURs that are required. This includes the stability requirements which are driven by Naval Authority certification requirements and the interoperability that is required with MOD Loading/Unloading Equipment (the mexefloate) as detailed in the KURs together with access to worldwide ports, as well as the ability to operate independently of their infrastructure in order to provide an assured capability. Further, FSL is the only economic operator in the market that can meet the MOD’s requirement for vessels to be UK flagged and owned in order to retain UK Sovereign and jurisdiction. There is no other economic operator able to provide the number of vessels required by the MOD with the necessary technical capability. Modifications to existing vessels in the market to seek to meet the MOD’s requirements or the building of new vessels is not possible as this would present a high technical and delivery risk and would require a disproportionate amount of time and cost which is unacceptable to the MOD as it cannot risk having a gap in operational capability. In light of the above, it is considered that only Foreland Shipping Limited are capable of meeting the Authority’s requirement.