

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE COMMERCIAL

The Defence Digital Tactical Systems Service Executive (TacSys SE) team, part of the United Kingdom Ministry of Defence (MoD), intends to award a four-year contract to STS Defence Limited for the production and installation of Integrated UHF SATCOM & EFMTE 4.2 baseline equipment (which consist of bespoke integrated satellite communications equipment) for the Royal Navy's T26 fleet Ships 2 and 3 only. This equipment will meet the Fleet User Requirement Document, such that the user shall be able to provide a communications service to support Information Exchange Requirements (IER) for simultaneous voice and data. Capable of supporting DAMA, FM, High Performance Waveform (HPW) and Integrated Waveform (IW) data services within 25KHz channel. It shall have the ability (i) for one antenna to access two different satellites operating on different waveforms and different frequencies simultaneously; and (ii) to interface the modems used by the Royal Navy Fleet and also the radios used by embarked forces through the same single antennae.

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 this contract can be placed using the Negotiated Procedure Without Prior Publication of a Contract Notice in the UK e-notification service (in accordance with the relevant legislation) pursuant to Regulation 16(1)(a)(ii) of the DSPCR 2011 (as amended) for Technical Reasons.

STS Defence Limited have previously designed a bespoke UHF SATCOM 4.2 Design capability in partnership with SNXP Limited which is accredited for use by the MoD on the T26 Fleet. The installation of this capability in T26 Ship 1 was carried out by STS Defence Limited under a task on an existing MoD Contract. This Contract was competed, and STS Defence Limited was awarded the contract. STS Defence and SNXP Limited have an exclusivity agreement that means SNXP Limited will only supply STS Defence Limited with the required hardware design and technical expertise to enable them to complete the installation into T26 Ships.

Contractual timelines for the delivery of this Integrated UHF SATCOM & EFMTE 4.2 baseline equipment capability into T26 Ships 2 and 3 are already embedded within the existing Type 26 Ship Building Contract (Contract Ref. No. SHIPACQ036) as a requirement to enable repeat supply and fit.

Only STS Defence/SNXP Limited have the technical ability and experience necessary to produce and install this Integrated UHF SATCOM & EFMTE 4.2 baseline equipment capability into T26 Ships 2 and 3 in a manner that is accredited for use by the MoD and meets the required timescales.

It is not viable for another supplier to deliver an alternative design that meets the MoD's technical requirements within the necessary timescales. Further, the STS Defence/SNXP SATCOM design has been approved by Naval Command Headquarters (NCHQ) & Director Special Forces (SF) to ensure it is fit for use. This design and accreditation process took several years to complete. To bring in a third-party supplier to design new equipment, obtain MoD approval and accreditation for the new design and then build and install it on T26 Ships 2 and 3 would incur significant and disproportionate additional time and cost consequences to the MoD, which would also result in significant delays to Vessel Acceptance Date (the date by which MoD are required to have agreed that the newly built T26 Ship has been delivered to an acceptable level against the requirements defined in the T26 Ship Building Contract (Contract Ref. No. SHIPACQ036)), thereby causing an unacceptable capability gap to the Royal Navy.

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